



Policy and Education Committee

14 October 2020

Swansea University - Removal of Recognised Qualification expiry date (reserved)

Classification Private

Purpose For decision

Issue The removal of expiry date for the Master of Osteopathy recognised qualifications awarded by Swansea University.

Publication of the associated Action Plan

Recommendation

1. To agree to recommend that Council recognise the qualification Master of Osteopathy awarded by Swansea University with no expiry date and with no specific conditions, and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council.
2. To publish the Swansea Action Plan attached in the annex.

Financial and resourcing implications There are no cost implications from the removal of the expiry date. The Committee will still require a periodic visit as part of its approach to quality assurance. This visit may take place at any point between year 4 and year 6 instead of before the end of year 5 whilst the expiry date is in place.

Equality and diversity implications Whilst there are no immediate implications regarding equality and diversity issues in relation to this particular issue, these issues are monitored within annual reporting by osteopathic educational institutions.

Communications implications If the recommendation of the Committee is accepted by Council and approved by the Privy Council, the revised approval order will be published on the website alongside the most recent RQ visit report. In addition to this, an action plan providing a current update about general conditions/ requirements and any specific



matters of interest to the Committee will be published on the GOsC website.

Annex

Swansea University removal of expiry date Action Plan

Author

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Background

1. The purpose of removing expiry dates from RQ orders for eligible institutions enables more flexibility for the Committee in terms of scheduling visits (so that they can coincide with for example, validation visits, changes to curricula or assessment, rather than being held within a small window). This approach also enables increased transparency in terms of the matters that are being actively monitored by the Committee being outlined in a published action plan providing more information in the public domain about the quality picture of an institution.
2. At its meeting in July 2018, following a recommendation from the Policy Advisory Committee in June 2018, Council agreed:
 - the principle of removal of expiry dates and the approach of publication of 'conditions.
 - the approach to further development of the implementation process.
 - the update on the quality assurance review.
3. In October 2018, the Policy Advisory Committee reviewed the updated Handbook to ensure that the approach to the quality assurance visits was consistent with their views. This Handbook also sets out the way in which the expiry dates will be implemented. The Committee suggested some minor clarifications but were broadly content.
4. In March 2019, the Committee agreed to the then revised QAA/GOsC Handbook which outlined the process for quality assurance of institutions which have expiry dates removed. This Handbook is available at <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviewing-higher-education/types-of-review/general-osteopathic-council-review#>
5. Swansea University's renewal of RQ Visit was completed in February 2019 and the report from the visit was considered at the June 2019 Committee meeting.
6. This paper outlines the evidence to support the Committee recommendation to Council to remove the expiry date from Swansea University's 'recognised qualification' and to attach the existing general conditions to be published in an Action Plan for Swansea University. It also recommends that the Committee agree that the next visit to Swansea may take place in year 6 of the quality assurance cycle.

Discussion

7. The RQ Visit report (February 2019) recommended approval without specific conditions. This means that the visitors have determined that that the course will deliver graduates who meet the Osteopathic Practice Standards. At the June 2019 PAC meeting, members raised the issue of quality control as it appeared in areas of the report where the institution did not appear to be adhering to its own quality control processes appropriately. As a result, members suggest that a Condition should be imposed to ensure compliance.

8. The Committee agreed that, subject to the approval of Privy Council, Council recognises the Master of Osteopathy awarded by Swansea University from 15 December 2019 until 14 December 2024, subject to the general conditions and to the specific condition that *'Swansea University develop and implement a mechanism to ensure that the actions arising from all quality assurance processes, both internal and external are consistently actioned and reviewed.'*
9. Based on the findings reported to the Committee of the University's 2018/19 Annual Report submission, the Committee requested further information on the actions taken based on the appeals that were not upheld and the fitness to practice cases that were considered by a student fitness to practise panel in September 2018. Swansea provided updates with regard to this issue and was presented to the Committee at June 2019 meeting.
10. At its meeting in June 2019, the Committee also considered a paper recommending the removal of expiry date for Swansea University's 'recognised qualification'. The Committee agreed that Swansea University would not be eligible for the removal of the expiry date of its RQ as there was now a specific condition in place which they would be required to meet following consideration of the RQ approval.
11. At its meeting in October 2019, the Committee agreed that the requirements of the condition *'Swansea University must develop and implement a mechanism to ensure that actions arising from all quality assurance processes, both internal and external, are consistently actioned and reviewed'*, had been fulfilled and the effectiveness of the mechanisms implemented will be monitored as part of the 2019 annual monitoring submission.
12. The Committee recommended subject to the approval of Privy Council, Council recognises the Master of Osteopathy awarded by Swansea University from 15 December 2019 until 14 December 2024, subject to the general conditions and to the specific condition that they develop and implement a mechanism to ensure that actions arising from all quality assurance processes, both internal and external, are consistently actioned and reviewed.

CONDITIONS	
a.	Swansea University must develop and implement a mechanism to ensure that actions arising from all quality assurance processes, both internal and external, are consistently collated, actioned and reviewed. (The requirements of this Condition have been met)
b.	Swansea University 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.
c.	Swansea University must inform the Education Committee of the General Council as soon as practicable, of any change or proposed substantial

	<p>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"> i. substantial changes in finance ii. substantial changes in management iii. changes to the title of the qualification iv. changes to the level of the qualification v. changes to franchise agreements vi. changes to validation agreements vii. changes to the length of the course and the mode of its delivery viii. substantial changes in clinical provision ix. changes in teaching personnel x. changes in assessment xi. changes in student entry requirements xii. 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) xiii. 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) xiv. changes in teaching accommodation changes in IT, library and other learning resource provision
d.	<p>Swansea University 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: <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. 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 Swansea University giving not less than nine months notice.</p>

13. On the 17 July 2019, Council agreed to renew the recognition of the Master of Osteopathy qualification awarded by Swansea University for a period of five years from 15 December 2019 until 14 December 2024 subject to the condition as set out (above) and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council.

14. The Privy Council approved the decision of Council on 29th October 2019. The RQ approval order is available at: <https://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/training/swansea-university-privy-council-letter-2019/>

15. Swansea University provided a progress update in their 2018/19 annual report submission which was presented to the Committee in March 2020. The University provided evidence which demonstrated that the mechanisms for ensuring the action plans have been effectively implemented and monitored within the College of Human and Health Sciences.
16. Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Handbook outline the osteopathic educational institutions which are eligible for removal of expiry dates. The handbook states as follows:
- '11. The General Osteopathic Council will usually recognise qualifications for a fixed period of time in the following circumstances:
- A new provider or qualification
 - An existing provider with a risk profile requiring considerable ongoing monitoring
12. For existing providers, the General Osteopathic Council will usually recognise qualifications without an expiry date (but subject to regular monitoring and review as outlined in the quality assurance policy paper at Annex A to this Handbook) in the following circumstances:
- An existing provider without conditions
 - An existing provider with fulfilled conditions and without any other monitoring requirements
 - An existing provider who is meeting all quality assurance requirements (providing required information on time)
 - An existing provider with outstanding conditions, an agreed action plan and which is complying proactively with the action plan.
 - An existing provider engaging with the GOsC.'

17. There are no issues of concern which require reconsideration of the decision to remove the expiry date from the Swansea University RQ.

Recommendations

1. To agree to recommend that Council recognise the qualification Master of Osteopathy awarded by Swansea University with no expiry date and with no specific conditions, and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council.
2. To publish the Swansea Action Plan attached in the annex.

Annex to 8

Swansea University removal of expiry date Action Plan

Issue	Narrative	Progress	Date of review	Comments
<p>a. Swansea University 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.</p>	<p><i>Annual Report analysis submitted in December 2019 and on time.</i></p>	<p><i>On track</i></p> <p><i>No outstanding issues.</i></p>	<p><i>December 2020 in next annual report</i></p>	<p><i>There were two specific requests arising out of the Annual Report due in December 2020 for consideration by the Committee namely:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• To request the outcome of the evaluation of the guidelines that have been developed and implemented to improve the effectiveness of the assessment of feedback.</i> <i>• The outcome of any wider lessons learnt as a result of the four appeals and report on any changes that have</i>

Annex to 8

Issue	Narrative	Progress	Date of review	Comments
				<i>been or will be implemented</i>
<p>b. Swansea University 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. substantial changes in finance ii. substantial changes in management iii. changes to the title of the qualification iv. changes to the level of the qualification 	<p><i>Modifications to course delivery in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic have been reported by the University</i></p>		<p><i>December 2020 in next annual report</i></p>	

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v. changes to franchise agreements vi. changes to validation agreements vii. changes to the length of the course and the mode of its delivery viii. substantial changes in clinical provision ix. changes in teaching personnel x. changes in assessment xi. changes in student entry requirements xii. 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				

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<p>previous academic year should be reported)</p> <p>xiii.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)</p> <p>xiv. changes in teaching accommodation</p> <p>xv. changes in IT, library and other learning resource provision</p>				
<p>c. The OEI must comply with the General Council's requirements for the assessment of the osteopathic clinical performance of students</p>	<p><i>Real patients are involved in clinical assessments</i></p>	<p><i>Continuing</i></p>	<p><i>December 2020 in next annual report.</i></p>	

Annex to 8

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<p>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 Osteopathic Educational Institution giving not less than nine months' notice.</p>				