



Policy and Education Committee

9 March 2022

North East Surrey College of Technology (Nescot) – Recognition of Qualification (RQ) Specification and appointment of Visitors (reserved)

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	<p>Approval of the Review Specification for the renewal of the Recognised Qualification (RQ) review at the North East Surrey College of Technology (Nescot).</p> <p>The appointment of the Visitors for Nescot’s Recognised Qualification Review.</p>
Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To agree the review specification for Nescot’s renewal RQ Review.2. To agree the appointment of Dr Lucy Mackay Tumber, Robert Thomas, Jill Lyttle as Visitors for the Master of Osteopathic Medicine (MOst) and the Bachelor of Osteopathic Medicine (BOst) offered by Nescot
Financial and resourcing implications	The costs of the review are budgeted for within the 2022-23 financial year and are incorporated in our current contract with Mott MacDonald at a cost of £14,855.
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 Mott MacDonald Interim Quality Assurance Handbook .
Communications implications	The review specification is shared with Nescot, with Mott MacDonald and will be shared with the Visiting Team when they are appointed, and it is publicly available.
Annex	Draft review specification for the North East Surrey College of Technology Renewal of Recognition review.
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Key Messages

- The North East Surrey College of Technology (Nescot) currently provides the following qualifications the recognition period of which is due to expire on 31 August 2023.
- In order to renew the recognition of the qualifications before they expire, a GOsC Review should commence by October 2022.
- Nescot's RQ approval for the Master of Osteopathic Medicine (MOst) and Bachelor of Osteopathic Medicine (BOst) is from 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2023 and has two specific conditions and three general conditions attached.
- The visit has been scheduled to take place from Tuesday 18th October - Thursday 20th October 2022.
- The proposed Visit Team is:

Name	Role	Organisation
Dr Lucy Mackay Tumber	Osteopath	The London School of Osteopathy
Robert Thomas	Osteopath	BCNO Group
Jill Lyttle	Lay visitor	Independent

- A draft review specification is presented at the Annex for the Committee to approve.

Background

1. The North East Surrey College of Technology (Nescot) currently provides the following qualifications the recognition period of which is due to expire on 31 August 2023:
 - Master of Osteopathic Medicine (MOst)
 - Bachelor of Osteopathic Medicine (BOst)
2. In order to renew the recognition of the qualifications before they expire, a GOsC Review should commence by October 2022. The last RQ visit took place in October 2017 and the Education Committee (March 2018) agreed to recommend renewal of the RQ with specific conditions from 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2023. This recommendation was agreed by Council at its meeting on 3 May 2018 and Nescot's qualifications listed (above) received Privy Council approval on 24 August 2018.
3. The visit has been scheduled to take place from Tuesday 18th October - Thursday 20th October 2022.

4. The Committee is asked to approve a team of appropriately qualified Visitors under s12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993, taking into account the review specification at the Annex.
5. This paper further asks the Committee to agree the review specification and to consider the timing of the visit.

Discussion

Review Specification

6. Mott MacDonald will conduct the review on behalf of the GOsC, based on the review specification. A draft review specification is presented at the Annex for the Committee to approve.
7. As the visit is planned for after September 2022, it will be against the criteria of the new Standards for Education and Training, to be implemented from September 2022.
8. Nescot's RQ approval for the Master of Osteopathic Medicine (MOst) and Bachelor of Osteopathic Medicine (BOst) is from 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2023 and has two specific conditions and three general conditions attached. The Conditions are listed in the table below:

CONDITIONS	
a	Ensure the provision of adequate patient numbers (of sufficient range and diversity) together with improving the patient allocation process and generating accurate information to allow effective management, monitoring and review of students' clinical experience
b	Maintain students' clinical experience through the recruitment of sufficient students to sustain the differential between the numbers of standard entry pathway students and certification of prior learning students
c	Nescot 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.
D	Nescot must inform the Education Committee of the General Council as soon as practicable, of any change or proposed substantial change likely to influence the quality of the course leading to the qualification and its delivery, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • substantial changes in finance • substantial changes in management • changes to the title of the qualification • changes to the level of the qualification

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes to franchise agreements • changes to validation agreements • changes to the length of the course and the mode of its delivery • substantial changes in clinical provision • changes in teaching personnel • changes in assessment • changes in student entry requirements • 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) • 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) • changes in teaching accommodation • changes in IT, library and other learning resource provision
E	<p>Nescot 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.</p> <p>These are outlined in the publication: <i>Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy, 2015</i>, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and <i>Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education, 2015</i>, General Osteopathic Council.</p> <p>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 Nescot giving not less than 9 months' notice.</p>

9. The RQ Visit report also recommended one area for development which Nescot reported on as part of their 2018-19 Annual Report submission.

- Embed further the 2015 Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy into existing programme specifications and documentation.

10. Since the last RQ Visit in 2017, there were a number of concerns identified with Nescot's RQ programme primarily:

- Low student numbers - the challenge to recruit a sustainable number of UK students which culminated in a fallow 2017/2018 academic year.
- Low patient numbers - this impacted on the ability for students to treat an adequate range and diversity of patients to ensure the delivery of the OPS.

- These raised concerns about the financial viability and sustainability of the programme.
 - Additionally there were changes to the senior management team.
11. Nescot provided updates which confirmed that they had made significant progress to address the areas of concerns identified and to mitigate the risks to the delivery of the OPS. The College implemented a new marketing strategy which resulted in the increase in the number of students recruited for the cohort of the 2019-20 academic year.
 12. At its meeting in March 2021, the Committee noted the significant progress the College have made over the previous three years. They noted the continuous and methodical approach to addressing the specific challenges which were considered to pose a risk to the delivery of the OPS and the high degree of engagement between the GOsC Executive and the College's SMT. These updates have demonstrated that the osteopathy programme is sustainable and that there are no immediate risks to the delivery of the OPS.
 13. Nescot have informed the Executive that there has been a change within the Senior Management Team, with the resignation and recruitment of a new Academic Registrar. The College is also in the process of changing its validating university and the current RQ programme validated by Kingston University is being taught out.

Next Steps

14. The review specification may be subject to change due to changing circumstances prior to the review. Any changes to the specification will be notified to the Committee.

Appointment of Visitors

15. 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.'
16. The Committee are invited to appoint Visitors to participate in the review of Nescot's qualification as outlined in the RQ Review Specification in the Annex.
17. The visit is scheduled to take place during Tuesday 18th October - Thursday 20th October 2022. Based on the current Covid 19 legislation, this is scheduled to be an in person visit but this is subject to change.

18. The proposed Visit Team is:

Name	Role	Organisation
Dr Lucy Mackay Tumber	Osteopath	The London School of Osteopathy
Robert Thomas	Osteopath	BCNO Group
Jill Lyttle	Lay visitor	Independent

19. 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.

20. We have checked that the proposed osteopathic visitors are currently registered. We have also checked the Visit Team with Nescot which has confirmed that there are no issues for the Committee to consider in appointing the team. The proposed Visit Team has not declared any conflict in undertaking the review of Nescot. There is no known reason why we should not appoint these visitors.

Recommendations:

1. To agree the draft review specification for Nescot's RQ Review.
2. To agree the appointment of Dr Lucy Mackay Tumber, Robert Thomas, Jill Lyttle as Visitors for review of the Master of Osteopathic Medicine (MOst) and the Bachelor of Osteopathic Medicine (BOst) offered by Nescot.

Draft Review Specification for Nescot- Renewal of Recognised Qualification Review.

Background

1. Nescot currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 31 October 2023:
 - Master of Osteopathic Medicine (MOst)
 - Bachelor of Osteopathic Medicine (BOst)
2. Nescot wishes to renew the RQ for these qualifications. A copy of the current Recognised Qualification award and the last Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) report 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 qualifications:
 - Master of Osteopathic Medicine (MOst)
 - Bachelor of Osteopathic Medicine (BOst)
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 \(2020\)](#). Associated guidance will also include the [draft GOPRE and Standards for Education and Training, which will have been implemented if the visit proceeds to take place after September 2022](#).
6. 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:

Annex to 5

- Impact of Brexit and the future of the Certified Prior Learning (CPL) pathway to entry;
- The teach out plans for the current programmes validated by Kingston University.

Provisional Timetable

7. The provisional timetable for Nescot review will be as follows:

RQ visit in October 2022

Month/Year	Action/Decision
March 2022	Committee agreement of initial review specification and statutory appointment of visitors
10 weeks before the visit (July /August 2022)	Submission of mapping document
October 2022	RQ Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students.)
5 weeks following visit (November/December 2022)	Draft Report to Nescot for comments - statutory period.
December January 2022	Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any)
March 2023	Recommendation from the Committee to Council whether to make changes to the RQ programme approval (e.g., conditions or addition of an expiry date)
May 2023	Recognition of Qualification ongoing by the General Osteopathic Council
June 2023	Privy Council Approval

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