



Policy Education Committee

10 March 2021

London College of Osteopathic Medicine Approval of Visitors for renewal of recognition of qualification (reserved)

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	The appointment of Visitors for the London College of Osteopathic Medicine's Recognised Qualification Review.
Recommendation	To agree to appoint Stephen Hartshorn, Lucy Mackay Tumber and Mark Foster as Visitors for the Member of London College of Osteopathic Medicine qualification offered by the London College of Osteopathic Medicine.
Financial and resourcing implications	The costs of the review will be budgeted for within the 2021-22 financial year are incorporated into our current contract with Mott MacDonald at a cost of c£15000.
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 review criteria set out in the Interim Quality Assurance Handbook approved by the Committee on 7 December 2020.
Communications implications	This paper will be shared with Mott MacDonald and the College and will be publicly available.
Annex	London College Osteopathic Medicine review specification.
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Background

1. The London College of Osteopathic Medicine currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 16 July 2022: Member of LCOM. The College does not hold academic validation.
2. The last RQ Visit took place in December 2018 and the Education Committee agreed to recommend renewal the RQ for shorter period of three years with specific Conditions to Council at its meeting on the 12 June 2019. This recommendation was agreed by Council at its meeting on 17 July 2020 and Member of LCOM programme received Privy Council approval on 29 October 2019.
3. In order to renew the recognition of the qualification before it expires, a GOsC RQ Review visit should take place during Summer 2021. Before the review is scheduled, the Committee will be asked to approve a team of appropriately qualified Visitors under s12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993. Suitable dates will be agreed with the London College of Osteopathic Medicine, taking into account the indicative timetable outline in the review specification at the Annex and also timings in terms of the recruitment of students to this year.
4. The LCOM principal Brian McKenna has informed us that he and Stephen Hartshorn were colleagues at Swansea University from 2010 to 2012. They have not had any ongoing relationship since then apart from occasional meeting at local CPD events.
5. It is the Executive's view that based on the Governance handbook, this does not constitute a conflict of interest because the individual's association has lapsed more than four years.
6. This paper asks the Committee to agree the appointment of visitors.

Discussion

Appointment of Visitors

7. 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.'
8. The Committee are invited to appoint Visitors to participate in the review of the London School of Osteopathic Medicine's qualification as outlined in the RQ Review Specification approved by the Committee at the 07 December 2020 meeting.
9. The visit is currently scheduled to take place during between Thursday 8th – Saturday 10 July 2021. However, depending on when students start at the course, this timing may still be subject to change.

10. This will be a Virtual Remote Visit. The proposed Visit Team is:

Name	Role	Organisation
Lucy Mackay-Tumber	Osteopath	London School of Osteopathy
Stephen Harsthorn	Osteopath	Swansea University
Mark Foster	Independent Lay Visitor	-

Recommendation

1. To agree to appoint Stephen Hartshorn, Lucy Mackay-Tumber and Mark Foster as Visitors for the Member of London College of Osteopathic Medicine qualification offered by the London College of Osteopathic Medicine

Draft Review Specification for the London College of Osteopathic Medicine- Renewal of Recognised Qualification Review

1. The London College of Osteopathic Medicine (LCOM) currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 16 July 2022:

Member of the London College of Osteopathic Medicine

2. The LCOM wishes to renew this qualification. A copy of the current Recognised Qualification award the last Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Report is attached for information.

Review Specification

3. The GOsC requests that Mott MacDonald schedules a renewal of recognition review for Visitors to report on the following qualification:

- Member of the London College of Osteopathic Medicine

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 (2015) and the Quality Assurance Subject benchmark statement: Osteopathy (2015)
- 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 new [interim Mott MacDonald Handbook](#), and the Osteopathic Practice Standards (2019). Associated guidance will also include the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education (2015) (<http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/training-and-registration/becoming-an-osteopath/guidance-osteopathic-pre-registration-education/>)

6. In addition to the usual review format for a renewal of recognition review (appropriate to the state of development of this course), the Committee would like the to ensure that the following are explored:

- Implementation of the requirements of outstanding Conditions and the action plan, specifically with regard to:

- i. Implementation of the admissions policy; how the policy has been used for the recruitment of the current cohort of students and the rigour of the admissions process
 - ii. the development and implementation of the five-year strategic plan;
 - iii. the strength of the Governance process, including a review of the roles and responsibilities of the board of trustees and the engagement of Board members with the academic provision and decision making.
 - iv. the development and implementation of the single definitive course document;
- Review the progress made with regard to the Areas for Development in the last RQ Visit to ensure that they do not develop to pose a risk to the delivery of the OPS.

Table 1- Outstanding Conditions

a.	Produce a single definitive course document that clearly outlines the purpose, structure, assessment strategy, fitness to practise policy and operation of the LCOM course to ensure consistency and continuity of delivery and understanding of the students in achieving their award.
b.	Undertake the mapping of the new osteopathic practice standards (for implementation 1 September 2019) across all components of the LCOM course to ensure current and future students are equipped for professional practise;
c.	Implement the arrangements for enhancing the external scrutiny of the LCOM course to ensure comparability of academic standards and provide critical evaluation of the teaching and learning experience;
d.	Finalise the appointment of the moderator for the FCCA examination to optimise the validity, reliability and consistency of assessment;
e.	Finalise and implement the revised admissions arrangements through the introduction of the process, where applicable, for assessing clinical competence;
f.	Implement the identified deliberate steps to inform and assure the Board of Trustees and stakeholders that the College fulfils its responsibility for the delivery of the osteopathic practice standards;
g.	The London College of Osteopathic Medicine must submit an Annual Report, within a three month period of the date the request was first made, to the Education Committee of the General Council.
h.	The London College of Osteopathic Medicine must inform the Education Committee of the General Council as soon as practicable, of any change or

	<p>proposed substantial change likely to influence the quality of the course leading to the qualification and its delivery, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. substantial changes in finance b. substantial changes in management c. changes to the title of the qualification d. changes to the level of the qualification e. changes to franchise agreements f. changes to validation agreements g. changes to the length of the course and the mode of its delivery h. substantial changes in clinical provision i. changes in teaching personnel j. changes in assessment k. changes in student entry requirements l. changes in student numbers (an increase or decline of 20 per cent or more in the number of students admitted to the course relative to the previous academic year should be reported) m. changes in patient numbers passing through the student clinic (an increase or decline of 20 per cent in the number of patients passing through the clinic relative to the previous academic year should be reported) n. changes in teaching accommodation changes in IT, library and other learning resource provision
i.	<p>The London College of Osteopathic Medicine must comply with the General Council's requirements for the assessment of the osteopathic clinical performance of students and its requirements for monitoring the quality and ensuring the standards of this assessment. These are outlined in the publication: Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy, 2015, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education, 2015, General Osteopathic Council. The participation of real patients in a real clinical setting must be included in this assessment. Any changes in these requirements will be communicated in writing to the London College of Osteopathic Medicine giving not less than 9 months notice.</p>

Table 2- Areas for development

1	Review and formalise arrangements for staff personal development and review to ensure all individuals continue to be effectively supported and developed.
2	Develop further the arrangements for gathering feedback on the experience and views of patients to enhance the quality of service delivery.
3	Raise awareness of the patients' complaint process as part of their involvement as users of the clinic.

4	Make clear the terms of reference and provide standard agendas to support the deliberative meetings for ensuring consistency of approach across the College.
5	Develop further the use of the computerised accounting system to provide reports on planned and actual expenditure in maintaining the effective cost centre control of the College and clinic.
6	Ensure the process for validating and signing off documents for external distribution is clearly defined.
7	Ensure the continued management of risks through the updating, monitoring and review of the risk register

Provisional Timetable

7. The provisional timetable for the London College of Osteopathic Medicine be as follows:

Month/Year	Action/Decision
December 2020	Committee agreement of review specification
March 2021	Committee agreement and statutory appointment of visitors
10 weeks before the visit (March / April 2021)	Provider submits mapping tool to Mott MacDonald
June / July 2021 (subject to recruitment of students)	RQ Visit takes place (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff, students members of the board of trustees. Patient feedback will also be taken into account as part of the visit.)
5 weeks following visit (August 2021)	Draft Report to London College of Osteopathic Medicine for comments-statutory period.
September 2021	Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any)
October 2021 / may be March 2022	Recommendation from the Committee to Council to whether to approve the RQ programme
November 2021 / may be May 2022	Recognition of Qualification by the General Osteopathic Council
Before July 2022	Privy Council approval

This timetable will be the subject of negotiation with the London College of Osteopathic Medicine, GOsC and Mott MacDonald to ensure mutually convenient times.