



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM VISIT (Independent Higher Education)

INSTITUTION: Hyper Island

ADDRESS: 24 Lever Street
Manchester
M1 1DZ

HEAD OF INSTITUTION: David McCall

Accreditation status: Accredited

Date of visit: 18 August 2016

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE: 13 October 2016

PART A - INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the institution

Hyper Island was founded in 1994 and operates 'learning hubs' in Manchester, London, Stockholm, Kalskrona, Singapore, New York and Sao Paulo. Hyper Island's strategic aim continues to be the delivery of higher-level courses to students in digital and interactive communications, business transformation, leadership and business consultancy and personal development. Hyper Island also runs business training programmes for local and multi-national organisations.

In the United Kingdom (UK), the company continues to focus on a small core of specialist courses, mainly in digital media and technology. These courses are delivered primarily from the Manchester centre, which was established in 2011.

The company has continued to review and develop this provision in conjunction with its principal academic partner, Teesside University, along with its many business partners within the creative industries in both Manchester and London.

2. Brief description of the current provision

Hyper Island continues to offer full-time MA programmes in Digital Media Management and Digital Experience Design at the Manchester site, and a part-time MA in Digital Media Management, which is delivered in London. The degree programmes are accredited by Teesside University. A level 4 Diploma course in Interactive Design and Development, accredited by AIM Awards, was withdrawn in November 2015.

At the time of inspection, there were 92 students registered on the full-time programmes and 59 students registered on the part-time programme.

3. Inspection visit process

The inspection visit was carried out over one half day at the Manchester premises. Interviews were held with the Managing Director for UK and Europe, the Programme Director, a Programme Leader, and a Project Manager. Internal documentation was also reviewed, in particular a Teesside University Academic Quality and Standards Policy Committee Periodic Review Report, arising from the University's School of Arts and Media audit conducted in June 2016. This inspection report is in relation to the provider's provision in the United Kingdom only.

4. Inspection history

Full inspection: 24-25 June 2015

PART B – JUDGEMENTS AND EVIDENCE

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

There have been no changes in ownership or senior personnel since the last inspection. A change of premises was under consideration at the time of the last inspection. However, the company has retained the Manchester site, and undertaken a programme of refurbishment of the premises over the last 12 months. One key change to the academic programme has been the withdrawal of the level 4 Diploma in Interactive Design and Development in November 2015, to allow greater focus on the continuing development of the existing MA programmes.

2. Response to actions points in last report

No action points were identified in the last inspection report.

3. Response to recommendations for improvement in last report

Hyper Island is recommended to consider designating and providing training to a member of staff who would be the first point of contact for students with personal problems.

The programme leader now fulfils this role, and provides a link with the University's counselling and welfare services.

It is recommended that Hyper Island publishes a detailed social media misuse policy for both students and staff. This could supersede the existing references in the staff and student handbooks.

This has been fully implemented within both the student and staff handbooks.

4. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements – spot check

4.1 Management, Staffing and Administration

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

4.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments A panel of senior academic and administrative staff from Teesside University conducted a full review, evaluation and consultation of Hyper island's programmes in June 2016. This covered programme aims, learning outcomes, curriculum design and structure, teaching, learning and assessment, learning resources, student support and quality assurance. The panel's conclusion was that Hyper Island's programme team had demonstrated a robust and rigorous approach to review and evaluation, that programmes reflected current business practice and that the team met all quality standard. Validation was therefore approved for a further four years.				

4.3 Student Welfare

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

4.4 Premises and Facilities

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments Hyper Island has undertaken a programme of refurbishment of the premises which are of a good standard.				

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

Provider's strengths
A successful and very well managed partnership with Teesside University and with local creative industries, with comprehensive and effective quality assurance arrangements.

Actions required	Priority H/M/L
None	

RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
None

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