

BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

for independent further & higher education

NEWSLETTER

March 2007

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BAC HELPS AASAP/UK CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY

The Association of American Study Abroad Programmes (United Kingdom) recently celebrated its fifteenth anniversary. The occasion was marked by a reception held at Winfield House, the London residence of US Ambassador Robert Tuttle, for members and invited guests including BAC, who were represented by our Chief Executive, Dr Stephen Vickers. The evening also served as an opportunity to celebrate the successful conclusion of the 'Year of Study Abroad', as 2006 was declared by the US Senate.



There are some 60 US universities in the United Kingdom, and the British Accreditation Council enjoys a warm and positive relationship with an increasing number of these significant institutions. More information about the nature and work of the Association of American Study Abroad Programmes can be found at www.aasapuk.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY ACCREDITED COLLEGES

We are pleased to welcome the following colleges to the growing family of institutions that have received BAC accreditation:

- BPP Professional Education – www.bpp.com
- Foundation for International Education – www.fie.org.uk
- British American College/Webster Graduate School
– www.bacl.ac.uk / www.webster.ac.uk
- Chelsea Independent College – www.cic.ac
- Stratford College of Management – www.scm.ac
- West End College – www.w-e-c-l.co.uk
- London School of Computer Education – www.lsce.co.uk
- London School of Business & Management – www.lsbm.org.uk
- Midlands Academy of Business & Technology – www.mabtuk.com
- Michael Kingsley Education & Training College – www.mketc.org.uk

We look forward to presenting the names and website details of newly accredited institutions in each edition of our regular newsletter. If you would like your college to be the subject of an extended profile in the newsletter, let us know at the BAC.

THE FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, LONDON

THE Foundation for International Education (FIE) is a recently-accredited institution. As well as benefiting from the recognition that BAC accreditation brings, FIE found the process of review to be stimulating and a very effective mechanism for internal quality improvement at all levels of the institution.

FIE in London works primarily with US universities and colleges to develop and deliver educational experiences appropriate to study abroad students. It receives around 1000 students a year from over 30 US institutions. Most FIE programmes are of semester length and correspond with the US academic calendar. Most of FIE's partners combine elements of tailor-made programming and open enrolment courses.

FIE is a not-for-profit organisation, committed to innovation in a field where educational philosophy is often conservative. It has developed specialist courses in international internships, service learning and undergraduate research, which contain a substantial experiential element, usually developed through course-related site visits.

Information on the work of FIE can be found on the website: www.fie.org.uk. For specific enquiries, contact Dr Michael Woolf, President of the Foundation for International Education: mwoolf@fie.org.uk



The Foundation for International Education's UK headquarters, 114 Cromwell Road, London

ENGLISH LANGUAGE GAZETTE

With the massive increase in international students coming to Britain, the divide between language schools and private sector provision is fast disappearing. For over 25 years, English language teaching professionals have relied on the *English Language Gazette*. The BAC has negotiated a 25% discount on subscriptions for accredited colleges – to receive a sample copy and subscribe please email marketing@elgazette.com, inserting the heading "BAC offer" in the subject line. Also, the first person to email the answers to the questions below to marketing@elgazette.com will receive a year's free subscription to the EL Gazette.

- "Which country is now the biggest provider of students on vocational courses into the US and Australia?"
- "What date is the Home Office proposing to bring in compulsory accreditation – and will it only cover language schools?"
- "What is Cambridge's 'Pre-U' and why is it relevant to private sector sixth-forms?"

Current editions of the *English Language Gazette*, as well as news and opinion on the wider issues of teaching English, can be found online at www.elgazette.com.



FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

"THE MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION OF SELF HARM AND SUICIDE IN YOUNG PEOPLE"

Friday 30 March 2007, City University, Northampton Square, London

Details available on www.baspcan.org.uk



Sponsored by BASPCAN (The British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect). Deliberate self harm and suicidal behaviours in children and young people are growing problems which present professionals with particular complex challenges. This significant conference will explore: prevalence and causes; identification of those at risk; the physiological effects of drugs and substances commonly associated; the lifelong impact of failing to address these issues; and work being done to develop effective services to improve outcomes for those living such troubled lives. The information disseminated at this event will be essential for all professionals, staff, volunteers, managers and trainers who encounter vulnerable children and young people. The cost of attending starts at £125 (BASPCAN member rate). It is possible to join BASPCAN on the day for £195 which gives conference attendance and subscription to the *Child Abuse Review Journal* throughout 2007.

"DEGREES OF DECEPTION – COMBATING FRAUDULENT APPLICATIONS"

Tuesday 17 April 2007, Hilton Hotel, Docklands, London

Details available on www.naric.org.uk



Sponsored by UKNARIC (National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom). In recent years Educational fraud has become a worldwide problem. Educational experiences and the accompanying evidence are now used as a means to travel through immigration and access to employment, as well as a legitimate bargaining tool for better pay or improved professional recognition. The international nature of educational fraud means that no developed country is safe from the risks presented by fake credentials – unless we have the knowledge and skills to combat fraud. This first national one-day conference on the subject will highlight the key issues and provide an introduction to common methods of documentary fraud. It will offer delegates the opportunity to find out more about how to tackle such fraud, as well as looking at other measures in the fight against counterfeiting. This event will be useful for university and college admissions staff; higher education professionals; those involved with recruiting from overseas; graduate recruiters; and people working with professional bodies.

COMPANY DETAILS ON WEBSITES & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Under new regulations that came into force on 1 January 2007, the long-standing statutory requirement for companies to state certain particulars on their stationery and other hard-copy documents has been extended to websites and electronic communications. The regulations amend the relevant provisions of the Companies Act 1985 (and corresponding Northern Ireland legislation). It is now an offence for a company incorporated under the Companies Acts (or the Northern Ireland legislation) not to state:

- the company's name
- its place of registration and the number with which it is registered, and
- the address of its registered office,

on all company websites and all its business letters and order forms in electronic form. Most companies' correspondence is now conducted primarily by email. Email messages are therefore potentially business letters in electronic form for these purposes. These new regulations affect BAC-accredited colleges.

BAC STAFF PROFILE - CLARE BAKER

Clare Baker is Inspections Officer, attached to the Accreditation Department, responsible to the Head of Inspection Services. Her many and varied duties include the following:

- responding to enquiries from potential new applicants;
- issuing handbooks and application material to applicant colleges;
- liaising with colleges and inspectors for preliminary visits and inspections;
- corresponding with accredited institutions with regards to re-inspections, interim visits etc;
- checking documentation ahead of inspections;
- liaising with the DfES Register of Providers on newly accredited colleges and withdrawals;
- maintaining college files;
- briefing the Finance Officer on inspection details and payments;
- tracking supplementary material submitted by colleges after inspection;
- advising on updating handbooks and other documentation;
- issuing accreditation certificates;
- maintaining inspectors' records and screening any new applicant inspectors.



*Clare Baker, Inspections Officer
at the BAC*

Many of these duties require Claire to work closely with the Head of Inspection Services, the Accreditation Manager and the Chief Executive. A core member of the BAC team for more than three years now, Clare joined us in September 2003. After completing her education, she was employed for a long time at the British Library, before taking on the varied challenges of working first with the Institute of Cancer Research and later a firm of Solicitors. Having now amassed some valuable professional experience, Clare decided on a change of pace and embarked on a year-long trip around Australia, which proved to be a most rewarding venture. Now happily back in our Holborn headquarters, she enjoys a vibrant social life in her spare time and numbers among her hobbies shopping, the cinema, reading, aerobics, working out in the gym and swimming.

EXPANSION OF TB SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR LONG-TERM VISA APPLICANTS

Since late 2005 TB screening has been trialled for those applying for a visa of more than six months from certain high-risk countries: Bangladesh, Sudan, Tanzania and Thailand (which also processes visa applications from residents of Cambodia and Laos). Long-term visa applicants in these countries undergo testing for infectious TB at UK-approved clinics before making their application. This health screening requirement has now been expanded to Ghana and Kenya. Eritreans and Somalis who travel to Kenya to apply for a visa to the UK will also need to undergo screening. During 2007 testing requirements will be expanded to those

applying for visas in a further seven countries: China, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa and Zimbabwe. A recent survey carried out at testing locations indicated that 91% of those being tested thought the UK should screen for TB, while 88% stated that their experience of the scheme was either 'good' or 'very good'. Many of the UK's peer countries, including Australia, Canada and the US already conduct similar testing world-wide. Naturally this programme impacts upon many students applying for entry to the UK, although the government continues working to minimise any negative effects.

BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT FURTHER & HIGHER EDUCATION

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