



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM VISIT (Short Course Provider)

PROVIDER: International Summer School for Teens

ADDRESS: 9 Vennel Street
Stewarton
KA3 5HL

HEAD OF PROVIDER: Ms Carey Rowe

DATE OF VISIT: 3 August 2017

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE: Continued accreditation 19 October 2017

PART A - INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the provider

The International Summer School for Teens (ISST/the Provider) was incorporated, as a private limited company, in 2015. It has two directors, one of whom is the head of provider. Its predecessor, Summer Golf Schools Limited (Ltd), was launched in Ayrshire in the West of Scotland and ran two golf schools for teens in July and August 2015. While golf is still an important part of its provision, the ISST name reflects its wider span of activity in academic subjects and sporting and creative pursuits.

The Provider offers a three-week summer school course which is run twice a year, in July and August. It aims to provide a high-quality experience combining academic, sporting, creative and recreational activities for teenagers from diverse cultures, stimulating their imagination and inspiring them for the future. ISST also seeks to develop participants' confidence and independence, particularly for younger participants who may be spending time away from home for the first time.

ISST is based at a self-contained campus of the University of Stirling (UoS) in Central Scotland. The campus is a national centre of excellence in golf, tennis and swimming. When ISST is not in summer session at UoS, its administrative base is in Stewarton in the West of Scotland.

2. Brief description of the current provision

Each of the two summer school courses involve 39 hours of academic tuition and 39 hours of tuition in a chosen sporting or creative activity. Participants spend mornings studying academic subjects. The options are English at pre-intermediate and upper intermediate levels, Study Skills, Global Entrepreneurship and Law. The Study Skills class aims to develop the skills and confidence needed for examination success in the International Baccalaureate or General Certificate in Secondary Education. All the classes focus on projects and are group orientated to enhance communication and teamworking skills.

In the afternoons, each participant undertakes an elective from options including golf, tennis and theatre. Golf is taught at the UoS Airthrey course and tennis at the Scottish Tennis Centre. ISST participants can accrue Creativity, Action and Service hours, which count towards the International Baccalaureate qualification.

In the evenings, all participants engage in a range of recreational and cultural activities. These include talent shows, a cinema night, quizzes and sports. There are two full-day excursions each Saturday and Sunday to Scottish cities, scenic and cultural landmarks and world-class golf courses. ISST aims to keep participants busy and entertained, while allowing them some free time to relax.

A day is held at the midpoint of each session, which is attended by all the participants from every course. This is when they share their learning with other participants and learn from each other in an informal way. On the final day, all participants take part in a challenge, where they compete in teams, in a range of challenges with a Scottish theme. The Provider looks for opportunities to make learning and problem-solving fun.

3. Inspection visit process

The inspection was conducted over half a day by one inspector. Meetings were held with the two directors and a member of the teaching staff. A tour of the residences and some of the classroom accommodation was undertaken. Discussions were held with a class of eight participants on the Study Skills programme.

4. Inspection history

Stage Two inspection: 22 February 2016

Candidacy inspection: 20 July 2016

PART B – JUDGMENTS AND EVIDENCE

The following judgments 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 has been a major expansion of participant numbers since 2016. They have doubled to 119 in 2017. Staff numbers have also increased. In 2016 there was a Residential Leader who was supported by Activity Leaders, now renamed Counsellors. There is now a counsellor manager, supported by counsellors. The availability of UoS residential, catering, academic, sporting and recreational facilities, at a time when the vast majority of university students are absent, means that ISST can effectively manage this increase in participants.

New programmes in Law, Upper Intermediate English, Theatre and Coding have been introduced. The Media Communications and Visual Arts course has been discontinued. Once the 2017 courses have finished, the portfolio will be reviewed to see if it is feasible to introduce any new programmes which will increase the proportion of female participants.

2. Response to action points in last report

8.2 8.3 The ISST should produce an annual review and action plan, as planned, after the conclusion of the second course.

The directors have produced an appropriate annual review and action plan.

3. Response to recommended areas for improvement in last report

The template for the annual report could be simplified to specify the ISST's key aims and objectives, marshal all evidence relevant to the evaluation of these objectives and set out an action plan that flows from the evaluation findings.

The directors have developed a framework for the 2017 annual report, which specifies key aims and objectives and makes use of quantitative and qualitative evidence to evaluate success in achieving the objectives. The resulting findings are used appropriately to establish an action plan. ISST is therefore in the process of implementing this recommendation effectively.

4. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements

4.1 Management, Staffing and Administration (spot check)

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments There is a systematic process for obtaining participant feedback. At the end of the course, participants complete an online form rating their overall enjoyment and specific aspects of the course. Parents and carers are also asked for feedback. The resulting information informs feedback to staff, quality improvement planning and marketing.				

4.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment (spot check)

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<p>Comments</p> <p>Teachers are well qualified and experienced.</p> <p>Teachers are required to develop their lesson plans for the first session one month in advance and these are reviewed by the directors to ensure suitability. This provides a clear structure for the participants.</p> <p>Lessons are adjusted to the interests and goals of the participants. This provides appropriate flexibility to ensure that the participants’ needs are met. The curriculum for the Coding course was developed with input from external experts. This demonstrates ISST’s commitment to providing a quality syllabus for this new elective.</p> <p>There is formal mandatory performance review for all members of staff and evaluation of teachers’ performance includes classroom observations.</p> <p>ISST provides each participant and their parents and/or guardians with an end of course report that provides a record of participants’ contribution, achievements, strengths and areas for development.</p>				

4.3 Participant Welfare (spot check)

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<p>Comments</p> <p>There are eight counsellors with responsibility for the day to day welfare and care of the participants. They are typically university students with experience of working with young people. As a result, participants are very well looked after.</p> <p>The guidance and 24-hour seven-day a week supervision, which is provided by counsellors, is a crucial part of the ISST’s safeguarding framework. This care and attention is apparent in, for example, groups of participants being escorted between residences, classroom areas, dining areas and activities.</p> <p>There is a comprehensive welcome pack, which includes house rules and a suitable code of conduct, which the participants sign. This specifies acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and effectively contributes to the participants’ welfare.</p> <p>The Provider has comprehensive safeguarding procedures including a Child Protection Policy, a designated Child Protection Officer, thorough recruitment and induction processes for staff, a code of conduct for staff, risk assessments and standard operating procedures and 24-hour supervision of participants.</p>				

4.4 Premises and Facilities (spot check)

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<p>Comments</p> <p>ISST's residential accommodation is self-contained and security is strictly maintained.</p> <p>The accommodation is modern and includes private bathroom provision and kitchen facilities.</p> <p>Lessons take place in modern classrooms and participants have access to the University's on-site library and IT facilities.</p> <p>The food menus do not include sufficient international food options to fully meet the needs of the international participants and their associated tastes.</p>				

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

STRENGTHS
A high-quality summer school, which effectively combines academic, sporting, creative and recreational activities.
Outstanding academic, sporting and recreational facilities on the UoS campus.
The directors are clearly committed to develop and innovate the course portfolio and curricula.
The directors are committed to gathering and responding to participants’, parents’ and carers’ views.

ACTIONS REQUIRED	Priority H/M/L
None	

RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
The ISST should continue to work with UoS to develop more international food menu options, given the international demographic of participants and their associated tastes.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS	
Declaration of compliance has been signed and dated.	YES
Further comments, if applicable	