



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM INSPECTION (Short Course Provider)

ORGANISATION: International Summer Camp UK Ltd

ADDRESS: Ardvreck School
Crieff
Perthshire
PH7 4EX

Administrative Office: 3 Woodburn Place, Houston, Renfrewshire, PA6 7NA

HEAD OF ORGANISATION: Donna McGuire

Accreditation status: Accredited

Date of inspection: 21 July 2015

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE: 10 September 2015

PART A – INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the organisation

International Summer Camp UK (ISC), known as Camp Cooper, was established in June 2011. Operations started in 2013, using the facilities of a small boarding school, Ardvreck School in Crieff, Scotland during their July/August school holidays. ISC is run by the Head of the organisation together with a co-director; both are full time.

During the period of the camp (now five weeks), around 20 counsellors are recruited to run the various classes and outdoor activities. These are mostly recently qualified teachers and others with the required specialist expertise. This year, they had around 300 applicants, of whom 80 were shortlisted and invited to an extended practical 'interview' so that their suitability could be carefully assessed. Those selected then enjoy four to five days training prior to the start of the camp.

Camp Cooper is set in beautiful countryside in Perthshire. The site is secluded and has a range of facilities, including a sports field, swimming pool, tennis courts, art studios and classrooms, together with golf at the nearby Crieff golf club. There are three accommodation blocks, classrooms, dining room and in-house catering services. ISC has exclusive use of the premises for the duration of each camp. ISC has a legal agreement with Ardvreck School, renewed on an annual basis.

The age of students ranges from 7 to 17. Participant numbers have risen from 42 in 2013 to 157 in 2014 and to 240 in 2015. The duration of the camp was increased from four to five weeks this year. The children/young people may attend for one week or as many as five. Average attendance is around two weeks, giving a total of around 500 camper weeks in 2015 (up from 320 in 2014). Participants this year came from 32 different countries, with a large proportion from Europe (especially France and Italy) but also from many Asian countries, including China, Taiwan, Philippines and Kuwait.

2. Brief description of the current provision

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 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, in turn, will help them to grow in confidence and gain new interests.

The provision, unchanged since the last inspection, comprises a mix of activities including outdoor adventure, mountain biking, golf, media and journalism, art and jewellery making, as well as performing arts and dance. International campers have the opportunity to undertake formal English Language lessons: beginners, intermediate and advanced, for two hours each weekday. This year, there were three English language classes in operation.

3. Inspection process

This was a half day inspection, conducted by one inspector. Discussions were held with the two co-directors. The rest of the inspection consisted of a tour of the premises and outdoor locations, during which time three language classes were visited and activities in art, dance, performing arts, tennis and outdoor skills were observed.

4. Inspection history

Stage 2 inspection:	24 March 2014
Full inspection:	23 July 2014

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

There have been no significant changes since the last inspection. Participant numbers have increased (see above) but the curriculum is unchanged, as is the approach to recruiting and training counsellors.

2. Response to action points in last report

There was one action point from the report of the full inspection:

In view of the nature of the summer camp, all visitors should be made aware of health and safety issues on entry.
This is now done as a matter of routine.

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 two co-directors are very committed to providing a high quality experience and were very well-organised.				

3.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments In all activities observed, good facilitation skills were in evidence and there was enthusiastic participation by the campers.				

3.3 Participant 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

Strong purpose and ethos based on the US summer camp tradition. Strong leadership and management by the co-directors. Very capable counselling/teaching staff recruited and trained through very thorough process. Good liaison with parents before and after each camp.

Actions required	Priority H/M/L
None	

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

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