



Academic Quality Framework

Section 17: Glossary of Terms

2023-2024

Academic Quality Framework

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This Section of the Academic Quality Framework should be read by all members of the UCO.

Version number	Dates produced and approved (include committee)	Reason for production/ revision	Author	Location(s)	Proposed next review date and approval required
V1.0	Sept 2016 Academic Council	To define and clarify terminology and abbreviations used throughout the Academic Quality Framework.	Head of Quality	Master Version: J:\ Quality Team \ 0 Quality Team – AQF Published Version: Intranet	Annually and on an “as required” basis.
V2.0	Sept 2017 Academic Council	Annual Review including amendments to reflect the name change of the British School of Osteopathy to the University College of Osteopathy	Head of Quality	Master Version: J:\ Quality Team \ 0 Quality Team – AQF Published Version: Intranet	Annually and on an “as required” basis.
V3.0	Sept 2018 PRAG Chair	Annual Review Administrative Amendments to update change in HE regulatory body.	Head of Quality	Master Version: J:\ Quality Team \ 0 Quality Team – AQF Published Version: Website	Annually and on an “as required” basis.
V4.0	Sept 2019 PRAG Chair	Annual Review Updated to include reference to Unistats and to remove reference to Unit Handbooks and KIS/WIS.	Head of Quality	Master Version: J:\ Quality Team \ 0 Quality Team – AQF Published Version: Website	Annually and on an “as required” basis.
V5.0	Sept 2020 PRAG Chair	Annual Review Administrative amendments to reflect new UCO committee structure and other agency title changes.	Head of Quality	Master Version: J:\ Quality Team \ 0 Quality Team – AQF Published Version: Website	Annually and on an “as required” basis.
V6.0	Aug 2021 PRAG Chair	Administrative amendment to reflect new academic year and current course titles and section number from 18 to 17.	Head of Quality	Master Version: J:\ Quality Team \ 0 Quality Team – AQF Published Version: Website	Annually and on an “as required” basis.
V7.0	Jun 2022 PRAG Chair	Administrative amendments to reflect new academic year and updated committee titles and remits.	Head of Quality & Partnerships	Master Version: J:\ Quality Team \ 0 Quality Team – AQF Published Version: Website	Annually and on an “as required” basis.

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V8.0	Jun 2023 TQSC	Administrative amendments to reflect new academic year and updated committee titles and remits.	Head of Quality & Partnerships	Master Version: SharePoint – Quality Team Published Version: Website	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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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Abbreviation / Term	Description
AC	Academic Council; the main decision-making committee of the UCO for academic matters.
Academic Quality	Academic quality is concerned with how well the learning opportunities made available to students enable them to achieve their award. It is about making sure that appropriate and effective teaching, support, assessment and learning opportunities are provided for them.
Academic Standards	Threshold academic standards are the minimum acceptable level of achievement that a student has to demonstrate to be eligible for an academic award. Academic standards should be at a similar level across the UK.
AQF	Academic Quality Framework; the document that sets out the UCO's procedures for the management of academic quality and standards in teaching and learning at the UCO.
ARC	The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is responsible for overseeing the UCO's audit and risk management and to report thereon to the Board of Directors.
ASSC	The Access & Student Success Committee (ASSC) reports to the Academic Council and, on its behalf, oversees the development, implementation, and review of the UCO's strategy, policies and procedures to support the access, success and progression of students from groups under-represented in higher education
Board of Directors	The UCO's governing body.
Board of Examiners	Boards of Examiners consider the results of assessments at all stages of a course, determine progression and recommend awards, including the classification of awards where appropriate.
BONE	The UCO's Virtual Learning Environment
CAR	Course Annual Report; an annual monitoring report produced at course level.
CIF	Course Information Form; a form providing students with specific information about each course of study.
Course Handbook	A student-focused document that provides students with detailed information about each course of study.
Course Recruitment Groups	Course Recruitment Groups keep under review the course admissions policy and practice, including matters related to Widening Participation, student numbers, and makes recommendations accordingly to the Senior Management Team. It promotes fairness and consistency in the UCO's Admissions Policies.
Course Teams	Course Teams are responsible to the relevant Portfolio Board of Studies for the day to day administration and management of the Course. The

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	Course Teams ensure that the validated curriculum is delivered and assessed in accordance with the relevant Course Information Forms and Unit Information Forms.
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CPSC	The Collaborative Provision Sub- Committee (CPSC) provides assurance that the academic arrangements between the University College of Osteopathy (UCO) and its collaborative partners protect the standard of the UCO award and the quality of the learning opportunities of students, ensuring that all collaborative provision is developed and delivered in line with the agreed validation documents and the UCO Academic Quality Framework on behalf of the Teaching Quality & Standards Committee (TQSC).
DBS	Disclosure & Barring Service
Discover Uni	The official website for comparing UK higher education course data, which includes official data for undergraduate courses on each university and college's satisfaction scores in the National Student Survey, jobs and salaries after study and other key information for prospective students.
EDIC	The Equality Diversity & Inclusivity Committee (EDIC) assures, improves and promotes equality for all UCO users, within the UCO, as required under the Equality Act 2010.
EMG	Engagement & Monitoring Group (EMG); a group which consists of the appropriate Course Leaders, relevant staff and the Student Support Team. Its purpose is to monitor student engagement and attendance to enable supportive measures to be put in place for students as appropriate to enable them to complete their course of study.
ETLASC	The Enhancement of Teaching, Learning & Assessment Sub-Committee (ETLASC) role is to ensure that progress continues against the UCO's Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy on behalf of the Teaching Quality & Standards Committee (TQSC).
FEC	The Finance & Estates Committee (FEC) is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the UCO's financial and estates strategies and to report thereon to the Board.
FHEQ	The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies published by the QAA; an important reference point for providers of higher education. The FHEQ, and associated guidance for implementation, has been written to assist higher education providers to maintain academic standards; to inform international comparability of academic standards, especially in the European context; to ensure international competitiveness; and to facilitate student and graduate mobility.
GOsC	The General Osteopathic Council; the Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body for Osteopathy.
Graduate Outcomes Survey	The Graduate Outcomes survey is the biggest annual social survey in the UK and captures the perspectives and current status of graduates. Students take part in the survey 15 months after they finish their studies.

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HEP	A Higher Education Provider; an institution or organisation providing higher education.
HSC	The Health & Safety Committee (HSC) is responsible for overseeing health and safety matters at the UCO.
IAR	Institutional Annual Report; an annual monitoring report produced by partner institutions.
IHS	Introduction to Healthcare Sciences course – a non-accredited pre-entry course for the pre-registration health care courses delivered by the UCO.
KPI	Key Performance Indicators; a set of quantifiable measures that a company or industry uses to gauge or compare performance in terms of meeting their strategic and operational goals.
LASER	Laser Learning Awards; develops, accredits and quality assures courses and qualifications at all levels of education and training and is licensed by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) to award the Access to HE Diploma.
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NSS	National Student Survey; a widely recognised authoritative survey completed by students at all publicly funded Higher Education Institutions in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland, as well as other providers of higher education.
OAR	Operational Annual Report; an annual report produced by senior managers on operational aspects of the UCO.
OEI	Osteopathic Education Institution; an educational institution providing osteopathic education.
OfS	Office for Students; the independent regulator of higher education in England.
OHC	The Occupational Health Committee (OHC) is a standalone committee that meets when required to consider reasonable adjustments to the methods of learning and assessment through which students acquire and demonstrate osteopathic competences, for students/potential students who have declared or have an observed significant health issue or disability.
OPS	Osteopathic Practice Standards; The Osteopathic Practice Standards are published by the GOsC and describe the standards expected of osteopaths and include guidance to assist osteopaths in meeting these standards. The purpose of the standards is to ensure quality care for patients and to protect them from harm.
PBE	Pre-Boards of Examiners (Pre-Boards) (PBEs) take place in advance of Boards of Examiners meetings and consider Portfolio Board approved student award, progression, and assessment profiles and then make proposals for consideration by the Boards of Examiners in accordance with the UCO's regulations as approved by its validating bodies.
PDR	Professional Development Review undertaken annually by staff.

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Policy	A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organization or individual.
PRG	Policy & Regulations Group; a subcommittee of the Teaching Quality & Standards Committee which monitors the development and review of academic policy and regulations, the quality assurance framework, and the Academic Council governance committee structure.
Procedure	An established or official way of doing something.
PSRB	Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body; the body that sets and monitors the standards and outcomes of programmes of study leading to professional accreditation.
QAA	The Quality Assurance Agency; the independent body entrusted with monitoring and advising on standards and quality in UK higher education.
Quality Assurance	Quality assurance refers to a range of review procedures designed to safeguard academic standards and promote learning opportunities for students of acceptable quality.
Quality Code	The UK Quality Code for Higher Education; this gives all higher education providers a shared starting point for setting, describing and assuring the academic standards of their higher education awards and programmes and the quality of the learning opportunities they provide.
Quality Enhancement	Quality enhancement refers to taking deliberate steps to bring about continual improvement in the effectiveness of the learning experience of students.
RAG	Reporting to the Senior Management Team (SMT), the Resource Allocation Group (RAG) is responsible for making recommendations concerning the UCO's resource allocation model.
REC	The Research Ethics Committee (REC) is responsible for undertaking ethical consideration of research proposals whether it involves participants within the institution or outside the institution; this currently includes students and staff from the UCO and applications from students from other institutions who would like to carry out work with our faculty, students or patients.
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
RQ	Recognised Qualification; Under the Osteopaths Act 1993 the GOsC is the statutory regulatory body for osteopaths and osteopathic education providers. The GOsC ensures that courses of osteopathic education meet its requirements for standards and quality, as well as governance and management of the course provider. Those that do are recognised and awarded Recognised Qualification (RQ) status. This allows graduates from those courses to register with the GOsC and practise osteopathy legally in the UK. RQ is subject to approval from the Privy Council.
RSSC	The Research and Scholarship Strategy Committee (RSSC) reports to Academic Council and focuses on research and scholarship activity and development across the UCO. It takes responsibility for the assurance and enhancement of research activities of the UCO.

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SB	The Scrutiny Board is a sub-committee of the relevant Course Team and is responsible for the receipt, consideration and modification of all examination material for the specified course.
SCF	The Staff Consultative Forum (SCF) provides a forum for staff consultation and participation related to institutional direction and matters related to staff.
SMT	The Senior Management Team (SMT) ensures there is effective leadership, management and co-ordination of all the major academic and support activities undertaken by the UCO.
SEEC	SEEC Level Descriptors; Credit level descriptors define the level of complexity, relative demand and autonomy expected of a learner on completion of a module or programme of learning. They provide a description of levels of learning through a hierarchy of knowledge and skills.
SSLCGs	Student-Staff Liaison Consultation Groups (SSLCGs); these groups are subcommittees of the Education Enhancement & Strategy Committee (EESC). They serve as the arena for students to discuss with faculty and staff significant group issues connected to learning, teaching, student support, and UCO services and environment. They also provide an opportunity for staff to consult with students about institutional developments under consideration.
DAP	Degree Awarding Powers; Taught degree awarding powers (DAP) give UK higher education providers the right to award bachelor's degrees with honours and other taught higher education qualifications, but not postgraduate research degrees.
The Charity Commission	Regulates the administration and affairs of registered UK charities.
TQSC	The Teaching Quality & Standards Committee (TQSC) oversees the provision of all taught education delivered under the name of the UCO on behalf of the Academic Council
UCO	University College of Osteopathy
UIF	Unit Information Form; a form providing students with specific information about each unit of study.
VCG	The Vice-Chancellor's Group collectively acts to ensure effective leadership of the UCO and to oversee strategic planning processes.
VLE	Virtual Learning Environment

AQF18: APPENDICES

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