



Policy and Education Committee

7 March 2024

Plymouth Marjon 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 Plymouth MARJON University.
Recommendation	<p>To agree the review specification for Plymouth MARJON University renewal RQ Review of the following programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (4 years full time)• Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (6 years part time)
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 Plymouth, 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 London School of Osteopathy Renewal of Recognition review.
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Key Messages

- Plymouth Marjon University currently provides the following qualifications the recognition period of which is 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2026.
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (4 years full time)
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (6 years part time)
- The visit will take place Tuesday 3 December – Thursday 5 December 2024.
- A draft review specification is presented at the Annex for the Committee to approve.

Background

1. Plymouth Marjon University currently provides the following qualifications the recognition period of which is 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2026:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (4 years full time)
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (6 years full time)
2. The last RQ visit took place in January 2020 and the Education Committee agreed to recommend the renewal of the RQ from 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2026. This recommendation was agreed by the Council and the University's qualifications listed (above) received Privy Council approval.
3. At its meeting in July 2020, as recommended by the Committee, Council agreed to recognise the Plymouth Marjon University's qualifications above, from 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2026 and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council. This was subsequently approved by the Privy Council.
4. The visit will be scheduled in conjunction the 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.

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 Plymouth Marjon University's renewal RQ review of the following programmes:

- Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (4 years full time)
- Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (6 years full time)

Draft Review Specification for University of St Mark and St John (Marjon) - Renewal of Recognised Qualification Review.

Background

1. Marjon currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 31 January 2026:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (4 years full time)
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (6 years part time)
2. The last [RQ review visit report](#) was from January 2020. The programmes above were recognised for a period of five years from 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2026. In accordance with the Mott MacDonald Handbook, this is a visit to ensure that our standards are being maintained. 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.
3. A review visit is being scheduled for early 2025.

Review Specification

4. The GOsC requests that Mott MacDonald schedules a monitoring review for Visitors to report on the following qualification:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (4 years full time)
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst) (6 years part time)
5. 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.
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6. 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](#). 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:

- The implementation of the update M0st curriculum, and the management of this with some students on the former curriculum as it is taught out.
- The impact of the clinic move, and the delivery of clinical education in this context, meeting the requirements of the Graduate Outcomes and Standards of Education and Training.
- The recording of students' clinical hours and experience of patients to ensure that sufficient depth and breadth of clinical education is delivered during the digital review.
- How the University's interprofessional learning strategy is implemented, and the impact of this on learning outcomes.
- How students are made aware of and familiar with key guidance and policy documents, including the student code of conduct, student fitness to practise guidance, and guidance in relation to the management of health and disability.
- Mechanisms for encouraging and enhancing the process by which students provide feedback.
- Ongoing monitoring of the actions identified in response to student feedback and NSS scores and the processes by which actions are identified, managed and monitored.
- Ongoing monitoring of the actions identified from patient audits and to ensure that those actions continue to be identified, managed and monitored.
- The review and updating of the safeguarding policy.
- Identification and maintenance of innovative and good practice.

Provisional Timetable

7. The provisional timetable for the Nescot Part-time programme review will be as follows, but is subject to review:

- **RQ visit in January 2025**

Month/Year	Action/Decision
March 2024	Committee agreement of initial review specification and statutory appointment of visitors
10 weeks before the visit	Submission of mapping document
December 2024	Review takes place
5 weeks following visit	Draft Report to Marjon for comments - statutory period.

Annex to 9

Following receipt of final report	Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any)
June 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)
July 2025	Recognition of Qualification ongoing by the General Osteopathic Council
July-September 2025	Privy Council Approval

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