



## **BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT**

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

**ORGANISATION:** Cambridge Dream

**ADDRESS:** The Old Bakery, High Street, Farndon, Chester, Cheshire, CH3 6PU

**HEAD OF ORGANISATION:** Laura Davies

**Accreditation status:** Accredited

**Date of visit:** 20 July 2016

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE:** 9 September 2016

## **PART A - INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Background to the organisation**

Cambridge Dream Limited was founded in October 2014, with the objective of providing short study residential courses at Girton College Cambridge. The target age group is 15 to 17 year olds who aspire to study at world class universities in the United Kingdom or the United States of America. The emphasis is on future study at Cambridge University.

The Owner, who is also the Director, has over 30 years' experience in international business management including seven years as co-founder and Director of UK Language Courses (UKLC) which provided residential English language and activity programmes for groups of students aged 8 to 17. She is a graduate of Girton College and, as an alumna, has a valuable link with the College. In the autumn of 2015, she was invited to be a member of a trade delegation, headed by the then Prime Minister (PM) David Cameron, to China and the Far East where contacts were made and potential future business opportunities identified.

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

The two-week programme provides small group tuition. The practical nature of the courses has an emphasis on developing and enhancing the skills in communication, critical thinking, leadership and creativity. The first course was for students from China, although the wider market is seen to include Malaysia and Singapore. There is a mixture of workshops, lectures and practical exercises, supported by mentors and staff from Cambridge University. The programme seeks to prepare potential applicants for the university admissions process and the wider life skills valued by employers.

### **3. Inspection visit process**

The inspection was carried out by one inspector, who attended the programme at Girton College Cambridge over one day. A number of documents were reviewed. In addition, discussions were carried out with the Owner and Managing Director, who is also the Programme Director, and with the Operations Manager, with regard to developments since the previous inspection, the current programme and the future plans of Cambridge Dream. This inspection report is in relation to the provider's provision in the United Kingdom only.

### **4. Inspection history**

**Stage 2 inspection:** 16/03/2015

**Stage 3 inspection:** 17/07/2015

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

The following judgements and comments are based upon evidence seen by the inspector(s) during the inspection and from documentation provided by the provider

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

Since the last inspection Cambridge Dreams have consolidated their programmes and decided that the two-week duration is the best model for them.

Following the trip to the Far East mentioned above, good contacts have been made and potential collaborations identified, especially with Singapore. Discussions have taken place with a possible 39 agents in various countries but recruitment at present is based on contacts made by the Programme Director.

Perhaps the most significant change has been the decision of the Owner and Director to develop links with ten local schools. She has instituted an essay competition whereby 30 local school students can qualify to join the programme and study alongside the overseas students. There is no fee and all costs are met by Cambridge Dream. They join the weekday programme for one week or two; sitting in on all the sessions and going on the trips. This initiative followed a conversation with Chinese staff accompanying the students from China last year who thought that it would be good for their students to meet their contemporaries from Cambridge schools. Cambridge Dream have taken this suggestion further and it has been very successful with many of the local school students coming from other European Union countries and further afield. The mix has enhanced the programmes for all concerned and will continue for 2017.

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

*8.2 Systems are in place for monitoring and reviewing the programme, the data and other information generated must be formalised and results and action plans produced at the end of the programme.*

Following the end of the programmes for summer 2015, the Senior Management Team (SMT) carried out a full review which was comprehensively documented and a number of issues were identified. Following monthly SMT meetings improvements were identified, planned and are being implemented in the current 2016 programme. A similar process will follow at the end of the summer 2016. This action point has been met.

### 3. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements

#### 3.1 Management, Staffing and Administration (spot check)

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<b>Comments</b> The administration and management of Cambridge Dream continue to follow the excellent procedures instituted last year. The core staffing remains the same.				

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

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<b>Comments</b> In response to the review of summer 2015 and the feedback from participants and their teachers, the teaching, learning and assessment of the course have been improved with regard to the duration of the sessions and desire for more Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) content and hands on workshops at the Cambridge Science Centre.				

#### 3.3 Participant Welfare (spot check)

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<b>Comments</b> The participant welfare provided by Cambridge Dream is of a high standard. Further improvements have been made following the review and associated feedback. The ratio of 6 to 1 for mentors is excellent and an attempt has been made to provide more opportunities for one to one time with mentors where possible.				

#### 3.4 Premises and Facilities

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<b>Comments</b> Cambridge Dream has a good relationship with Girton College and they have been able to maintain the use of the suite of rooms and sports facilities that they used last year. In addition, they have obtained the use of the swimming pool to meet the request of the participants.				

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

<p><b>Institution's strengths</b> Cambridge Dream has successfully developed a comprehensive programme which is meeting the needs of international students who wish to experience a short period at an excellent Cambridge college and to be exposed to the wider experiences offered by Cambridge and its university.</p>
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<b>Actions required</b>	<b>Priority H/M/L</b>
None	

**COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

Declaration of compliance has been signed and dated.	YES
Further comments, if applicable	