

Melanie Coutinho

Melanie qualified from the British School of Osteopathy in 1987 and, since then, has been involved in osteopathic education at different osteopathic institutions, where she has held a diverse range of roles from classroom and clinical teacher through to clinic director, course director and principal.

She has also held roles across the entire spectrum of examining students, including FCCA examiner to university external and moderator, overseeing the quality management of osteopathic degrees worldwide. She is a board member of the Osteopathic European Academic Network (OsEAN) and, beside her clinical practice, currently works with international osteopathic institutions helping them to develop their provision.

Melanie is passionately committed to the continual development of high quality osteopathic programmes which enhance the reputation of the profession. Her work with the College of Osteopaths, the British School of Osteopathy, the European School of Osteopathy, the London College of Osteopathic Medicine and a number of international osteopathic schools/colleges, reflects her passion and breadth of experience in undergraduate, postgraduate and programme management aspects of osteopathy. Beside the development of numerous osteopathic degrees (from BSc to MSc levels) and working with over seven UK universities, Melanie highlights two significant achievements in her career.

Firstly, her leadership in the rapid restructuring of the programme at the John Wernham College of Classical Osteopathy, which facilitated the establishment of the Surrey Institute of Osteopathic Medicine (SIOM), and acquisition of their Recognised Qualification status. The team's success saved the school from certain imminent closure, and secured the aspirations of all at SIOM, including those current and future students and staff. Melanie was the first programme director at SIOM and not only led it to become the first UK provider to successfully undertake the GOsC/QAA joint review, but also paved the way for SIOM's first ventures into international collaborations.

Secondly, in 2009, Melanie and her team established the Irish College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM), in Dublin. ICOM was the first, and is still the only, college in the Republic of Ireland to successfully offer an honours degree in osteopathy validated by the University of Chester.

Melanie is confident that her skills in designing and developing degree programmes, her open, supportive, professional approach to her colleagues and students when managing programmes, and her commitment to maintaining professional osteopathic standards, combined with her experience as a practitioner will all serve her well in her roles with the GOsC.