



University College
of Osteopathy

**Academic Quality
Framework 2017-2018**
**Section 14: The Professional
Doctorate in Osteopathy**

ACADEMIC QUALITY FRAMEWORK

SECTION 14: THE PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE IN OSTEOPATHY

This Section of the Academic Quality Framework will be of particular interest to students studying and staff delivering the Professional Doctorate in Osteopathy research degree, approved by the University of Bedfordshire.

Version number	Dates produced and approved (include committee)	Reason for production/revision	Author	Location(s)	Proposed next review date and approval required
V1.0	March 2014 Academic Council	To define the procedures for the management of academic quality and standards in teaching and learning at the UCO.	Professional Doctorate Course Leader Head of Quality	Master Version: J:\0 Quality Team – AQF Published Version: Intranet	Annually and on an “as required” basis.
V2.0	Sept 2016 Academic Council	Reviewed to update staff role and policy titles and to reflect current practice.	Professional Doctorate Course Leader Head of Quality	Master Version: J:\ Quality Team \0 Quality Team – AQF Published Version: Intranet	Aug 2017 and on an “as required” basis.
V3.0	Sept 2017 Academic Council	Annual Review including amendments to reflect the name change of the British UCO of Osteopathy to the University College of Osteopathy.	Professional Doctorate Course Leader Head of Quality	Master Version: J:\ Quality Team \0 Quality Team – AQF Published Version: Intranet	Annually and on an “as required” basis.
Equality Impact					
Positive equality impact (i.e. the policy/procedure/guideline significantly reduces inequalities)					
Neutral equality impact (i.e. no significant effect)					X
Negative equality impact (i.e. increasing inequalities)					
<p>If you have any feedback or suggestions for enhancing this document, please email your comments to: quality@uco.ac.uk</p>					

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SECTION 14: THE PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE IN OSTEOPATHY

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14.1 THE PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE IN OSTEOPATHY

- 14.1.1 The University College of Osteopathy (UCO) works in collaboration with the University of Bedfordshire to deliver the Professional Doctorate in Osteopathy (D.Prof (Ost)) award.
- 14.1.2 The D.Prof (Ost) is approved by the University of Bedfordshire and subsequently is subject to the University's quality assurance regulations and procedures and, specifically, those regarding Research Degrees¹.
- 14.1.3 The D.Prof,(Ost) was approved by the University of Bedfordshire in July 2010. It is normally of 4 years duration. and is organised around a four/five year cycle with the final two/three years devoted to the development and generation of linked pieces of original high level scholarship.
- 14.1.4 The D.Prof,(Ost) culminates in a of major piece of original work that demonstrates students' ability to engage in critical inquiry into osteopathy, either in the clinical or educational field.
- 14.1.5 Due to the nature of and its focus on a professional discipline rather than an academic area, the D.Prof,(Ost) focuses on critical investigation and research rather than teaching. Teaching is therefore more by way of providing resources and stimuli to achieve the main purpose which is the generation and dissemination of a major piece of investigative scholarship.
- 14.1.6 Experts from a range of disciplines and with specialised or first-hand knowledge will be invited to provide input, otherwise the major part of the learning process is self-managed and motivated depending on the particular area of interest students are pursuing.

14.2 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS SPECIFIC TO THE D.PROF (OST)

- 14.2.1 The title of the degree Doctor of Osteopathy was approved by the University's Research Committee and reported to their Academic Board and reflects the professional practice nature of the qualification and the programme of related studies.
- 14.2.2 The D.Prof,(Ost.) shall be awarded to a candidate who, having critically investigated and evaluated an approved topic resulting in an independent and original contribution to professional practice and demonstrated an understanding of research methods appropriate to the chosen field, has presented and defended a thesis, by oral examination, to the satisfaction of the examiners.

14.3 ADMISSION

- 14.3.1 Applicants may apply for the course, subject to the requirement that the proposed research is capable of leading to a scholarly outcome contributing to the advancement of professional practice in osteopathy and to its presentation for assessment by appropriate examiners.
- 14.3.2 An applicant will normally be a registered osteopath and either working or in a teaching post; the workplace will normally be used for the case study element in the proposal.
- 14.3.3 An applicant holding qualifications other than a first or upper second class Honours degree from a UK institution with degree-awarding powers, or equivalent, will be considered on their merits and in relation to the nature and scope of the programme of work proposed.
- 14.3.4 Professional experience, publications, written reports or other appropriate evidence of accomplishment shall be taken into consideration.
- 14.3.5 An applicant wishing to be considered under this regulation must provide the names of suitable persons from whom the UCO may seek an opinion about his/her academic attainment and fitness for research.

14.4 ASSESSMENT

- 14.4.1 Approval of the research topic is normally expected after completion of the taught stage and any other programme of related studies, and normally within the first half of the maximum period of study.
- 14.4.2 The assessment of the professional doctorate comprises two stages: the taught stage and the thesis stage. The taught stage must be passed before a candidate can submit his/her thesis for examination. The grades assigned to the taught stage do not contribute to the final assessment of the award, which is based on submission of the thesis and oral examination.

14.5 SUPERVISION

- 14.5.1 Students shall have at least two, and not normally more than three, supervisors during their course of study.
- 14.5.2 One of the supervisors shall normally be an appropriately qualified or experienced individual in osteopathy.

14.6 EXTERNAL EXAMINING

- 14.6.1 External Examining arrangements for the D.Prof (Ost) are made in accordance with the University's quality processes contained within their Quality Handbook².

14.7 BOARDS OF EXAMINERS

- 14.7.1 Board of Examiner arrangements are made in accordance with the University's quality processes contained within their Quality Handbook³.

14.8 ANNUAL MONITORING & REPORTING

- 14.8.1 Annual Monitoring and Reporting arrangements are made in accordance with the University's quality processes contained within their Quality Handbook⁴.

14.9 THE REVIEW OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- 14.9.1 Any changes proposed to the D.Prof (Ost) are considered through the University's course modification processes outlined in their Quality Handbook⁵.

14.10 INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

- 14.10.1 As an accredited partner of the University, the UCO is expected to undergo institutional review once every five years following the University's processes contained within their Quality Handbook⁶.

14.11 PERIODIC REVIEW EVENTS

- 14.11.1 As an accredited partner of the University, the D.Prof (Ost) is expected to undergo a course review once every five years following the University's processes contained within their Quality Handbook⁷.

14.12 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 14.12.1 Further information about the D.Prof. (Ost.) may be found on our website: www.uco.ac.uk

AQF 14: FORMS & TEMPLATES

Form / Template Reference Number	Form / Template Title
N/A	N/A

AQF14: ENDNOTES

¹ <http://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/academic-information>

² <http://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/quality/handbook> (Chapter 5)

³ <http://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/quality/handbook> (Chapter 6)

⁴ <http://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/quality/handbook> (Chapter 3)

⁵ <http://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/quality/handbook> (Chapter 2)

⁶ <http://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/quality/handbook> (Chapter 7)

⁷ <http://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/quality/handbook> (Chapter 4)