



## **BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT**

### **INTERIM INSPECTION (Short Course Provider)**

**PROVIDER:** International Summer Camp UK Ltd

**ADDRESS:** 3 Woodburn Place  
Houston  
Renfrewshire  
PA6 7NA

**HEAD OF PROVIDER:** Miss Donna McGuire

**ACCREDITATION STATUS:** Accredited

**DATE OF INSPECTION:** 6 October 2020

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE:** Continued accreditation, 26 November 2020

## **PART A – INTRODUCTION**

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### **1. Background to the provider**

International Summer Camp UK Limited (ISC/the Provider) was established in 2011 and began operating in 2013. It is a limited company run by two Co-directors.

The Provider runs its summer camp at Ardvreck School, Crieff, Scotland, where the Directors are based for the duration of the camp. For the rest of the year, the Directors operate from a home office in Renfrewshire, Scotland. The camp is run in 40 acres of grounds within the countryside of Perthshire, Scotland. The site has a range of facilities, including a sports field, swimming pool, tennis courts, art studios and classrooms.

The Provider's aim is to help young people to develop their character through new and exciting challenges, gain new skills and forge new relationships, as well as broadening their horizons and aspirations.

The Directors are committed to bringing together young people from different backgrounds and ethnicities to work together and develop life skills such as leadership and communication, which will help them to grow in confidence and gain new interests.

ISC is run by the Co-directors of the organisation. Both Directors work full time throughout the year. A full-time administrator is employed to support the Directors. Counsellors take on a dual role of teacher and counsellor so have both teaching and pastoral responsibilities.

### **2. Brief description of the current provision**

The Provider offers a summer camp, which runs for a total of eight weeks in July and August, with participants attending for two, four, six or eight weeks at a time. The concept of the camp is to connect young people from around the world to create a community that fosters a sense of belonging and inspires creativity.

The Provider offers a mix of activities as part of its summer camp, including outdoor adventure, mountain biking, football, golf, art, media, music, performing arts and dance. International participants have the opportunity to undertake structured English language lessons at beginners, intermediate or advanced levels, for two hours each weekday.

The participants attend for a minimum number of two weeks and up to eight weeks. The majority of the participants attend the camp for two weeks, with a maximum number of 110 campers at any one time. The camp is open to all between the ages of seven and 17.

Participant numbers have risen from 42 in 2013 to 350 in 2019. Participants' age ranges from seven to 17, with approximately the same number of males and females. There were no participants enrolled at the time of the inspection.

The majority of the participants come from European countries such as Spain, Italy, Norway and Germany, although there are also participants from other countries, including Russia, China, United States of America and United Arab Emirates.

### **3. Inspection process**

This was a half-day inspection conducted remotely by one inspector. Meetings were held with the two Directors and a teacher. A range of documentation was scrutinised, including stakeholder feedback. The Directors were well organised and provided all the relevant documentation on request.

#### 4. Inspection history

<b>Inspection type</b>	<b>Date</b>
Stage 2	24 March 2014
Stage 3	25 July 2014
Interim	21 July 2015
Re-accreditation	6-8 August 2018

## **PART B – JUDGEMENTS AND EVIDENCE**

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*The following judgements and comments are based upon evidence seen by the inspector during the inspection and from documentation provided by the institution.*

### **1. Significant changes since the last inspection**

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There have been no significant changes since the last inspection.

### **2. Response to actions points in last report**

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*8.3 Action plans, which are developed in response to feedback from participants or staff, must be dated and reviewed regularly.*

All action plans are now appropriately dated and regularly reviewed.

*17.6 The Provider must undertake appropriate certified safeguarding training and conduct an appropriate risk assessment.*

All permanent full-time staff members have now had appropriate certified safeguarding training. An appropriate risk assessment is in place. Risk assessments are made for all on-site and off-site activities, including trips. These identify potential risks and measures to mitigate those risks.

*17.7 The Provider must undertake appropriate training and conduct a risk assessment relating to radicalisation to ensure the welfare of participants.*

All full-time members of staff, including full-time counsellors, have undergone appropriate certified training in preventing radicalisation and extremism. Suitable risk assessments are in place which include appropriate training, measures for effective communication of concerns and information sharing and whistleblowing procedures.

*19.3 The Provider must publish details of the BAC complaints procedure so participants and parents know how to make a complaint to an external adjudicator.*

Details of the BAC complaints procedure are now published as part of the Provider's complaints procedure, which is clearly signposted on each page of the website.

### **3. Response to recommended areas for improvement in last report**

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*The terms and conditions of bookings are comprehensive but should be reviewed and updated annually to ensure correct and up-to-date information is provided on the website.*

The terms and conditions of bookings have been thoroughly revised with the help of a solicitor. They are updated on an annual basis. As a result, correct and up-to-date information is now provided on the website.

*Although basic fire safety training is provided to staff, the Provider should consider senior members of staff undergoing certified fire safety training.*

Both Directors are now booked on a certified fire safety training course.

### **4. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements**

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#### **4.1 Management, Staffing and Administration (spot check)**

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**The standards are judged to be:**

Met     Partially Met     Not Met

## Comments

Management is effective. Senior managers are appropriately qualified, highly experienced and very committed and provide efficient oversight of the provision. The organisational chart is clear and it is supported by appropriately detailed job descriptions. The administrative support is sufficient to ensure the smooth running of the Provider. The communication between management and staff and staff and participants is excellent.

Policies, procedures and systems are well documented and effectively disseminated during a very comprehensive staff induction. As a result of these measures, the day-to-day running of the summer camp is good. The Provider achieves its aims of encouraging participants to develop life skills and form international friendships, and of inspiring creativity whilst also having fun.

The recruitment of teachers is excellent. The procedure for selecting new counsellors detailed and very competitive and results in the recruitment of high-quality counsellors. A week-long residential induction programme, that is followed by close observation and support from management, results in highly effective counsellors.

Although references are taken up for all staff prior to their commencement, these are not verified on arrival to make sure that they are genuine.

Excellent use is made of feedback. A very wide range of formal and informal feedback is obtained from staff, participants and parents to inform good action-planning and continuous, incremental improvements. Management and staff are able to give numerous examples of feedback they have received that have led to change. For example, the timing of the rest periods has been modified as a result of participant feedback.

The questionnaire results are analysed and tabulated to show trends over time. As a result of the way feedback is used to influence change, the Provider is able to meet the needs of participants very well.

The information on the website is comprehensive, accurate and up to date. Consequently, participants can make informed decisions regarding the suitability of the camp to meet their needs. The camp is open to all participants aged seven to 17. Any special requirements are discussed with parents during the application process. The camp is residential, with 24-hour constant supervision to ensure the safety of participants and staff.

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## 4.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment (spot check)

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**The standards are judged to be:**

Met     Partially Met     Not Met

### Comments

The teaching staff are chosen after a very rigorous and competitive process, with the result that they are very enthusiastic and capable. An intensive six-day residential induction highlights the requirement for teachers to engage effectively with the participants. An excellent teacher-to-participant ratio results in teachers having a very detailed understanding of the needs of the individual participants.

Detailed feedback indicates that there is an excellent rapport between counsellors and participants. Planned activities have a sharp focus on the physical and creative engagement of participants. This further supports the ethos and aims of the camp.

There is a systematic approach to encouraging participants to develop a range of independent learning and leadership skills. Older participants in particular undertake specific responsibilities regarding the running of the camp through the Counsellor in Training (CIT) scheme. Participants in this scheme take the role of prefects and assist in the organization, supervision and smooth running of the camp.

Counsellors confirm that the camp is well resourced and that they can create new activities in response to participants' wishes. Participants have access to counsellors 24 hours a day and are well supported as a result.

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#### 4.3 Participant Welfare (spot check)

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**The standards are judged to be:**

Met     Partially Met     Not Met

**Comments**

Participants receive excellent welfare support. Counsellors must undertake a six-day intensive residential induction that includes safeguarding, so counsellors are fully aware of the camp's welfare policies. Participants receive a comprehensive, two-day induction to introduce staff and outline the rules and procedures.

Participants are accommodated in cabins of 12, with two counsellors accommodated within the cabin in private rooms. This gives a ratio of one to six. This very high counsellor-to-participant ratio allows for close supervision and provides for a very close rapport between participants and counsellors. Feedback highlights this rapport as a major strong point of the camp. This ensures that participants have easy access to high-quality pastoral support if required. A nurse is available 24 hours a day, so participants benefit from very timely medical attention if required.

The accommodation provided for participants and counsellors is appropriate. Effective health and safety procedures are in place, so participants and staff are safe. However, the fire drills could be better documented so that the Provider can speed up evacuation times.

The Directors have undertaken certified safeguarding training. Appropriate risk assessments are in place. Consequently, participants are in a safe environment.

Staff have undergone appropriate, certified training regarding the dangers of radicalisation. A suitable policy is in place and relevant risk assessments have been made. As a result, participants are safe from the dangers of radicalisation.

Participants benefit from a very successful, very extensive range of social activities which, feedback shows, responds very well to the wishes of the participants and supports their social and personal development.

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#### 4.4 Premises and Facilities (spot check)

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**The standards are judged to be:**

Met     Partially Met     Not Met

**Comments**

The camp is set in the grounds of a private school, with exclusive use of 40 acres of woodland with a maximum capacity of 110 participants.

Class sizes are small with a maximum of ten participants in a class. Teachers confirm that the classrooms are spacious and well equipped and allow for a wide range of teaching styles.

Counsellors confirm that they have good access to personal space, having private bedrooms for lesson preparation, relaxation and the storage of personal possessions.

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#### 4.5 Compliance Declaration

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**Declaration of compliance has been signed and dated.**

Yes     No

**PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS**

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**STRENGTHS**

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An excellent, very competitive recruitment process ensures that enthusiastic, high-quality counsellors are engaged.

An excellent counsellor-to-participant ratio enables a very supportive rapport and close attention to the learning and welfare needs of the participants.

Excellent use of feedback enables good action-planning, so supporting continuous improvement to the provision.

The very extensive range of activities that participants can experience during the camp gives strong support to their social and personal development.

**ACTIONS REQUIRED**

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The Provider must check staff references to make sure they are genuine.

High     Medium     Low

**RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT *(to be reviewed at the next inspection)***

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None

**COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS – FURTHER COMMENTS, IF APPLICABLE**

The Provider must record fire drills, including the time taken to evacuate and assemble.