

UKBA - Tier 4 private colleges accreditation oversight review

A current sponsor who does not apply by the due date of **9 September 2011 will lose the ability to issue new confirmations of acceptance for studies (CASs)**. Sponsors who do not hold a current satisfactory review and who do apply by the due date will have until the end of 2012 to obtain one. Following an application, **a sponsor who receives an unsatisfactory review will lose the ability to issue new CASs**.

Approved educational oversight bodies

The full list of approved educational oversight bodies authorised for Tier 4 purposes is:

- the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
- Ofsted (England)
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (Scotland)
- Estyn (Wales)
- the Education and Training Inspectorate (N Ireland)
- the Independent Schools Inspectorate
- the School Inspection Service
- the Bridge Schools Inspectorate

QAA will review:

- listed bodies;
- other private higher education providers offering courses normally awarded in accordance with the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications; and
- 'embedded' colleges offering courses as a pathway into higher education.

ISI will inspect :

Privately funded further education colleges offering courses on the QCF/NQF, and also English language schools.

4 point scale used for judging quality

1. Exceeds Expectations
2. Meets Expectations
3. Needs Improvement
4. Unsatisfactory

1 key standard not met and all other standard met grade 3 awarded, **where more than 1 key standard not met grade 4 awarded.** Grade 1 & 2 is likely when all key standards met and all other standards met.

- Short notice period of 5 days for inspection
- 3 days intensive inspection by 2 – 4 inspectors, inspection activities including observing teaching, interviewing students and staff and scrutinising records and documents.
- Inspection reports published for 3 years.
- Registrations begin 1st August 2011 closing date of registration 9th September 2011.
- Inspections will begin in October 2011

Key Standards

- 1) Does the college have a curriculum policy set out in writing and supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, and does it implement it effectively?
- 2) Is the subject matter appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of students, including those students with particular learning or language needs?
- 3) Does the curriculum provide the opportunity for all students to learn and make progress?
- 4) Do all courses on offer to international students using Tier 4 lead to qualifications which meet the definition of an approved qualification for UKBA purposes?
- 5) Does the teaching enable students to acquire new knowledge, and make progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught?
- 6) Are classes well planned, are effective teaching methods and suitable activities used and is class time managed wisely?
- 7) Do teachers demonstrate appropriate knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught?
- 8) Is there a framework in place to assess students' work regularly and thoroughly and is information from such assessment utilised to plan teaching and inform students so that they can make progress?

- 9) Has the college prepared and implemented effective written policies to safeguard and promote the welfare of under 18s who are students at the college?
- 10) Has the college demonstrated that it has proper regard for health and safety issues, including on activities outside the college?
- 11) Has the college demonstrated that it has a satisfactory level of fire safety which conforms to legal requirements?
- 12) Does the college maintain an accurate admission register and an attendance register?
- 13) When a student misses 10 expected contacts, fails to enrol or otherwise discontinues study, does the college make the required report to UKBA?
- 14) Does the leadership of the college provide clear educational direction, as reflected in the quality of education, the care of students, and the fulfilment of the college's aims and ethos?
- 15) Is there a positive relationship between the principal/senior staff and the college's governing body (where one exists) or board of management?
- 16) Has the college kept and made available to inspectors a comprehensive list of all staff and volunteers who currently work in the college, or who have worked in the college since the time of the last inspection, showing the dates when they commenced and ceased working in the college?
- 17) Has the college kept and made available for inspectors on demand records of all checks completed in respect of staff and volunteers who currently work at the college or who have worked at the college since the date of the last inspection?
- 18) Having regard to the number, age and needs (including any special needs) of students, are the college buildings fit for purpose and maintained with regard to the health and safety of the students?
- 19) Did the college comply with reasonable requests for information in connection with the inspection?
- 20) Did the college confirm that it had declared to inspectors all instances of disciplinary action, suspension or departure of any individual (staff, volunteer or other)?
- 21) Where this was due to concerns about their suitability to work with children or young people was an appropriate report made to the Independent Safeguarding Authority?

We provide expert consultation to Tier 4 sponsors, visit our website or call us