



Policy and Education Committee

4 October 2023

**London School of Osteopathy – 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 the London School of Osteopathy (LSO).
Recommendation	To agree the review specification for the London School of Osteopathy renewal RQ Review of the following programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Master of Osteopathy (MOst)• Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)
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 LSO, 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

- The London School of Osteopathy currently provides the following qualifications the recognition period of which is 1 September 2019 with no fixed expiry.
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
 - Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)
- The visit will take place no later than October 2024 in discussion with the LSO.
- A draft review specification is presented at the Annex for the Committee to approve.

Background

1. The London School of Osteopathy currently provides the following qualifications which have no expiry date in relation to their recognised status:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
 - Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)
2. The last RQ visit took place in September & October 2018 and the Education Committee agreed to recommend renewal of the RQ with general conditions from 01 September 2019 to 31 August 2024. This recommendation was agreed by Council and the College's qualifications listed (above) received Privy Council approval on 16 July 2019.
3. At its meeting in May 2022, as recommended by the Committee, Council agreed to recognise the LSO qualifications above, with no expiry date and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council. This was approved by the Privy Council on 11 August 2022.
4. This means that there can be up to six years between visits for the institution and so the next visit is due no later than October 2024.
5. The visit will be scheduled in conjunction with LSO to ensure that it takes place to maximise the opportunities for the LSO and the visiting team (e.g. coinciding with other QA events or changes).

Discussion

Review Specification

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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.' The details of the visiting team will be presented for approval at the March 2024 Policy and Education Committee meeting.

Recommendation: To agree the review specification for The London School of Osteopathy renewal RQ review of the following programmes: Master of Osteopathy (MOst) and the Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)

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

Background

1. The London School of Osteopathy currently provides the following qualifications with no expiry date:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
 - Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)
2. LSO wishes to renew the RQ for these qualifications.

Review Specification

3. The GOsC requests that Mott MacDonald schedules a monitoring review for Visitors to report on the following qualifications:
 - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
 - Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)
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 [Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training](#).
6. Specific issues for consideration may include:
 - Review of risk management to ensure transparency and assurance to the delivery of the course. Could include ensuring that Osteopathic Practise Standards are embedded into the policies and processes.
 - Review of the risk register to ensure it has been enhanced.
 - Review planning and contingencies around clinic closures due to high temperatures.

- Ensure the ARU student management system covers all programmes and modules.
- Plans around risks to student recruitment and staff retention due to economic climate
- Update on the progress of the policies that are overdue for review.

Provisional Timetable

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

RQ visit in no later than October 2024

Month/Year	Action/Decision
October 2023	Committee agreement of initial review specification
March 2024	Committee agreement of statutory appointment of visitors
10 weeks before the visit	Submission of mapping document
No later than October 2024	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 2024)	Draft Report to LSO for comments - statutory period.
December / January 2024	Report finalised and sent to LSO.
March 2025	Consideration by the Committee of the visitors' report.

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