

**Updated Initial Recognition Review Specification for the BCNO Group
7 October 2021**

Review Specification

Background

1. The BCNO group has requested a review of its Recognised Qualification (RQ) provision. Information follows about the new qualifications to be introduced from September 2022 and the teach out provision.
2. The BCNO group has developed a new Integrated Masters in Osteopathy (MOst) programme. It is planned that there will be a four year full time degree which will be run in parallel at two sites in London and Maidstone and a part time degree which will run at the London site initially. It is planned that the first cohort of students will be admitted from 19 September 2022 and will graduate from July 2026. The validator of this programme is the University of Plymouth (current validator of the existing BCOM RQ programme).
3. The European School of Osteopathy (ESO) and The British College of Osteopathic Medicine merged from 1 September 2021, maintaining their current two sites and brand identities under a unified governance structure. The new provider is called the BCNO group. Both previous providers delivered existing recognised qualifications which will continue to be taught out in the new BCNO group and structure. The existing programmes are summarised as follows:

European School of Osteopathy	
a. Courses with Recognised Qualification (RQ) status	BSc (Hons) Osteopathy Master of Osteopathy
b. Awarding body	University of Greenwich (UoG) Buckinghamshire New University (BNU) from 2017
c. RQ period	1 September 2019 – 31 August 2024
d. Last review date and next scheduled review date	26 April 2018 Would have been due for review in 2023.
e. Status of any specific RQ conditions attached to the course/s	Approval with 4 conditions: All Conditions have been fulfilled.

British College of Osteopathic Medicine	
a. Courses with Recognised Qualification (RQ) status	Masters in Osteopathy (MOst)

	Bachelors in Osteopathic Medicine (BOst) (Exit Award)
b. Awarding body	University of Plymouth
c. RQ period	No fixed expiry date for these RQ programmes
d. Last review date and next scheduled review date	18 October 2017 Would have been due for review in September 2023 (year six of the cycle)
e. Status of any specific RQ conditions attached to the course/s	Approval with no conditions

4. The BCNO Group is now seeking a review of their programmes to achieve 'recognised qualification' status.

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5. The GOsC request that Mott MacDonald schedule an initial recognition review for visitors to report on the following qualifications:
- Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost),
 - BSc (Hons) Osteopathy,
 - BSc (Hons) Osteopathic Medicine validated by Plymouth University,

Taking into account, also, the existing qualifications' provision previously awarded by the BCOM and ESO and from September 2021 to be awarded by BCNO Group namely the:

- Master of Osteopathy and BSc (Hons) Osteopathy (formerly awarded by the ESO)
- Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) and Bachelors in Osteopathic Medicine (B.OstMed) (formerly awarded by the BCOM)
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6. 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).
 - 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.
7. The format of the review will be based on the [interim Mott MacDonald Handbook](#), and the [Osteopathic Practice Standards \(2019\)](#). Associated guidance will also include the draft Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education (2021) and the draft Standards for Education and Training 2021.
 8. The Committee would like to ensure that the following areas are explored:
 - a. How effective governance and management is implemented within the merged institutions operating on two sites, including risk identification and management.
 - b. How consistency is ensured in the learning experience of students based at the BCOM (London) and ESO (Maidstone) campuses and clinics.
 - c. How consistency of teaching staff development and performance review is ensured across both sites.
 - d. How consistency of clinical teaching is assured in the experience of students undertaking the modified attendance BSc programme.
 - e. The Committee is keen to ensure that the experience of students continuing on these programmes as they are taught out is positive and consistent, and that the OPS and GOPRE outcomes continue to be delivered.
 - f. Student recruitment
 - g. Financial stability of the new institution.

Provisional Timetable

The provisional timetable for the BCNO Group review will be as follows:

Month/Year	Action/Decision
October 2021	Committee agreement and statutory appointment of visitors (remotely)
07 October 2021	Committee agreement of updated RQ review specification.
10 weeks before the visit 01 November 2021	Submission of mapping document
11-13 January 2022	RQ Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students.)

Annex to 8

5 weeks following visit (18 February 2022)	Draft Report to BCNO Group for comments - statutory period.
March 2022	Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any)
April 2022	Recommendation from the Committee to Council to whether to approve the RQ programme
May 2022	Recognition of Qualification by the General Osteopathic Council
July 2022	Privy Council Approval