



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM VISIT (International Higher Education)

INSTITUTION: AKMI Metropolitan College

ADDRESS: 74 Sorou Street
Maroussi
ATHENS 15125

HEAD OF INSTITUTION: Mr Dimitris Diamantis

Accreditation status: Accredited

Date of visit: 05 December 2016

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION ON ACCREDITATION: Continued Accreditation 17 February 2017

PART A - INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the institution

AKMI Metropolitan College (the Institution) was established in 1982 and is the higher education division of the AKMI Educational Organisation.

The institution operates on four sites. These are based in Maroussi in the suburbs of Athens, in central Athens, in Piraeus and in Thessaloniki. BAC accreditation applies only to the Maroussi and central Athens premises. AKMI Educational Organisation forms the largest company in post-secondary education in Greece.

The initial BAC accreditation was in 2010, at which time there were 500 students in the Maroussi and Athens premises. Numbers have increased steadily to 1,200 in 2014 and 2,814 currently. Students are mainly from Greece, but the institution hopes to start recruiting international students in 2017.

The institution delivers a very wide and varied portfolio of programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level. There are accreditation arrangements in place with BPS, IBMS, BACP and RIBA. As it is not possible for private institutions to hold degree-awarding powers in Greece, the institution has sought partnerships with United Kingdom (UK) universities. The two principal collaborative partners are now Queen Margaret University and the University of East London. Additional partnerships are also in place with the University of Portsmouth, Southampton Solent University and University of London International Programmes.

The institution's premises in Maroussi, a suburb of Athens, have been recently extended and offer a secure campus environment, with specialist facilities for the more specialist elements of the diverse curriculum. The Athens premises include facilities supporting media and hospitality programmes. Student placements are provided throughout Athens and nearby areas. There are currently around 50 of these and the number is expanding.

2. Brief description of the current provision

The institution delivers undergraduate programmes in Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Nursing, Logopaedics, Business Management, Marketing, Computing, Economics, Journalism, Media Production, Psychology, Special Education, Biomedical Science, Early Childhood Studies, Culinary Arts, Music Technology, Architecture, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Systems, Sports Coaching, Law and Maritime Business.

Postgraduate programmes are offered in International Business, Clinical and Community Psychology, Special Educational Needs, Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Applied Positive and Cognitive Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy, Software Engineering, Informational Technology, Information Security, Electrical Engineering, Physiotherapy, Civil Engineering and Architecture.

At the time of the inspection there were 2,814 full time students and 82 students, who were studying part time.

3. Inspection visit process

The inspector spent half a day in the institution. There was an initial meeting with the Head of the institution, Academic Director, Head of Quality and Academic Quality Coordinator. This was followed by an overview presentation which updated the inspector on developments since the last inspection. Afterwards there was a tour of the premises and an opportunity for the inspector to review relevant evidence before a summary and feedback session closed the inspection.

4. Inspection history

Full inspection:	21-22 October 2010
Interim Visit:	30 April 2012
Reaccreditation inspection:	15-16 December 2014

PART B – JUDGMENTS AND EVIDENCE

The following judgments 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

There have been six significant changes since the last inspection.

There has been construction work and commissioning of two additional floors of teaching and administrative space and a specialist space. There has also been the commissioning of a new library facility and an enhancement in the staffing of the Quality Department.

The other three changes have been in relation to staffing and job descriptions. Three new Head of Department appointments have been made. There has been an enhancement of both staffing and provision in the Academic Learning Centre. Finally, there has been a strengthening of the Registry function.

2. Response to actions points in last report

3.3 9.7 The College must introduce a formal staff appraisal system for administrative and academic staff

A comprehensive performance development appraisal process has been developed. It is a common scheme for all staff and incorporates an opportunity for individual self-evaluation.

Training is being provided for all staff to ensure that the process operates consistently.

Outcomes from the performance development appraisal scheme will contribute to an institution-wide training needs identification process and will enhance the relevance and validity of the staff development plan.

18.4 Students should be issued with a contact number for out of hours and emergency support

A designated contact number has been set up and will be activated when the institution starts recruiting international students during 2017. It is envisaged that students will be recruited from China, Russia and possibly Bulgaria. To meet new requirements, the International Department has been strengthened to enable it to provide appropriate support to international students, including liaison with accommodation agencies.

3. Response to recommendations for improvement in last report

The College should ensure that the website clearly indicates that BAC accreditation applies only to AMC campuses in Maroussi and Athens

This has been done. The institution wishes to extend BAC accreditation to its Thessaloniki campus and hopes that an inspection of the Thessaloniki premises can take place when reaccreditation is due in December 2018.

The College should consider the provision of additional private study space for students and social space for non-smoking staff and students

Additional study space is now available. The issue of smoking in the café was discussed and the inspector saw students smoking in the café, when the glass doors were closed. As the facility is legally defined as an open space, it is clear that the matter cannot easily be resolved as social and cultural considerations come into play. It is recommended that the institution keeps the issue under review.

4. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements – spot check

4.1 Management, Staffing and Administration

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	√			
Comments The institution benefits from well-structured and strong leadership and effective communications arrangements.				

4.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	√			
Comments Teaching and learning arrangements are well-designed and effective.				

4.3 Student Welfare

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	√			
Comments Student support arrangements are comprehensive and well-structured. There are no support protocols enabling international students access to same-language speakers in cases of personal difficulty or crisis.				

4.4 Premises and Facilities

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	√			
Comments Well-designed, well-equipped and impeccably maintained facilities provide a calm, modern learning environment for students.				

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

PROVIDER'S STRENGTHS
Development of an effective Quality Department with functional staff responsibilities will facilitate cross-institution monitoring and quality assurance.
The 'Levels of Communication' scheme for contacts with partners is both simple and very effective.
The new library facility offers an excellent range of resources and is finished to a very high standard.
There are commendable arrangements for both the academic and pastoral support of students.
There are well-equipped and spacious teaching rooms and specialist facilities.
Additional floors added to the original building greatly enhance capacity.
All the premises are finished to a very high standard.

ACTIONS REQUIRED	Priority H/M/L
None	

RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
The institution should review the operation and effectiveness of the professional development appraisal process after two years
The institution should consider support protocols enabling international students access to same-language speakers in cases of personal difficulty or crisis. It is recommended that this is done by the institution liaising with appropriate speakers of the languages of the international students.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS	
Declaration of compliance has been signed and dated.	Yes
Further comments, if applicable	
None	