



Policy and Education Committee

6 June 2024

Swansea University – Review Specification and Visitor approval (reserved)

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	The agreement of the Review Specification and appointment of the Visitors for Swansea University's Recognised Qualification Review.
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To agree the updated review specification at the Annex.2. To agree the appointment of Ceira Kinch, Sharon Potter and Ana Molares-Bargiela as Visitors for review of Swansea University's following programme:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
Financial and resourcing implications	The costs of the review are budgeted for within the 2023-24 financial year and are incorporated in our current contract with Mott MacDonald at a cost of £22,083.93.
Equality and diversity implications	Equality and diversity issues are explored as part of the RQ renewal process and are explicitly referenced as part of the Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training (2022) and in the review criteria set out in the Mott MacDonald Interim Quality Assurance Handbook .
Communications implications	The review specification is shared with Swansea University, with Mott MacDonald and will be shared with the Visiting Team when they are appointed, and it is publicly available.
Annex	None
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Key Messages

- Swansea University currently provides a qualification in Master of Osteopathy (MOst) the recognition period of which is 1 December 2019 with no fixed expiry.
- This paper seeks the approval of the visitors from the Policy and Education Committee.

Background

1. Swansea University currently provides the following qualifications, the recognition period of which is 1 December 2019 with no fixed expiry date:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
2. The visit has been scheduled to take place from Wednesday 5 February 2025 – Friday 7 February 2025.
3. The Committee is asked to approve a team of appropriately qualified Visitors under s12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 and an update to the Review Specification.

Discussion

Update of the Review Specification

4. We have agreed with Swansea University to include the approaches to health and disability and student fitness to practise in the Review Specification as this would be helpful. The updated Review Specification is attached at the Annex.

Appointment of Visitors

5. Section 12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 provides that 'The Education Committee may appoint Visitors to report to the Education Committee on the nature and quality of instruction and such other matters as he was required to report on by the Committee.'
6. The Committee are invited to appoint Visitors to participate in the review of Swansea University's qualification as outlined in the [RQ Review Specification approved by the committee at its meeting in March 2024](#).
7. The proposed Visit Team is:

Name	Role	Organisation
Ceira Kinch	Osteopath	ESO
Sharon Potter	Lay	UCO
Ana Molares-Bargiela	Osteopath	CoO

8. These recommended Visitors are members of the Mott MacDonald/GOsC Visitor pool (comprising of lay and osteopathic visitors) administered by Mott MacDonald who undertake selection, training and appraisal of all visitors on our behalf. All visitors are scheduled to participated in training delivered by the Mott MacDonald prior to the visit.
9. We have checked that the proposed osteopathic visitors are currently registered. We have also checked the Visiting Team with Swansea University who have confirmed that there are no issues for the Committee to consider in appointing the team. The proposed Visit Team has not declared any conflict of interests in undertaking the review of Swansea University. There is no known reason why we should not appoint these visitors.

Recommendations:

1. To agree the updated review specification at the Annex.
2. To agree the appointment of Ceira Kinch, Sharon Potter and Ana Molaes-Bargiela as Visitors for review of Swansea University's following programme:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)

Draft Review Specification for Swansea University - Renewal of Recognised Qualification Review.

Background

1. Swansea University currently provides the following qualification:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
2. The University currently has an RQ for this qualification without an expiry date. In accordance with the Mott MacDonald Handbook, this is a visit to ensure that our standards are being maintained. As there is no expiry date, we would expect, in line with previous Committee and Council decisions, that if conditions are set for this visit, they would be published on an action plan rather than attached to the RQ Order. A copy of the current Recognised Qualification award and the last Visitor report (undertaken by The Quality Assurance Agency) is attached for information. All Education Committee papers are available on request.

Review Specification

3. The GOsC requests that Mott MacDonald schedules a monitoring review for Visitors to report on the following qualification:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
4. The aim of the GOsC Quality Assurance process is to:
 - Put patient safety and public protection at the heart of all activities
 - Ensure that graduates meet the standards outlined in the Osteopathic Practice Standards
 - Make sure graduates meet the outcomes of the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education.
 - Identify good practice and innovation to improve the student and patient experience
 - Identify concerns at an early stage and help to resolve them effectively without compromising patient safety or having a detrimental effect on student education
 - Identify areas for development or any specific conditions to be imposed upon the course providers to ensure standards continue to be met
 - Promote equality and diversity in osteopathic education.
5. The format of the review will be based on the [interim Mott MacDonald Handbook \(2021\)](#) adapted appropriately by the Visitors for the purposes of this specification and [Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training \(2022\)](#). In addition to the usual review format for a renewal of recognition review (appropriate to the stage of development of this course), the Committee would like to ensure that the following areas are explored:
 - How the University is responding to the growth in student recruitment and the impact of this on the provision of resources, and requires a sustained increase of patients within the clinic.

- How patient numbers and student experience are monitored and evaluated.
- How safeguarding policies are reviewed and kept up to date, and information made available to staff, students and patients.
- How shared decision making is effectively communicated to students, staff and patients, and implemented within the teaching clinic.
- How the University responds to the reported increase in student Fitness to Practise cases and the health and disability process and the interaction with student fitness to practice.

Provisional Timetable

6. The provisional timetable for the Swansea programme review will be as follows, but is subject to review and discussion with Swansea University, Mott MacDonald and the Visiting Team:

RQ visit in December 2024

Month/Year	Action/Decision
March 2024 and June 2024	Committee agreement of initial review specification and statutory appointment of visitors
10 weeks before the visit c. September 2024	Submission of mapping document
c. December 2024	Review takes place
5 weeks following visit c. January 2025	Draft Report to Swansea University for comments - statutory period.
c. February / March 2025	Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any)
March 2025	Recommendation from the Committee to Council whether to make changes to the RQ programme approval (e.g., conditions or addition of an expiry date)
This would not be required if the recognition continues without an expiry date	Recognition of Qualification ongoing by the General Osteopathic Council
This would not be required if the recognition continues without an expiry date	Privy Council Approval

This timetable will be the subject of negotiation with Swansea University, GOsC and Mott MacDonald to ensure mutually convenient times that fit well with the quality assurance cycle.

