



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM INSPECTION (College)

INSTITUTION: Harvest Bible College

ADDRESS: 179 Shettleston Road
Parkhead
Glasgow
G31 5JL

HEAD OF INSTITUTION: Mr Robert Kelley

Accreditation status: Accredited

Date of inspection: 14 April 2015

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE: Continued accreditation 9 July 2015

PART A - INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the institution

Harvest Bible College (the College) is the official college of the United Pentecostal Church, a small denomination in Britain with its headquarters in London, but affiliated to the international organisation with headquarters in Missouri, USA. The College has been offering its ten-month course since 2002. At the time of the first inspection in 2009 the course was recognised exclusively by the denomination. It made several improvements to its provision, and was accredited by BAC in May 2009, subsequently obtaining a UKBA Tier 4 Sponsor licence for up to 20 students in August 2009. The College course is also accredited by NCFE as a Certificate of Theology at NQF level 3. The College was re-accredited by BAC in May 2013. The inspection found that the College was well managed and staffed by competent, committed volunteers, that academic management of the courses was very well organised and that students were well cared for, happy and integrated into an international community. Recommendations were made for quality improvement and this was the main focus of this interim inspection.

2. Brief description of the current provision

The College offers a 10-month Certificate in Theology, accredited by NCFE. At the time of the last inspection there were 12 students; currently there are eight, the majority of them female. The College has three to four full-time staff and around 20 temporary staff who contribute various specialist subjects. Consideration is being given to extending the course by adding a six-month internship.

3. Inspection process

This was a half-day interim inspection by one inspector and involved discussions with the Head of Institution and two colleagues, and a tour of the premises. No classes were being held at this time.

4. Inspection history

Full inspection:	13 and 14 January 2009
Supplementary inspection:	11 May 2009
Interim inspection:	19 April 2010
Full inspection:	26 and 27 March 2013

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 institution

1. Significant changes since the last inspection

There have been no significant changes since the last inspection. The College is considering some changes (see below) but prefers to proceed with new developments in a considered and measured way.

2. Response to action points in last report

A budget and policy for acquiring new learning and library resources should be drawn up.

A policy has been established with the alumni of the College to improve the library. Every alumni student is asked to donate either a book or £10 towards the library each year. The College reported that this was working well and that they had been able to make numerous purchases for the library. They also look out for other Christian libraries that may be dismantled.

Overlapping of teaching, especially in the non-core subjects (majors) could be avoided by careful development, including learning outcomes, for the majors, and better coordination and monitoring.

Basic outlines have been developed for the major courses. These did not include learning outcomes but provided greater detail on topic coverage than hitherto. To some extent, however, the College saw some degree of 'overlapping' as helpful repetition and reinforcement.

The College Board should consider ways of financially supporting staff who embark on further education courses. This has been agreed by the Board, with priority being given to senior staff, as this is more likely to yield a return on investment. The College is paying for the Principal's further education.

The College should consider ways to reduce the numbers of occasional teachers by increasing the time allocated to a more limited number, so that better consistency can be achieved.

The College gave careful consideration to this recommendation but concluded that their current approach best suited their needs. The use of numerous guest lecturers allowed the College to draw on a range of high quality staff. These staff would not be available if more substantial time inputs were required. The College reported that student feedback indicated that they enjoyed and benefitted from the wide variety of teachers.

More use of group work and PowerPoint by teachers will improve students' concentration and communication.

The College responded that use of group work and PowerPoint was already very common and that the inspector had not happened to see teaching that was representative of College teaching as a whole.

The course on offer could be upgraded to NQF level 4 or a second diploma year be introduced at this level.

Consideration is being given to adding a six-month internship of on-site, supervised experience at a qualifying church. This would involve a combination of academic and practical work. They plan to trial the internship before considering an upgrade to NQF level 4. The Principal noted that the cost of upgrading was quite high in relation to the College's budget. He also said that raising the academic level to support student progression was not necessarily a high priority for a course the primary aim of which was to prepare students for ministry.

3. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements – spot check

3.1 Management, Staffing and Administration

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments The Principal and his colleagues displayed a careful and measured approach to management, combined with high standards of organisation and administration.				

3.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments There was no opportunity to observe classes.				

3.3 Student Welfare

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments				

3.4 Premises and Facilities

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments				

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

Institution's strengths

The College has maintained its strengths in management, curriculum and student welfare identified in the full inspection. They are open to change and development but in a measured fashion.

Actions required	Priority H/M/L
The College should continue to review the effectiveness of teaching and learning.	M

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

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