



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

MONITORING VISIT

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Company registration no. – 05027233

Full Name	Oxford International College
Address	1, London Place, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX4 1BD
Telephone Number	01865203988
Email Address	info@oxcoll.com
Website	www.oxcoll.com
Principal	Mrs Kim Terrar
Proprietor	Dr Mario Peters
Age Range	15+
Total number of students	112
Numbers by age and type of study	16 – 18 76 18+: 36 FE only: 112
Inspection date	27 February 2018

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.

A monitoring visit is for those colleges found at the last inspection to have met or exceeded the 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.

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1. CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT

- 1.1 Established in 2002, the Oxford International College is a private educational institution located close to Oxford city centre. It is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and moved to its current location in August 2013. The college is led by a senior leadership team and governed by the director of the company who owns it. The college's mission is to prepare its students for entry into higher education, through a curriculum consisting of a wide range of subjects offered at A level.
- 1.2 The college offers two-year and 18-month A-level programmes in a wide range of subjects. In addition, flexible A-level retakes and A-level booster courses are offered. For students whose first language is not English, International English Language Testing System (IELTS) English for Academic Purpose qualifications are available. The main methods of teaching are through individual tuition or small group lessons. Students are selected by application, interview and assessment of language competence.
- 1.3 At the time of the inspection there were 112 students. The majority are male, under 18 years, and come from a wide range of countries. English is an additional language (EAL) for a majority of students. At the time of the visit there were no students identified with language and learning difficulties or disabilities.
- 1.4 The college was last inspected on the 9-11 February 2016 when it met all Key Standards and the quality of education was judged to exceed expectations. The main recommendations from the previous report are:
 - Develop a clear institutional response to the challenges presented by the new courses to improve provision for students studying in larger groups.
 - Provide further opportunities for the development of teaching skills and sharing good practice to improve the learning experience for students in groups.

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 2.1 **The college exceeds expectations.** At the previous inspection of 9-11 February 2016 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 well educated in a friendly and supportive environment in accordance with their objectives and the colleges aims. A wide range of high quality courses are offered that fully meet the needs and aspirations of the students. Courses on offer to Tier 4 students meet the definition of an approved qualification, as set out in the Home Office guidance. Initial assessment prior to and on arrival is accurate and is highly effective in ensuring that students are placed on the right of course in accordance with their abilities and academic aims. Teaching is good, with a number of the lessons observed being excellent. Teachers have excellent subject knowledge and in the majority of lessons plan effectively and use an appropriate range of teaching methods to engage the students in their class. However, in a small minority of lessons, planning is underdeveloped, with teachers using a limited range of teaching methods and student activities. Overall, students' make excellent progress and attendance levels are high.
- 2.3 Arrangements for the health, safety and welfare of students are excellent. The college's premises are fit-for-purpose, well maintained and provide a comfortable and safe environment which effectively supports learning. Comprehensive health and safety policies and procedures are in place and implemented effectively. Fire precautions, drills and evacuations are systematically undertaken and are clearly understood by all students and staff. Student registration and attendance records are accurate, very well managed and are highly effective in monitoring attendance and taking necessary action. Procedures for reporting to the Home Office are secure. The college's pastoral structure provides excellent support and guidance for the students in accordance with its aims. Relationships between staff and students are excellent. Arrangements for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 are excellent and reflect official guidance. Students report that they are happy and well supported.
- 2.4 The effectiveness of governance, leadership and management is excellent. Comprehensive oversight ensures that high levels of education, welfare and health and safety are maintained. Leadership and management are excellent. Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and there is effective communication between managers and other staff. Comprehensive policies and procedures are introduced at all levels. They are regularly reviewed and effectively implemented and monitored. Mechanisms to monitor quality and the tracking of student progress are excellent. Self-assessment is accurate, informs improvement planning and is highly effective in identifying specific priorities and actions to quickly improve. The college successfully attracts teachers who are highly qualified in their subject area. Procedures for the recruitment of staff are excellent, in accordance with legal requirements, with all

appropriate checks undertaken. All suitability checks are accurately recorded and effectively summarised in a single central register.

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.
- 5.1 The recommendation in this area from the previous inspection report is:
- Provide further opportunities for the development of teaching skills and sharing good practice to improve the learning experience for students in groups.
- 3.2 Satisfactory progress has been made against the recommendation. Opportunities for continual professional development aimed at improving the quality of teaching and the learning experience of students in groups have been made available to teachers. Consequently, the majority of teachers now use question and answer and group discussion more effectively within lessons. However, the range of methods and activities used in a minority of lessons is limited, which limits student engagement.
- 3.3 The quality of course provision and curriculum is excellent. Students are very well educated in accordance the college's aims and their objectives. The curriculum is well planned and based on a clear policy statement. It provides a wide range of high quality courses that meet the different higher education aspirations of the students. Courses on offer to Tier 4 students meet the definition of an approved qualification, as set out in the Home Office guidance.
- 3.4 Initial assessment is excellent and ensures students are placed on the appropriate level of course in accordance with their abilities. The process is accurate and the majority of teachers use the information very effectively to plan lessons and provide any necessary support or guidance.
- 3.5 The quality of teaching is good, with a number of the lessons observed being excellent. In the majority of lessons, teaching is characterised by effective planning, with care taken to match tasks to individual students' needs. Lessons are delivered at a lively pace and the majority include an effective range of teaching methods to keep the interest of the students and ensure high levels of progress. Teachers are enthusiastic, have an excellent subject knowledge and effectively motivate their students to enjoy and engage with their learning. They ask searching questions that prompt students to think and respond successfully. However, in a small minority of lessons, planning is underdeveloped with no clear learning objectives set or plan for the lesson available. As a result, teachers use a limited range of teaching methods, with limited opportunities for students to participate actively in the lesson so that progress slows.
- 3.6 The monitoring and recording of student progress is excellent. Assessment is regular and accurately identifies strengths and weaknesses in the students' progress. Teachers make very good use of assessment outcomes to inform their planning. The

evidence from lesson observations and scrutiny of work shows that students make excellent progress in relation to their starting points. Attendance levels are high and punctuality is 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 premises are secure, fit-for-purpose, and well maintained. Classrooms are clean, spacious, light and well furnished. Comprehensive policies and procedures ensure that the health and safety of students and staff are effective. All necessary measures to reduce the risk of fire and other hazards have been taken. Fire drills and evacuations are systematically undertaken and are clearly understood by all students and staff. The college has an appropriate number of fire marshals and staff trained in first aid.
- 4.3 Systems for recording registration and attendance are excellent and very well managed. Clear policies and procedures ensure the timely and accurate registration of students, the monitoring of their attendance and reporting of absence. Detailed and accurate records are maintained, appropriately monitored and are effectively used to track progress and course completion. Appropriate arrangements to make any necessary reports to the Home Office are in place and fully understood by staff.
- 4.4 Pastoral support for students is excellent. A comprehensive induction allows new arrivals to settle into their courses quickly. Students are clear about who to see and where to go if they have a concern. They confirm that they are happy and feel well supported. They report that the college is providing them with a safe, supportive and comfortable environment which effectively meets their learning needs. Relationships between staff and students are excellent.
- 4.5 The safeguarding arrangements for students under the age of 18 are excellent. Arrangements have proper regard to official guidance and the implementation of safeguarding and recruitment strategies are appropriately checked by senior managers. There is a designated child protection officer in place who is trained to the required level. All staff have been subject to an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) suitability check prior to or on appointment. All staff have received appropriate safeguarding training.

5. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- 5.2 The effectiveness of governance, leadership and management is excellent. All Key Standards continue to be met.
- 5.3 The recommendation in this area from the previous inspection report is:
- Develop a clear institutional response to the challenges presented by the new courses to improve provision for students studying in larger groups.
- 5.4 Good progress has been made against the recommendation. The colleges senior management team have reviewed the challenges presented by the delivery of the curriculum in small groups rather than in one-to-one tuition. A clear and comprehensive plan has been developed and is being fully implemented. Consequently, changes to student entrance tests and prior qualification requirements, together with an increased opportunity for teachers to undertake formal teacher training have been made.
- 5.5 Oversight of the college is excellent. Leaders provide clear educational direction and comprehensive guidance on supporting students and developing and maintaining high academic standards. A comprehensive range of policies are in place which are effectively implemented, monitored and reviewed to ensure their effectiveness. The relationship between the proprietor and the colleges senior leaders is excellent.
- 5.6 Management of the college is excellent. A clear and well developed management structure, with well-defined roles and responsibilities, ensures that all members of staff understand their different roles and duties. Communication between managers and other staff is excellent and ensures that staff are aware of any operational issues within the college and are able to raise any concerns. Staff are highly supportive of the college.
- 5.7 Arrangements for quality assurance are excellent. Academic progress is monitored carefully and data on performance and progress are used effectively to track and evaluate performance; appropriate actions are initiated in a timely manner to bring about effective change. Teaching is successfully monitored through observation and the outcomes from observations are appropriately linked to staff appraisal. The college's self-evaluation report is well-developed and is highly effective in identifying specific priorities and actions to quickly improve.
- 5.8 Arrangements for staff recruitment are excellent. Leaders and managers are successful in recruiting and developing high quality staff. Comprehensive procedures are in place to ensure their suitability to work with students, including those under the age of 18 and any vulnerable adults. A clear recruitment policy is in place which effectively outlines procedures for appointing new staff. There are well-maintained staff files for all members of staff, containing relevant personal details, certified copies of qualifications and proof of eligibility to work in the UK. Appropriate DBS checks, professional references and checks to confirm previous

employment history have been taken up for all staff. Details of these checks are accurately recorded and summarised in a single central register.

- 5.9 The college were very 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:

- Ensure teachers set clear learning objectives for their lessons and plan and use a range of teaching methods to improve the engagement of students and the quality of teaching and learning.

INSPECTION EVIDENCE

The inspectors observed lessons and conducted formal interviews with students and staff. They held discussions with senior members of staff and with the proprietor and attended registration sessions. 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

Dr Nigel Chambers	Lead Inspector
Mr Simon Bellamy	Team Inspector