



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

RANDOM SPOT CHECK INSPECTION

INSTITUTION: Elegant International College

ADDRESS: 263 – 265 Battersea Park Road
London SW11 4NE

HEAD OF INSTITUTION: Aidrous Al Hashimi

Type of accreditation: Short Course Provider

Accreditation status: Accredited

Date of inspection: 22 March 2016

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE: 14 April 2016

1. Background to the institution

Elegant International College (EIC) is owned by the Director (Chief Executive Officer) who lives in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he has his own business interests. The senior management team comprises of the Director, Principal/Academic Director and the Centre Manager. EIC was incorporated as a limited company on 13 April 2011. Teaching started in September 2012. It is understood that the long term strategy is to operate under charitable status and offer a similar provision but extended to the general public in the UK, Europe and other overseas countries with open courses for individuals as well as groups of employees from companies and other organisations. In the light of this considerable investment has been made in equipment, teachers together with their training so as to provide continuity of teaching expertise as appropriate for school leavers, graduate and post graduate levels. All students are over the age of 18.

EIC's premises are close to Battersea Park in the Borough of Wandsworth a fast developing area of London, soon to have the new US Embassy as near neighbours. EIC, the sole tenant, is sited behind Tesco's store in a modern two storey building with four well-equipped classrooms together with an adequate reception area and office space for the admin function and tutors room. The premises are self-contained, secure and well maintained, clean with good furnishings. Teaching systems make use of the latest IT equipment that is currently being added to.

2. Brief description of current provision

The EIC programme of General English courses provide the current mainstay for local residents from the London Borough of Wandsworth and the Battersea area. These students have a wide variety of ages, and backgrounds. Some are studying other subjects elsewhere in London or Europe, some are on an extended vacation, or are working full or part-time. Other students are studying English for their own personal interest and education. Each student is given an internal placement test, and an assessment interview to establish an appropriate starting level. This provision is at four different levels; the highest being at IELTS Preparation for Cambridge English examinations. EIC is not registered as a Cambridge examination centre. However, each student is given regular and personal advice about their ongoing progress, their final achievement, suitable further study, and a certificate of attendance while at EIC. The class sizes vary from two to eight, and students attend for five mornings, for a total of 15 hours per week, for maximum course duration of 12 weeks. Each course has a clearly published structure, IELTS objectives and intended outcomes; so that some students opt for shorter course duration to suit their needs, and others opt for the supplementary teaching provision available during the afternoons.

For graduate and post-graduate students EIC offers a range of business and management related courses. Four UK resident students, working in London, recently have started a new open-course programme - Strategic Business Management. This comprises a portfolio of work-based-learning, at post-graduate Level 7, for one day per week, for nine months, and finishing in June 2016. The assessments of the portfolios and interviews are done at EIC and at the places of work and moderated by the Awards for Training and Higher Education (ATHE).

EIC have been accredited by Edexcel for the teaching and assessment of BTEC Level 4 and Level 5 both for Computing and for Management courses. EIC also offer Confederation of Tourism & Hospitality (CTH) courses.

The duration of courses at EIC varies from two weeks up to a maximum of 11 months, hence their preference for BAC College Accreditation. The building is routinely open to staff, teachers, and students from 9am until 5pm every week day throughout the year.

3. Inspection process

The inspection was conducted by one inspector as a half day process. The inspector was well received. Discussions took place with the Centre Manager and the Academic Services Manager in the absence of the Principal. A tour of the premises was made. The officers gave as much time as they could although an Edexcel Pearson's inspector was also inspecting which impacted on their schedule.

4. Inspection history

Full inspection: 24 and 25 August 2015

Spot check inspection: 22 March 2016

5. Significant changes since the last inspection

The inspector raised the question expressed in the previous report that the building was likely to prove to be too small and while this view is still held there is no likelihood of moving on in the foreseeable future.

The College has streamlined its external accreditations, allowing ISI to laps when the accreditation expires.

From discussion the inspector was told that the College is still developing their online delivery as an adjunct to the classroom tuition.

It is understood that EIC is still pursuing 'Investors in People' although with so much else going on this is proving to be a very time consuming exercise.

6. Response to action points in last report

1.1 Organogram should show the current situation for employed staff and teachers.

A more up-to-date organogram has been produced that will be kept under review and amended as the college develops and takes on more staff and teachers.

1.2 Role-responsibilities should be defined concisely and updated at say six-monthly intervals during periods of development and recruitment.

This aspect is again being addressed although since the full inspection there have been a number of staff changes and job role modifications.

1.3 The website should be up-dated to accurately reflect the current provision.

A new website has been developed and shown to the inspector. They are about to finish trialling it and it is expected to go live during April 2016

25.3 Check proximity of additional extinguishers adjacent to vulnerable equipment.

EIC has numerous fire extinguishers and a review and check has been made by the service company, Fire Services Ltd who are satisfied with their location. Also it should be noted that the Centre Manager has signed the Declaration of Compliance signifying the same.

7. Conclusion including any action points and/or recommendations

Despite the unannounced nature of this inspection the four members of staff who were in attendance were very welcoming and attentive. There is little doubt that some of the issues raised during the full inspection have been addressed whilst others are still in the course of being put right; but there is undoubtedly a strong desire to become a well-regarded institution combining a local involvement and a wider international out-reach. The College was well presented, clean and secure, if a little difficult to initially locate.

Both the employee and student handbooks make for easy concise reading and referencing. The two issues that needs to be added relate to the omission of BAC in the Employee Handbook under the section 'Our Partners/Awarding Bodies' and in the Student Handbook reference must be made to BAC's complaints policy.

The College needs still to be mindful of the points raised at the time of the full inspection notwithstanding most have been dealt with whilst others need to be finalised.