

To consider

Amending the List of bodies entitled to award UK Primary Medical Qualifications

Issue

- 1 Queen Mary University of London has applied for the right to issue its graduates with Primary Medical Qualifications in its own name rather than in the name of the University of London.

Recommendation

- 2 Council is asked to agree that Queen Mary University of London be added to the GMC's list of bodies that can award UK Primary Medical Qualifications.

Amending the list of Primary Medical Qualifications

Issue

Entitlement to award Primary Medical Qualifications

- 3 Under Subsection 4(1) of the Medical Act 1983 (as amended), we are required to hold a list of the bodies entitled to hold examinations for the purpose of granting a UK Primary Medical Qualification (PMQ). Under Subsection 4(1C): 'The General Council shall only include in the list maintained under subsection (1) bodies or combinations of bodies that require from candidates at examinations a standard of proficiency that conforms to the prescribed standard of proficiency.' The standard of proficiency is currently set out in *Tomorrow's Doctors* (2009) and compliance with the standard is demonstrated through the Quality Improvement Framework, which includes annual returns from medical schools and a programme of regional visits.
- 4 The current list of bodies and combinations of bodies entitled to award UK PMQs is published on our website at: http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate/awarding_bodies.asp

London medical schools and the application from Queen Mary University of London

- 5 Historically, the University of London had five medical schools. Since the 1990s the University has not acted as a funding or planning body for any of the constituent Colleges which include the medical schools. Rather, federal activities undertaken centrally have been agreed and funded by the Colleges. Colleges have been authorised to award degrees of the University to their students and have been largely autonomous.
- 6 The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine has left the University and now awards its own PMQs. King's College London and University College London have not left the University of London but in July 2008 were included in our list of bodies entitled to award PMQs in their own name. At its meeting on 8 December 2010, Council also granted St George's Hospital Medical School the power to award its own PMQs, leaving only Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) awarding University of London degrees.
- 7 On 16 August 2013, Wendy Appleby, Secretary to Council and Academic Secretary at QMUL, wrote to our Chief Executive to ask that the medical school be added to the list of bodies that can award PMQs. We replied on 23 August 2013 asking for further information and documentation. On 18 October 2013, Jane Pallant, Deputy Academic Registrar, replied concerning the status of QMUL. Documentation relating to the quality of the undergraduate medical course was received on 13 November 2013, including a progress report

against an Action Plan previously agreed with the GMC. The correspondence is at Annex A and a summary of the progress report is at Annex B.

Issues at QMUL

- 8** During 2012-13, we undertook a regional review of medical education and training in London.
- 9** The review resulted in reports on various bodies delivering education and training including the five medical schools. The report on QMUL, then known as Barts and the London School of Medicine, is at <http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/13041.asp>
- 10** The report included three requirements for the school, relating to Service Level Agreements with provider trusts, equality and diversity monitoring and policies, and patient and public involvement. These areas of difficulty are common to many established medical schools that are authorised to issue their own PMOs. Our report also included four recommendations regarding the school's approach to quality management, communication with students, interprofessional education and assessment blueprints.
- 11** The school was commended for two areas of good practice covering student support and its commitment to continuous improvement and quality enhancement. On 1 May 2013, the School provided an Action Plan to address the areas of concern that we had identified, including the School's responsibility for quality management of issues at the Royal London Hospital and Whipps Cross Hospital. The Action Plan is also available on our website using the link at paragraph 9.
- 12** On 13 November 2013, the school submitted documents for the Medical School Annual Return including a report on its progress against the Action Plan. The progress report, summarised at Annex B, underlines the school's commitment to quality enhancement and demonstrates a positive response to our requirements and recommendations.
- 13** Furthermore, the letter dated 18 October 2013, at Annex A, points out that no practical difficulties are envisaged to follow from graduates no longer receiving degrees in the name of the University of London, stating that 'The University of London has not provided any services that would cease to be available under the new arrangements'. The change in the degree awarded is not associated with any changes to curricular design, delivery or assessment at the medical school.
- 14** The QMUL medical school is long-established and operationally independent of the University of London. It was reviewed during 2012-13 and has made good progress against the Action Plan that followed. On that basis, we can be confident that, in the language of the Medical Act, Queen Mary University of

London requires from its graduates a standard of proficiency that conforms to the prescribed standard of proficiency currently set in *Tomorrow's Doctors* (2009). We would therefore recommend to include the medical school in the list of bodies entitled to award PMQs.

Supporting information

How this issue relates to the corporate strategy and business plan

- 16** Strategic aim 3 in the *Business Plan 2013* and in the *Corporate Strategy 2010-2013* are to provide an integrated approach to the regulation of medical education and training through all stages of a doctor's career. Maintaining the list of bodies entitled to award PMQs is a key component of our regulation of undergraduate medical education and can now draw on the regional reviews that demonstrate our integrated approach to regulation.

If you have any questions about this paper please contact: Ben Griffith, Policy Manager – Education, bgriffith@gmc-uk.org, 020 7189 5283.

Annex A

Correspondence relating to the application from Queen Mary University of London

- 1** This annex sets out the correspondence relating to the application including:
 - a** A letter from Wendy Appleby to Niall Dickson dated 16 August 2013.
 - b** A letter from Niall Dickson to Wendy Appleby dated 23 August 2013.
 - c** A letter from Jane Pallant to Martin Hart dated 18 October 2013.

Mr Niall Dickson
Chief Executive and Registrar
General Medical Council
Regents Place,
350 Euston Road
London
NW1 3JN



16 August 2013

Dear Mr Dickson,

Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London: name change and degree awarding powers

I am writing to let you know that, on the advice Privy Council of the United Kingdom, Her Majesty The Queen has allowed amendments to the Charter of Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London. The effect of these amendments is that the legal name of Queen Mary will change to Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), which is our current operating name.

Queen Mary University of London will also begin to award its own degrees from next academic year. We plan to take a phased approach as follows:

- In 2013-14 students registered for programmes at QMUL in London, who are either new or continuing, will be given the choice of which degree they would like to receive.
- From 2014-15 all new students, wherever they are based, will receive QMUL degrees when they successfully complete their programmes. This will include students on joint programmes and other collaborative arrangements.

In accordance with the requirements of the amended Medical Act, Queen Mary University of London hereby applies to be listed as an awarding body for primary medical qualifications.

Please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Appleby at w.appleby@qmul.ac.uk or Jane Pallant at j.pallant@qmul.ac.uk if you have any questions about this.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Appleby



Secretary to Council & Academic Registrar

23 August 2013

Ms Wendy Appleby
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Chair
Professor Sir Peter Rubin

Chief Executive
Niall Dickson

Dear Ms Appleby

QMUL name change and degree awarding powers

Thank you for your letter of 16 August informing us of the legal name change to Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and QMUL's intention to award its own degrees.

Our Council will need to formally consider the application for QMUL to be listed as an awarding body. The list is open only to bodies that 'require from candidates at examinations a standard of proficiency that conforms to the prescribed standard of proficiency' (Medical Act, Section 4 (1c)). We will be able to brief Council in light of our recent visit report and QMUL's Action Plan on our requirements and recommendations. We would also hope to report on the extent of QMUL's progress against the Plan.

We could aim to report this matter to our Council at its meeting on 10 December 2013. It would therefore be helpful if you could provide a full update against the Action Plan by 31 October 2013. Alternatively, as you will be providing an update in the Annual Return (due by 31 December) we could rely on that if we held back and asked the Council for a decision early in 2014.

In any case, it would be helpful if you could set out any practical consequences that would arise from QMUL issuing its own primary medical qualifications (PMQs). For example, has the University of London provided any services or played any governance role in relation to your undergraduate medical course that will cease to be available? We would also wish to know whether you plan any changes, for example to curricular design, delivery or assessment.

Could you also please provide copies of formal documentation demonstrating:

- a. The change in the legal name.
- b. QMUL's degree awarding powers.

Could you also confirm that the University of London has approved QMUL's intention to award its own degrees?

Clearly, the need for GMC Council approval before QMUL can issue PMQs is critical if you are to be able to offer students a choice of degree during 2013-14 and to meet your expectation that all new students from 2014-15 will receive QMUL degrees. At this stage, obviously I cannot confirm that QMUL will be able to issue PMQs to medical graduates, although the GMC Council's decision would have immediate effect.

Could you therefore let me know whether you would prefer us to consider the application at the 10 December meeting of the GMC Council? If so, can you please make sure we receive the information and documentation requested by 31 October to allow us to prepare the paperwork to support a recommendation to Council.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Martin Hart, Assistant Director, Education and Standards Directorate, on mhart@gmc-uk.org or 020 7189 5408.

Yours sincerely

Niall Dickson

18 October 2013

Martin Hart
Assistant Director
Education and Standards Directorate
General Medical Council
Regent's Place
350 Euston Road
London NW1 3JN

Dear Mr Hart

QMUL name change and degree awarding powers

I write further to Niall Dickson's letter to Wendy Appleby, dated 23 August 2013, and our subsequent telephone conversation, regarding the above.

I understand that the GMC's Council wishes to consider the application for QMUL to be listed as an awarding body, and that the GMC would also hope to report on the extent of QMUL's action plan in response to the recent visit. Our School of Medicine and Dentistry is planning to submit its action plan on 14 November 2013; I understand that this submission date has been discussed with you earlier this week.

By way of background to the recent changes, QMUL obtained its degree awarding powers (DAP) IN 2008. Following the DAP process as laid down by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and operated by the Quality Assurance Agency, the powers were incorporated into our Charter on 12 February 2008 by amendment allowed by the Privy Council (copy provided). Until this academic year, we have kept our powers in reserve and not exercised them. We will be exercising them for any student who is registered on a degree programme this academic year (2013-14). As a transitional measure for this year, students are being given the choice of awarding bodies: University of London or QMUL. All new students who register from September 2014 will be automatically registered to receive a QMUL degree. We do not intend to use these powers retrospectively therefore all awards that have already been made will not change; for degrees (including the MBBS), these awards were University of London Degrees.

There are no practical consequences that would arise from QMUL issuing its own primary medical qualifications (PMQs). The University of London has not provided any services that would cease to be available under the new arrangements. With respect to the University of London, it may be helpful to explain the federal structure. Each college is a separate legal entity and by virtue of its membership of the University is entitled to offer programmes leading to awards of the University. The programmes of study that are offered by constituent colleges are owned by the Colleges, not by the University, and students register with the

College, not the University. Colleges operate their programmes under their own regulations and the Regulations of the University which are very high levelⁱ. The MBBS requirements are given in paragraph 23 and explain that constituent colleges must run a degree programme that meets the requirements of the relevant authority, in this case the GMC.

The degree programme and curriculum are delivered by QMUL, the students are QMUL students and the formal relationship for accreditation is between the GMC and QMUL. Under the new name and use of degree awarding powers, there are no plans to change curricular design, delivery or assessment.

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether enclosed information will be sufficient for the consideration of the issue by the 10 December meeting of the GMC Council. Please do let me know if you would like to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Pallant
Deputy Academic Registrar

ⁱ http://www.london.ac.uk/fileadmin/documents/about/governance/New/Regulation_1_UoL_Awards_02.pdf

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Annex B

Queen Mary University of London’s progress report against the Action Plan

- 1 The table summarises the progress report received from Queen Mary University of London against the Action Plan agreed with the GMC following the 2012-13 review.

GMC Requirement/Recommendation	School's Response (Action Plan)	School's Timeline
Requirement: Robust, specific and transparent service level agreements (SLAs) must be in place with provider trusts to ensure student placement experience is consistent across sites.	The bespoke SLAs for individual LEPS [Local Education Providers] have been drafted and will be agreed at annual site visits for implementation in their new financial year April 2014. Barts and the London's SLA template is being proposed as the template for a pan-London SLA used by all medical schools in London.	The SLAs for each LEP are being implemented in April 2014.
Requirement: The School must routinely collect and analyse equality and diversity (E&D) data and ensure that themes and trends are identified, policies are being implemented and any concerns are addressed and monitored.	Initial data sets have been analysed and evaluated on Equality and diversity in relation to assessment, as well as the demographics of the medical students, which is now being monitored and will be scrutinised for any changes or trends student population and performance.	Part of the School's annual data collection and analysis - completed.

GMC Requirement/Recommendation	School's Response (Action Plan)	School's Timeline
<p>Requirement: Patient and public involvement (PPI) must be developed within the programme, including strategic involvement in the management and governance of the curriculum.</p>	<p>In response to the recent GMC visit we have: (i) mapped current patient public involvement within the curriculum; (ii) studied the GMC's guidance on PPI; (iii) had in-depth discussions with our partners in UCLP [UCL Partners] (who were commended for their good practice in PPI) to gain insight into how we might augment this part of our business.</p> <p>There is now a working party headed by the Medical Curriculum Committee to take forward our PPI initiatives.</p>	<p>The School has many elements of PPI within the curriculum but we acknowledge that there is still work to be done. To this end we are working towards progressive augmentation of these initiatives year on year and we will report on progress in MSAR [Medical School Annual Return] 2014.</p>
<p>Recommendation: The School should use a wider range of data inputs (eg. student progress rates, employer feedback, patient feedback and graduate achievement) and bring quality management of other processes (eg. assessment, admissions, student support and student mentoring, educational facilities) within one overarching quality management structure.</p>	<p>The Medical Education Quality Enhancement Committee, chaired by the Associate Dean (Education Quality), has been given the remit [to] evaluate current practices and submit the strategy for quality management and improvement.</p>	<p>The Medical Education Quality Enhancement Committee is currently reviewing the current practices, to augmentation of quality management year on year. We are committed to quality improvement and we will report on progress in MSAR 2014.</p>
<p>Recommendation: Communication between the School and students should be reviewed to ensure any changes to the programme are clearly communicated and policies and protocols are universally understood.</p>	<p>With the new virtual learning environment, and new email system, this is permitting an easier flow of information between all stakeholders.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

GMC Requirement/Recommendation	School's Response (Action Plan)	School's Timeline
<p>Recommendation: The School should review IPE [interprofessional education] within the curriculum to ensure that all students have equal opportunity to work with and learn from other health and social care professionals and students.</p>	<p>A working party, as part of the Medical Curriculum Committee, has been set up to review and update the IPE content and delivery within the MB BS curriculum. Any amendments will go to consultation between all stakeholders, ie. academics, students, administrators and clinical education providers, through the appropriate committees of the School, Medical Curriculum Committee, then to the Medical Education Committee and School Education Committee for ratification.</p>	<p>We are committed to improving our IPE components of the MB BS curriculum, and we will report on progress in MSAR 2014.</p>
<p>Recommendation: The School should review the assessment blueprints to ensure consistency and clear links with the outcomes in <i>Tomorrow's Doctors</i> (2009) (TD09).</p>	<p>Completed.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Recommendation: The School is responsible for the quality management of its LEPs: The LEP (Royal London Hospital) should review the space and facilities available for educational delivery across the site to ensure they are fit for purpose and adequate to support the learning needs of students and trainees.</p>	<p>This review is in progress, there are regular updates provided for the School by the Barts NHS Trusts via its Director of Education. The official follow-up will be part of the Annual Site visit in December 2013. Work on the new education centre is progressing well and on target for completion by May 2014.</p> <p>Medical Education have also been given sole access to a refurbished lecture theatre which will ease the space problem considerably.</p>	<p>We are committed to improving the student experience on placement, as evidenced by the review of space allocation. Part of this initiative is to scrutinize the feedback from all stakeholders in the annual site visits 2013-14 and student evaluations in 2013-14. We will report on progress in MSAR 2014.</p>

GMC Requirement/Recommendation	School's Response (Action Plan)	School's Timeline
<p>Recommendation: The School is responsible for the quality management of its LEPs: The LEP (Royal London Hospital) should work with the School to ensure students, clinical teachers and foundation doctors understand the purpose and organisation of student assistantships and are informed of updates relevant to them, eg. the London Deanery 'Doctors in Difficulty' policy.</p>	<p>All undergraduate teachers at the Trust have been informed of the importance and relevance of student assistantships which the hospital has signed up to as per contract with the Medical School. The students themselves have also been regularly taught on the importance of student assistantships which are now de rigueur of the clinical undergrad curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trust has amended the nomenclature regarding the 'final year student placements' to final year student 'assistantships' in all verbal and email conversations. • Dr Adam Feather gave a presentation on the assistantships at our grand round. • Support available for doctors in training is discussed by DME [Director of Medical Education] at induction. • The information in the Deanery document, 'Doctors in difficulty', will be included at future inductions by the DME. 	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Recommendation: The School is responsible for the quality management of its LEPs: The LEP (Royal London Hospital) should ensure that the links between quality management processes operating through the School and quality control processes within the LEP are clear and effective.</p>	<p>The quality assurance data flow between the School and the LEPs has been much improved following the formation of the Quality Assurance Unit in January 2013. Accordingly, the reports prepared of student evaluations are returned now within one week of the completion of placement to all stakeholders.</p>	<p>We will report on the effectiveness of the quality assurance data flow in MSAR 2014.</p>

GMC Requirement/Recommendation	School's Response (Action Plan)	School's Timeline
<p>Recommendation: The School is responsible for the quality management of its LEPs: The LEP (Royal London Hospital) should review student access to clinical teaching and in-course assessment to ensure the quantity and quality they receive is consistent.</p>	<p>The development of the bespoke SLAs for the LEPs that provide our clinical placements have served as a review of current practices. Information gathered regarding the quality assurance of the placements (via site visits, Associate Deans Committee and student evaluations) will be used to address issues in individual LEPs in order to work towards equivalence of clinical learning experience for all students.</p>	<p>The SLAs for each LEP are being implemented in April 2014.</p>
<p>Recommendation: The School is responsible for the quality management of its LEPs: The LEP (Whipps Cross Hospital) should work with the School and the Deanery to ensure students, clinical teachers and foundation doctors understand the purpose and organisation of student assistantships and that they are informed of policy updates relevant to them, eg. the London Deanery 'Doctors in Difficulty' policy.</p>	<p>All undergraduate teachers at the Trust have been informed of the importance and relevance of student assistantships which the hospital has signed up to as per contract with the Medical School. The students themselves have also been regularly taught on the importance of student assistantships which are now de rigueur of the clinical undergrad curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trust has amended the nomenclature regarding the 'final year student placements' to final year student 'assistantships' in all verbal and email conversations. • Dr Adam Feather gave a presentation on the assistantships at our grand round. • Support available for doctors in training is discussed by DME at induction. • The information in the Deanery document, 'Doctors in difficulty', will be included at future inductions by the DME. 	<p>Completed.</p>

GMC Requirement/Recommendation	School's Response (Action Plan)	School's Timeline
<p>Recommendation: The School is responsible for the quality management of its LEPs: The LEP (Whipps Cross Hospital) should ensure student feedback, in-course assessment and end of block assessment is consistent and of good quality.</p>	<p>The development of the bespoke SLAs for the LEPs that provide our clinical placements have served as a review of current practices. Information gathered regarding the quality assurance of the placements (via site visits, Associate Deans Committee and student evaluations) will be used to address issues in individual LEPs in order to work towards equivalence of clinical learning experience for all students.</p>	<p>The SLAs for each LEP are being implemented in April 2014.</p>