

## Edinburgh School of Food and Wine celebrates 25th anniversary



*Edinburgh School of Food and Wine*

THE EDINBURGH SCHOOL OF FOOD and Wine will shortly be celebrating 25 years of providing specialist cookery courses in the picturesque setting of Newliston House, just outside Edinburgh. The School caters for home and international students and offers a wide range of courses, from a six month full-time Diploma in Food and Wine, to one day courses in association with Glenfiddich Whisky and Veuve Cliquot Champagne.

One of the key aims of the School is 'to make cookery and wine appreciation accessible to everyone' by providing courses which are practical and fun; the one-week 'Survival Course' is designed for school leavers in order to equip them with the fundamental skills needed to cook basic meals. At least cooking for themselves will be one less thing for anxious parents to worry about when sending their children out into the world for the first time!

At the other end of the scale, the School also offers an intensive six month full-time Diploma which covers a comprehensive syllabus, from basic skills to cordon bleu cookery. The aim of the course is to prepare students for a career in catering, whether this is as a freelance chef, a manager in the hospitality sector, or a restaurateur. Alongside essential cookery skills, students learn about team management and business planning, and achieve specific certificates in food handling and wine appreciation. This includes a five day 'Build Your Own Business' course run in association with the Centre for Entrepreneurship at Edinburgh Napier University, specifically designed to fit with the Diploma programme.

BAC inspectors have been consistently impressed with the quality of education provision at the School, with particular praise for the excellent teaching staff and efficient administrative procedures resulting in a 'high quality experience for students'. If you would like to learn more about the School and the courses on offer please visit [www.esfw.com](http://www.esfw.com).

## Contents

### Page 1

*Edinburgh School of Food and Wine celebrates 25th anniversary*

### Page 2

*UKBA and Government update*

### Page 3

*Visits from international delegations*

*BAC to present at UKCISA and INQAHE conferences*

### Page 4

*BAC launches short course provider scheme*

### Page 5

*BAC appoints new Inspections Manager*

### Page 6

*Newly accredited colleges*

## UKBA and Government update



BAC HAS SUBMITTED DETAILED RESPONSES TO BOTH THE UKBA CONSULTATION ON STUDENT IMMIGRATION, AND THE Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry on the impact of the proposed restrictions. It was made clear in these responses that whilst BAC supports efforts to reduce abuse of the student immigration route, these should not be focused on blanket restrictions which would prove highly damaging to the UK education sector. In particular, the proposal to limit international students to degree-level courses, except at Highly Trusted Sponsors, should not be adopted without significant improvements to the HTS scheme. BAC has been assured that an internal review of HTS is taking place, and that the education sector will be consulted through the Joint Education Taskforce, of which BAC is a member.

BAC has also held several productive meetings with Jeremy Oppenheim (National Lead on Temporary Migration, UKBA) at which the tightening of accreditation procedures for independent institutions was discussed, as well as the proposed restriction of sub-degree programmes for international students to Highly Trusted Sponsors. In light of the suggestions made in the consultation and subsequent discussions, BAC would strongly recommend that institutions offering sub-degree programmes apply for HTS, if they have not already done so, in order to safeguard their provision of these courses for international students.

On a more positive note, BAC's Chief Executive and Head of Inspection Services have been involved in round-table meetings with David Willetts, Minister of State for Universities and Science, to look at degree-awarding powers, public funding and the regulation attached to the receipt of government monies, in relation to the development of the independent sector. These discussions have involved QAA, HEFCE and independent institutions such as the College of Law and London School of Commerce. A White Paper will be formulated around these issues and is expected to be released later in the year.

## Visits from international delegations

On 7 December 2010 BAC hosted a visit from the newly formed Accreditation Unit of the Ministry of Education in Azerbaijan. Representatives from the Unit came to BAC to learn about our accreditation process as part of a wider mission to gather information about the education system in the UK. The delegation also visited two BAC-accredited colleges, and even found the time to pose for a photo with Sue Hindley of EThames Graduate School.



*The Accreditation Unit of the Ministry of Education in Azerbaijan meet BAC's Caroline Greves and Sue Hindley of EThames Graduate School.*

BAC has also very recently received a visit from a Japanese research team working on behalf of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The focus of the research project was quality assurance in post-16 education and training, and the team spent a useful afternoon at BAC in discussions with our Chief Executive and Head of Inspection Services.

BAC is always happy to host international delegations in order to share our expertise and learn about quality assurance procedures in other countries.

## BAC to present at UKCISA and INQAAHE conferences

BAC IS CONTINUING ITS DRIVE TO REPRESENT the independent sector at an international level by offering a presentation at the forthcoming biennial conference of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE). The conference will take place from 4-7 April 2011 in Madrid, and will be attended by BAC's Chief Executive and Inspections Manager.

A presentation by BAC has also been accepted for the annual conference of the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) taking place in the summer. The presentation will focus on examples of best practice in supporting international students from BAC-accredited colleges, in order to demonstrate the particular expertise of the independent sector in this area. If you are a BAC-accredited college and have examples of best practice that you would like to share, please contact Caroline Greves ([caroline.greves@the-bac.org](mailto:caroline.greves@the-bac.org)) so that we can include your work in the presentation. For more information about the conference please visit [www.ukcisa.org.uk/training/conference](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/training/conference)



## What can you learn in six months? An awful lot with a **BAC**-accredited short course provider!

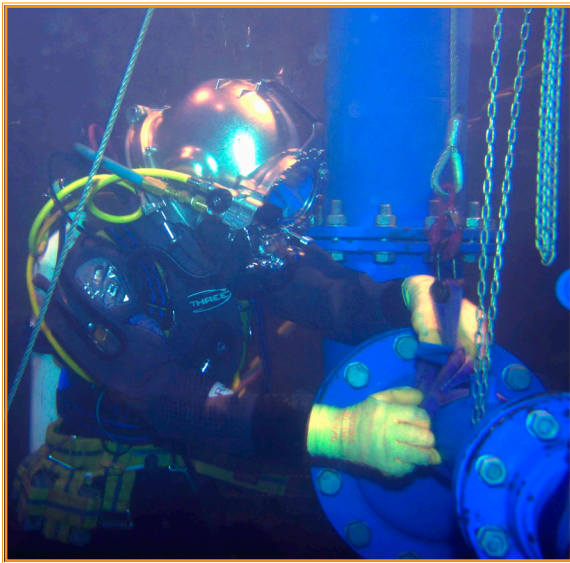


*BAC has recently launched its accreditation scheme for short course providers, which caters specifically for institutions offering courses which run for 26 weeks or less. But what types of programmes are on offer at these institutions? A look at three BAC-accredited institutions demonstrates the diverse range of subjects and qualifications available...*

THE JUDITH BLACKLOCK FLOWER SCHOOL HAS BEEN RUNNING courses in flower arranging, floristry as a career, and millinery for 12 years. These range from flower market tours, which offer advice on buying flowers, to a two-week Business of Floristry course which provides aspiring florists with key skills to help them set up their own businesses. The Principal, Judith Blacklock, has an extensive career in floristry: in addition to writing 11 bestselling books, she has arranged the flowers at many illustrious venues, including Kensington Palace, and acts as a consultant for top companies such as Channel 4 and Topshop. Whether you want to create a special bouquet for a loved one, or hone your skills in a 'Bridal bouquet masterclass', you really will be learning from the best!



If you want to find out what living and studying at University is like then Reach Cambridge can provide you with a taste of the student life. The organisation runs residential summer courses for young people from around the world which include a tailored academic programme, supplemented by a range of extra-curricula activities and excursions, and community service projects. Students attending the courses are given accommodation in one of the historic college buildings and are often taught by Cambridge academics. A range of subjects are offered, from English literature to engineering, and



performing arts to physics & astronomy, alongside more general skills such as English language and leadership.

A significant number of short course providers run professional qualifications for specific industries. The Professional Diving Academy in Argyll, Scotland, is one such organisation. The Academy was founded in 2004 to cater for a growing demand for highly qualified professional divers; existing qualifications were expanded to include assessments in key areas such as rigging, cutting and welding, and the Academy has developed a reputation for world class diver training. Courses at the Academy are approved by the Health & Safety Executive's Diving Division making them among the very best available to commercial diver trainees.

The examples above are just a small sample of the fantastic qualifications and courses available through short course providers, and BAC looks forward to expanding this area over the coming months. For a full list of BAC-accredited colleges and links to their websites please visit [www.the-bac.org/colleges](http://www.the-bac.org/colleges).

BAC has also recently launched another specialist accreditation scheme for independent tutorial colleges which recognises the particular strengths of many tutorial colleges, particularly in areas such as student welfare. To find out more about both these specialist schemes please visit [www.the-bac.org/accreditation/handbooks](http://www.the-bac.org/accreditation/handbooks).

## BAC appoints new Inspections Manager to streamline inspection process



AS PART OF OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING OUR ACCREDITATION AND inspection procedures, Christina To has been appointed by BAC to the new role of Inspections Manager. BAC now accredits 540 institutions, including 30 overseas, which must be given a full inspection every four years and an interim inspection halfway through this period. Additionally, there are new institutions to inspect, and monitoring procedures, such as random spot checks to carry out, in order to ensure that the quality of educational provision is maintained.

Christina will be responsible for the management and planning of the BAC inspection schedule; during the last academic year BAC carried out 616 inspections so this is no easy task! In this role she will arrange inspections of new institutions and ensure that accredited institutions are reinspected within the required timeframe. This will involve liaising with BAC's 75 inspectors in coordination with the Chief Inspector, so that they are assigned to the institutions best suited to their wide ranging areas of expertise.

In her spare time Christina enjoys going for gentle walks, as long as they end in the pub for a nice roast lunch! She is also interested in flower arranging and enjoys relaxing with friends over dinner or a good film.



## Newly Accredited Colleges

We are pleased to announce that the following colleges have been accredited by BAC since the last newsletter was released in October:

### Full accreditation:

- » **AKMI Athens Metropolitan College**  
[www.amc.edu.gr](http://www.amc.edu.gr)
- » **Birmingham Institute of Education Training and Technology (BIETTTEC)**  
[www.biettec.org.uk](http://www.biettec.org.uk)
- » **College of Business and Development Studies**  
[www.cbds.org.uk](http://www.cbds.org.uk)
- » **ICRI Global Research**  
[www.icriglobal-research.com](http://www.icriglobal-research.com)
- » **Institute of Business and Management (London)**  
[www.rdi.co.uk](http://www.rdi.co.uk)
- » **International Business School Budapest**  
[www.ibs-b.hu](http://www.ibs-b.hu)
- » **London College of Care Education**  
[www.londoncollegeofcare.co.uk](http://www.londoncollegeofcare.co.uk)
- » **International NGO Training and Research Centre**  
[www.intrac.org](http://www.intrac.org)
- » **MC2 Training Solutions**  
[www.MC2training.co.uk](http://www.MC2training.co.uk)
- » **Smethwick Bangladeshi Youth Forum**  
[www.sbyf.org.uk](http://www.sbyf.org.uk)
- » **The Professional Diving Academy**  
[www.professionaldivingacademy.com](http://www.professionaldivingacademy.com)
- » **Topform Professional International**  
[www.topformti.com](http://www.topformti.com)
- » **Wingate Training**  
[www.wingatetraining.co.uk](http://www.wingatetraining.co.uk)

### Approved candidate status:

- » **Bedfordian Business School**  
[www.bbsluton.co.uk](http://www.bbsluton.co.uk)
- » **Birmingham College of Business and Finance**  
[www.birmingham-college.com](http://www.birmingham-college.com)
- » **Computer Learning Centre**  
[www.computerlearningcentre.org.uk](http://www.computerlearningcentre.org.uk)
- » **Heath Business College**  
[www.hbcuk.net](http://www.hbcuk.net)
- » **IIM Bedford**  
[www.iimbedford.co.uk](http://www.iimbedford.co.uk)
- » **International College Leicester**  
[www.icl.uk.com](http://www.icl.uk.com)
- » **London College of Advanced Management**  
[www.lcamuk.co.uk](http://www.lcamuk.co.uk)
- » **NTG College**  
[www.ntgcollege.co.uk](http://www.ntgcollege.co.uk)
- » **Stratford City College**  
[www.stratfordcitycollege.com](http://www.stratfordcitycollege.com)
- » **Randbergh-Visach Ltd**  
[www.randbergvisach.com](http://www.randbergvisach.com)
- » **Zoyatech**  
[www.zoyatech.org.uk](http://www.zoyatech.org.uk)

For a complete list of BAC-accredited colleges please visit [www.the-bac.org/colleges](http://www.the-bac.org/colleges).