



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

**EXTENDED MONITORING VISIT**

**OXFORD INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE**

Full Name	<b>Oxford International College</b>
Address	1 London Place, Oxford OX4 1BD
Telephone Number	01865 203988
Email Address	info@oxcoll.com
Website	www.oxcoll.com
Director	Dr Mario Peters
Chief Operating Officer	Ms Kim Terrar
Age Range	15+
Total number of students	51
Numbers by age and type of study	Under 18: 14 18+: 37 FE only: 51
Inspection date	<b>11 February 2014</b>

## 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 Tier 4 of the points-based system for 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 College Ltd is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. The College was established in 2002 and relocated twice into larger premises in 2005 and 2010. It moved in August 2013 into purpose-built, leased premises in the centre of Oxford. The college also has three licensed schools overseas in China and Switzerland. It is led by a senior leadership team and governed by the director of the company who co-owns it.
- 1.2 The college aim is to prepare students between the ages of 14 and 21 for entry into university and higher education institutions, through a curriculum offer of GCSE and A-Level courses in a wide variety of subjects. The vast majority of teaching takes place through one-to-one tuition. The college also offers a specialist summer school programme, university foundation course and a boarding school preparation programme for international students. These programmes were not running during the inspection.
- 1.3 There are currently 51 students enrolled, 24 female and 27 male. The majority of students come from Britain; a minority come from other countries in Europe, Russia, the Middle East and Asia. All these students speak English as an additional language (EAL). No students have been assessed as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- 1.4 The college checks student suitability prior to enrolment using a pre-course application form, assessment and interview. Student accommodation is provided for international students through homestay arrangements with local families.
- 1.5 The visit took the form of an extended monitoring visit due to a change in premises. Consequently, section four of the Framework concerning student welfare, including health and safety, will be examined in detail.
- 1.6 The college was subject to a monitoring visit on 29 January 2013 when it met all Key Standards and the quality of education exceeded expectations. The recommendations from the previous visit are:
  - Improve the methods by which students with learning difficulties are identified and supported.
  - Support staff development by more closely assessing their in-service needs and facilitating training opportunities.
  - Provide opportunities for regular tutor appraisal and professional development reviews which include lesson observations.

## 2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 2.1 **The college exceeds expectations.** At the previous inspection of 29 January 2013 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. Good progress has been made in improving the methods by which students with learning difficulties are identified and supported. Course provision, teaching and learning are excellent. The college offers a wide variety of subjects that meet both student and Home Office requirements. There is a strong focus on meeting the needs of individual students through a very flexible learning programme. Effective teaching methods motivate and encourage students to learn and make good progress. The vast majority of students progress well, meeting their learning aims and achieving the grades they require to progress onto university.
- 2.3 Students' welfare, including health and safety, is excellent. Arrangements for the welfare, health and safety of students are excellent. The new premises are fit-for-purpose and well maintained. Health and safety procedures are robust and implemented very effectively. Admission registers are accurate and attendance monitoring is very good. Support for students is excellent. Academic and support staff monitor student progress effectively and respond to their individual needs, in accordance with the college aims. Arrangements for safeguarding, including those for students under 18 and students in homestay accommodation, are outstanding.
- 2.4 The effectiveness of governance, leadership and management is excellent. The senior leadership team is actively involved in the management and monitoring of college provision. They provide a clear educational direction supported by a comprehensive development plan. The management structure is very effective, with clearly understood responsibilities. Analysis and monitoring of student achievement data to underpin curriculum improvement are underdeveloped. Excellent progress has been made to support staff development, with a thorough appraisal identifying training needs and a range of appropriate training events held to develop and update staff. Good progress has been made in developing an appropriate approach to staff appraisals and lesson observations for teaching staff, including the implementation of a peer observation programme.

### **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:
- Improve the methods by which students with learning difficulties are identified and supported.
- 3.3 Good progress has been made against this recommendation. Improvements have been made to the application process to identify students with learning difficulties. Additional support is provided for students who require assistance in English, mathematics or other subjects in order for them to achieve their learning aim. One-to-one teaching further supports students who have a learning difficulty.
- 3.4 Students receive high quality support, advice and guidance to help them determine the best courses to meet their educational needs. Initial assessment is very thorough, ensuring each student is on a programme that meets their individual aptitudes, language capabilities and aspirations. As a result, students are extremely satisfied with the provision offered. Qualifications meet Home Office requirements and offer suitable progression routes into university or further study.
- 3.5 Teaching is well planned to develop the specific learning needs of each student. Highly knowledgeable teachers expect students to develop their knowledge during lessons. The use of effective questioning encourages students to challenge and apply their knowledge, and therefore progress is excellent. Students speak very favourably about the quality of teaching they receive. Resources for learning are good and used well to engage students.
- 3.6 Regular progress tests and one-to-one tutorials are used effectively to monitor attainment. Thorough course assessments identify relevant strengths and weaknesses and highlight areas for improvement. The large majority of students achieve their intended learning outcomes, and predicted grades and progression to university courses are both excellent.

#### **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 The college now has its own purpose-built premises. The move has provided a large student communal area and new equipment in classrooms and laboratories, enhancing the learning resources. This has improved the student experience and has had a positive impact on teaching, learning and the well-being of both staff and students.
- 4.3 The new premises are secure, fit-for-purpose and very well maintained. The building is clean and classrooms are of an appropriate size, well lit and well furnished. All necessary measures to reduce the risk of fire and other hazards have been taken, including an appropriate number of fire marshals and staff trained in first aid. The college's excellent procedures for health and safety are consistently implemented and updated, ensuring a safe working environment for staff and students.
- 4.4 Systems for recording registration and attendance are extremely well managed. Admission procedures are thorough and implemented very effectively. Daily attendance is closely monitored and accurately recorded, with rigorous procedures to deal with student absence or lateness. Any necessary reporting to the Home Office is carried out promptly.
- 4.5 Pastoral support is excellent. The college provides a safe, supportive and comfortable environment which effectively meets students' needs. Tutors and managers monitor progress closely, setting personal development targets to encourage students to achieve. Students speak very highly of the responsiveness and support provided by all college staff. Students also benefit from a well-planned social activities programme, led by the student council, which enhances their experience of studying in the UK.
- 4.6 Safeguarding arrangements for students under the age of 18 are excellent. Staff are well trained, have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities and implement policy very effectively. A robust approach is taken to ensuring all the appropriate checks are conducted, including enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on all staff and homestay families.
- 4.7 Management of accommodation is excellent, with consideration made to matching each student with a suitable family. Thorough checks are conducted on each homestay property and 24 hour support is provided by college staff for both the family and the student.

## **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 recommendations in this area from the previous inspection report are:
- Support staff development by more closely assessing their in-service needs and facilitating training opportunities.
  - Provide opportunities for regular tutor appraisal and professional development reviews which include lesson observations.
- 5.3 Excellent progress has been made against the first recommendation. Staff training needs are clearly identified through the appraisal process. A variety of appropriate training events have been held by the college to assist staff in developing their awareness of current teaching and learning practice. Staff are also encouraged to attend relevant training offered externally to improve their knowledge.
- 5.4 Good progress has been made to provide opportunities for regular tutor appraisal and professional development reviews. Tutors attend regular review meetings and a peer observation scheme is now in operation and providing valuable feedback on teaching and learning.
- 5.5 The clear educational direction of the college is supported by all staff, who are committed to meeting its educational aims. The senior leadership team ensure all statutory requirements are met and there is a highly effective working relationship between the director and managers. Communication between staff and managers is good. Staff report that they have opportunities to express their views on issues and that the college is responsive to their comments.
- 5.6 Managers have an excellent awareness of the college's strengths and areas for improvement. Self-evaluation is undertaken regularly and underpinned by a detailed development plan that prioritises actions and individual staff responsibilities, ensuring effective progress of strategic developments. The analysis and review of student achievement by senior management are underdeveloped. The lack of reference to external examination results or internal achievement data limits the effectiveness of this process to drive academic improvement.
- 5.7 The college is very successful in recruiting and retaining high quality staff. Stringent human resource management ensures appropriate checks are made prior to appointment. Students are covered by an appropriate fee protection scheme to protect their fees.

## **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:

- Improve the analysis and benchmarking of achievement data to inform quality improvement.
- Introduce regular review and monitoring of teaching, learning and achievement by senior managers.

## INSPECTION EVIDENCE

The inspectors observed lessons, conducted formal interviews with students and examined samples of students' work. They held discussions with senior members of staff and with the director. Inspectors visited residential accommodation. The responses of staff and students to confidential pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined regulatory documentation made available by the college.

### Inspectors

Ms Beth Maloney	Lead Inspector
Mr Tony Hubbard	Team Inspector