



**EDUCATIONAL OVERSIGHT INSPECTION OF PRIVATE FURTHER
EDUCATION COLLEGES AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS**

EXTENDED MONITORING VISIT

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE

(Company Registration No. – 5828476)

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Principal Mr Benjamin Llewelyn

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Age Range 15+

Total number of students 98

Numbers by age and type of study Under 18: 58
18+: 40
EFL only: 73
FE only: 20
EFL and FE: 5

Inspection date **12 March 2024**

PREFACE

This inspection report follows the Framework for Educational Oversight Monitoring Visits and Extended Monitoring Visits of private further education colleges and English language schools. The focus of the visit is to confirm that the quality standards reported at the last full inspection are being maintained.

The ISI is an approved Educational Oversight body authorised by the Home Office to inspect privately funded further education colleges and English language schools in England and Wales offering courses on the Qualifications and Credit Framework. It is designed to improve the quality of education on offer to international students who attend UK colleges through student visas.

ISI inspections are required to:

- Report on the extent to which colleges comply with the published Educational Oversight Standards;
- Assess and report on the quality of educational outcomes and provision;
- Where applicable, make recommendations outside the scope of the Standards to support continued improvement of quality.

Inspection provides objective and reliable reports on the quality of colleges and, by placing reports in the public domain, makes this information available to students, Government and the wider community. Inspection takes account of the context of each individual college, and of how it evaluates its own performance and demonstrates its success.

The inspection of the college is from an educational perspective and provides limited inspection of other aspects, though inspectors will comment on any significant hazards or problems they encounter which have an adverse impact on students. The inspection does not include:

- (i) an exhaustive health and safety audit;
- (ii) an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the college, its services or other physical features;
- (iii) an investigation of the financial viability of the college or its accounting procedures;
- (iv) an in-depth investigation of the college's compliance with employment law.

An extended monitoring visit is for those colleges found at the last inspection to have met or exceeded the quality Standards for Educational Oversight. Inspectors will make judgements on progress against any action points and recommendations made at that time. The inspection will not examine all other Standards in detail but will sample to confirm that previous Standards have been maintained and that there are no contrary indicators to those quality judgements. Inspectors will also consider the impact of any material change reported since the last inspection.

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1. CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT

- 1.1 Oxford International Study Centre (OISC) is a limited company, established in 2006 and based in two listed buildings in the centre of Oxford. OISC is jointly owned by two directors one of whom is the principal. The college uses local school and university premises in which to teach the increasing number of students enrolled on summer courses. Its aim is to help all students achieve their personal educational goals, regardless of their level of academic attainment, through learning in a safe, welcoming and encouraging environment.
- 1.2 The college offers courses in a range of subjects in preparation for university or boarding school entry, typically with EFL provision or EFL as part of their programme or intensive preparation for International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Most students receive support in English as an Additional Language.
- 1.3 The college accepts students of all ages, but the majority are between 15 and 21 with long-term, year-round students typically being over 18. The college is not academically selective, although all students undertake an online placement test with further interviews on arrival. Enrolment is on a weekly basis and courses are individually designed to meet student needs and aspirations. The duration of courses is between one to two years for full-time academic students.
- 1.4 At the time of inspection, 98 students were enrolled of which 20 were following courses online. There are equal numbers of male and female students who come from a very wide range of countries. English is an additional language for all students. One student has been identified with learning difficulties or disabilities. Six students are currently studying on a Student visa.
- 1.5 This monitoring visit has been extended due to the acquisition of a new building. For this reason, Section 4 of the Educational Oversight Framework is looked at in detail.
- 1.6 The college was previously inspected on the 30 November-02 December 2021 when it met all Key Standards and the quality of education was judged to exceed expectations. The recommendations from the previous report are:
 - Share effective strategies to promote student engagement and active participation in classes and online learning.
 - Increase opportunities for wider participation in self-evaluation by part time staff.

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 2.1 **The college exceeds expectations.** At the previous inspection of the 30 November – 2 December 2021 the college was found to exceed expectations and the quality of education as judged at that time has been maintained.
- 2.2 The quality of the curriculum, teaching and learners' achievements is excellent. Students are very well educated in a friendly and highly supportive atmosphere and in accordance with their objectives and the college's aims. Initial assessment prior to, and on arrival, is excellent and effectively ensures that students are accurately placed on the most appropriate programme of study in accordance with their language and academic abilities. The suitability of course provision and curriculum is excellent. A well-developed curriculum, whose provision includes a wide range of high-quality courses, ensures that individual student academic and language needs are fully met. English language courses are appropriately aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and courses on offer to students on Student visas meet the definition of an approved qualification, as set out in the Home Office guidance.
- 2.3 Overall, teaching is excellent. Teachers are experienced, well-qualified and have comprehensive subject knowledge. The vast majority use a wide range of effective teaching methods to ensure that students are engaged, build new knowledge and apply this effectively to new contexts. There are well developed processes in place to monitor students' progress to ensure that they are successfully progressing towards their learning aims. As a result, achievement rates are high and nearly all students complete the qualification for which they registered.
- 2.4 Students' welfare, including health and safety, is excellent. Health and safety are very well managed, monitored, with comprehensive oversight ensuring that any issues are quickly addressed. The college's two buildings are well maintained, providing high quality facilities that effectively support learning. Classrooms are of an appropriate size, well equipped and furnished to a very good standard. Well-developed policies and procedures effectively reduce the risks from fire and other hazards and ensure high levels of health and safety are maintained. Fire precautions, drills and evacuations are systematically undertaken and are clearly understood by all students and staff. Student registration and attendance records are excellent. They are accurate, well managed and staff are highly effective in monitoring attendance and taking action when required. Procedures for reporting to the Home Office are highly secure. Pastoral support and guidance for the students is excellent and in accordance with the colleges aims. Arrangements for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 are outstanding and fully reflect official guidance. The provision for student accommodation is of a high quality, well-managed and meets student's needs. Relationships between staff and students are excellent. Students report that they are very well supported.
- 2.5 The effectiveness of governance, leadership and management is excellent. Effective oversight is combined with a high level of financial support so that the quality of

education and the welfare, health and safety of students are secure. A clear vision for the college is shared by all staff, who work very well together for the good of the students. The college is highly successful in attracting and retaining well-qualified and experienced teachers and other staff. A detailed management structure ensures that roles and responsibilities are fully understood, and that the college is well run and meets all its legal obligations. Systems to ensure consistent assessment and the monitoring of student progress and attendance are excellent. As a result, managers have a clear overview of the performance of the college's students. Procedures for the recruitment of staff are excellent, in accordance with legal requirements, with all appropriate checks undertaken.

3. THE QUALITY OF THE CURRICULUM, TEACHING AND LEARNERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3.1 The quality of the curriculum, teaching and learners' achievements is excellent. All Key Standards continue to be met.
- 3.2 The recommendation in this area from the previous inspection report is:
- Share effective strategies to promote student engagement and active participation in classes and online learning.
- 3.3 Good progress has been made against the recommendation. Students are encouraged during induction and in the provided guides to learning to fully participate in all classes and activities. Lesson observation forms have been updated to include direct evaluation of student engagement and teacher strategies used to promote maximum engagement. In addition, student feedback forms now seek their views on whether they had an opportunity to participate fully in their classes. As a result, lesson observations, and feedback from students, show a high rate of student engagement in their lessons.
- 3.4 The suitability of course provision and curriculum is excellent. Students are well educated in a very friendly and highly supportive atmosphere and in accordance with their objectives. Clear educational aims and objectives and a wide and well-developed curriculum ensures that individual student's language and academic needs are met. English language courses are appropriately aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Programmes of study on offer to Tier 4 students meet the definition of an approved qualification, as set out in the Home Office guidance. The six students currently enrolled at the college on Student visas are studying at an appropriate level on an approved full-time programme which includes at least 15 hours a week of classroom-based, weekday daytime study.
- 3.5 Initial assessment prior to, and on arrival, is excellent. The process is detailed, accurate and highly effective in ensuring that students are placed on the most appropriate programme of study in accordance with their academic and language abilities. As a result, students report that they are highly satisfied with their course and the provision offered by the college.
- 3.6 Overall, teaching is excellent. Teachers are experienced, well-qualified and have comprehensive subject knowledge. The lessons are delivered at a good pace and the vast majority of teachers use a wide range of teaching methods to meet the different learning styles of their students and to foster interest. Teachers are enthusiastic and motivate their students to enjoy and engage with their learning. They have a clear knowledge of students' previous learning and consistently challenge them to meet their learning goals. However, in a very small number of lessons, the teaching methods used, limits student engagement and progress. Classroom resources are of an excellent quality, quantity and range and are used effectively by teachers to support learning.

- 3.7 Teaching effectively promotes fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. It encourages respect for other people including those with the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.
- 3.8 Assessment is excellent. There are well-developed processes in place to monitor students' progress to ensure that they are successfully progressing towards their learning aim. As a result, the progress of each student is carefully tracked and allows managers, teachers and students to monitor their progress effectively. Achievement rates are high and nearly all students complete the qualification for which they registered.

4. STUDENTS' WELFARE, INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1 Students' welfare, including health and safety, is excellent. All Key Standards continue to be met.
- 4.2 This monitoring visit has been extended due to the acquisition of a new building. As such, section 4 of the Educational Oversight Framework was reviewed in detail.
- 4.3 Health and safety are extremely well managed, monitored, with comprehensive oversight ensuring that any issues are quickly addressed. The college's two buildings are well maintained and provide very good quality facilities that effectively support learning. Classrooms are clean, with good lighting, heating, sound insulation and ventilation. They are well equipped and furnished to a high standard.
- 4.4 Detailed health and safety, first aid and fire safety policies and procedures are consistently implemented. All necessary measures to reduce the risk of fire and other hazards have been taken. Fire precautions, drills and evacuations are systematically undertaken and are clearly understood by all students and staff. An appropriate number of fire marshals and staff trained in first aid are in place and clearly detailed on the colleges notice boards. Free drinking water is readily available.
- 4.5 Systems for recording registration and attendance are very well-managed. Admission procedures are detailed and strictly observed. Staff work closely with senior managers to maintain clear and accurate admission registers and records. Electronic student files are accurately maintained and provide a clear record of checks on identification, previous academic experience, and visa status. Attendance records are accurate and maintained on a daily basis and closely monitored. As a result, timely contact is made with students who miss classes. Staff have a clear understanding of Home Office requirements regarding the enrolment and attendance requirements for students on Student visas. Overall, student attendance is high. Attendance for all of the six students on Student visas exceeds Home Office requirements.
- 4.6 Pastoral support for students is excellent and is a key priority for the college. Detailed policies and procedures ensure that the college provides a safe and highly supportive environment where students can progress quickly. On arrival students receive a comprehensive induction which is effective in helping them settle quickly into their course, the college and Oxford. Relationships between staff and students, and amongst the students themselves, are excellent with a strong culture of mutual respect, integration and tolerance. A wide range of policies and procedures reinforce this culture and the expectations of appropriate behaviour and conduct. Appropriate career advice and an active social programme are available to students.
- 4.7 The safeguarding arrangements for students under the age of 18 are outstanding. Arrangements have proper regard to official guidance and the implementation of safeguarding and recruitment strategies are appropriately checked and regularly reviewed by senior managers. There is a designated child protection officer who is

trained to the required level. All staff are subject to an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) suitability check prior to or on appointment.

- 4.8 The quality of residential accommodation is excellent and forms a valuable part of the students' education and personal development. Comprehensive arrangements are made by the college for securing appropriate accommodation for all students. College staff work closely and effectively with external agencies that offer accommodation. Rigorous monitoring ensures students benefit from accommodation that is registered and meets national requirements. Arrangements for homestay accommodation are managed by the college's Operations Manager and are outstanding. A rigorous approach to host family placements is taken. Care and attention are given to ensure the best possible experience for students. Students are effectively matched to host families according to their needs and requirements. The college obtains enhanced DBS checks for the host family adults for all homestay providers.

5. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The effectiveness of governance, leadership and management is excellent. All Key Standards continue to be met.
- 5.2 The recommendation in this area from the previous inspection report is:
- Increase opportunities for wider participation in self-evaluation by part time staff.
- 5.3 Satisfactory progress has been made against the recommendation. The opportunities for part-time members of staff to contribute to the college's self-assessment process have been reviewed by senior leaders and increased. For example, observation feedback meetings have been significantly extended so that staff now have an opportunity to provide their views of the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.
- 5.4 The quality of governance is excellent. The directors have an excellent insight into the working of the college and play a key role in the day-to-day activities due to their role as principal and international director. Comprehensive oversight is combined with a high level of financial support so that the quality of education and the welfare, health and safety of students are secure.
- 5.5 A clear vision for the college is provided by the directors and effectively shared with staff. As a result, a culture of working together for the good of the students has been developed. The college is highly successful in attracting and retaining well-qualified and experienced teachers and other staff. Relationships between the directors, managers and staff are excellent.
- 5.6 The quality of leadership and management is excellent. A well-developed management structure clearly details roles and responsibilities and ensures that the college is well run and meets all its legal obligations. Policies and procedures are appropriate and regularly reviewed. Self-assessment is well-developed, with regular reviews undertaken and documented. As a result, leaders and managers have a clear overview of the performance of the college and can take timely action to rectify any issues if required.
- 5.7 Systems to ensure consistent assessment and the monitoring of student progress and attendance are excellent. Performance data is used effectively to evaluate the provision and to highlight key issues for leaders and managers. As a result, managers and teachers have a clear overview of the performance of the college's students.
- 5.8 Procedures for the recruitment of staff are excellent, in accordance with legal requirements, with all appropriate checks undertaken. As a result, all required employment and suitability checks are completed on staff before their employment is confirmed.

- 5.9 The provision of information is excellent. The college's website is clear and user-friendly. Prospective students are able to access accurate and highly relevant information to inform their study choices. The college was highly responsive in providing information for the inspection in a timely manner.

6. ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The college has maintained the excellent quality found at the last inspection.

Recommendations for further improvement

In order to further improve the excellent quality provided, the college should:

- Identify and share the good practice shown in the best lessons in order to improve the overall consistency of all lessons.

INSPECTION EVIDENCE

The inspectors observed lessons and conducted formal interviews with students. They held discussions with the proprietors, senior members of staff and attended registration sessions. The responses of staff to confidential pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined regulatory documentation made available by the college.

Inspectors

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Ms Christine-Reba Edge	Team Inspector