



Policy and Education Committee

7 March 2024

Swansea University – Recognition of Qualification (RQ) Specification

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	Approval of the Review Specification for the renewal of the Recognised Qualification (RQ) review at Swansea University.
Recommendation	To agree the review specification for Swansea University renewal RQ Review of the following programmes: <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 £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 Swansea University, 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 Swansea University's Renewal of Recognition review.
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Key Messages

- Swansea University currently provides the following qualification the recognition period of which is 1 December 2019 with no fixed expiry.
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
- A draft review specification is presented at the Annex for the Committee to approve.

Background

1. Swansea University currently provides the following qualifications which have a recognition period of 1 December 2019 with no fixed expiry date in relation to their recognised status:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
2. The last RQ visit took place in February 2019 and the Education Committee agreed to recommend renewal of the RQ with general conditions from 1 December 2019 with no fixed expiry date. This recommendation was agreed by Council and the College's qualifications listed (above) received Privy Council approval.
3. At its meeting in July 2019, as recommended by the Committee, Council agreed to recognise Swansea University's qualification above, from 1 December 2019 with no fixed expiry date and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council. This was subsequently approved by Privy Council.
4. The visit will be scheduled in conjunction with Swansea University to ensure that it takes place to maximise the opportunities for the University and the visiting team (e.g. coinciding with other QA events or changes).

Discussion

Review Specification

5. Mott MacDonald will conduct the review on behalf of the GOsC, based on the review specification. The draft review specification is presented at the Annex. It includes the findings from the Annual Report Analysis 2023 reviewed by the Committee on its private agenda in March 2024.

Next Steps

6. 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.

Recommendation: To agree the review specification for Swansea University renewal RQ Review of the following programmes:

- 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:

Annex to 10

- 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.

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

Annex to 10

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.