



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM INSPECTION (College)

INSTITUTION: New School of Psychotherapy and Counselling

ADDRESS: 61-63 Fortune Green Road
London
NW6 1DR

HEAD OF INSTITUTION: Professor Emmy van Deurzen

Accreditation status: Accredited

Date of inspection: 17 December 2014

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION ON ACCREDITATION: Continued Accreditation 29 January 2015

PART A - INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the institution

The New School of Psychotherapy and Counselling (formerly a department of London City College, which was a BAC accredited institution) commenced operation in 2010. When accredited in 2013 the School was located just off Kilburn High Road in North London, with excellent public transport facilities. North London has some tradition as a home for psychotherapy and counselling, which makes for an availability of professional placements.

The School is wholly postgraduate in level, with courses validated by Middlesex University, which has experience in maintaining collaborative partnerships in the health field. The School has wide recognition and acceptance for its awards by the British Psychological Society (BPS), the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), the Universities Psychotherapy and Counselling Association (UPCA) and the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP). The DCPsych programme is designed for students who have obtained the Graduate Basis for Chartering of the BPS, and successful completion confers eligibility for chartered membership of the BPS (CPsychol) and registration with the HCPC as a counselling psychologist.

The approach to teaching and research is existential. This approach is stressed by NSPC as "avoiding dogma". The DCPsych is designed "to encourage students to develop an understanding of the human predicaments of their clients in a philosophical way". The School exists to train therapists and to facilitate research activities in the field for qualified graduates. Students are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and countries, and all are mature.

2. Brief description of the current provision

The School had completed relocation a short distance from Belsize Road to Fortune Green Road in London NW6 shortly before the interim inspection. The new premises were recently built and an architect was commissioned to optimise use of the available space on two floors. On the ground floor there is a secure entrance and reception desk leading to a lower corridor giving access to five carefully furnished group teaching spaces and a large lecture/seminar room. Adjacent are the kitchen, toilets (male, female and disabled), storage and emergency egress. On the mezzanine is a very pleasant office for management and administration and the School library, which is furnished with comfortable seating. The accommodation has been designed to be wheelchair accessible, with air conditioning, central heating and IT facilities. Arrangements are being made to post Braille signage.

In addition to the joint taught Doctoral programmes, the School offers an online MSc Psychotherapy Studies and an MA Existential Coaching. A Professional Diploma in Existential Supervision and Group Leadership can be awarded in Year 4 where a student decides not to complete the doctorate, but still wishes to achieve a professional qualification as a Supervisor. An internal Foundation Certificate programme is open to graduates and recognised by the professional body. Finally, the School is about to recommence delivery of a number of short courses, following the relocation.

3. Inspection process

An inspector visited the School for a half-day, during which meetings were conducted with the Principal, Deputy Principal, a Deputy Course Leader, the Academic Registrar and the Bursar. There was also an opportunity for a brief exchange with the architect. All areas of the new premises were visited and access provided to the School database (which is currently being migrated to tailored software).

4. Inspection history

Full inspection: 15 and 16 January 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

During the period in which the new premises were being secured, designed and fitted out, the School took temporary teaching accommodation. The office staff moved to Fortune Green Road first and students were welcomed to the new teaching facilities during the week of the inspection.

The School has *not* sought Educational Oversight (following the decision made by Middlesex University not to continue to issue CAS places to institutions in collaborative partnership), but does guide candidates on the availability of and conditions applying to the issue of Student Visitor visas.

2. Response to action points in last report

The previous report included a recommendation that the School consider the establishment of an Advisory group for the Foundation programme. A board made up of non-specialists is to be established that not only oversees the progress of Foundation studies but can also be invited to give independent advice on issues arising in the course of general NSPC operations.

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				

3.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments				
It was noted that both qualitative and quantitative research methodology are taught and assessed.				
The inspector noted that the collaborative partnership with Middlesex University supports the School’s efforts to ensure and develop the quality of teaching, learning, research and assessment.				

3.3 Student Welfare

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments Note was taken of particular efforts being made to meet the needs of students with serious disabilities who can nonetheless benefit from the courses offered.				

3.4 Premises and Facilities

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments The School has ensured design and implementation of the new premises to a very high standard.				

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

Institution's strengths

An institution with a clear sense of its mission and a well organised team, determined to make every effort to achieve its objectives.

Actions required	Priority H/M/L
None.	

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

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