



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM VISIT (International Higher Education)

INSTITUTION: Transnational Education Africa Limited

ADDRESS: P.O. Box CT 9823, Cantonments, Accra, Ghana

HEAD OF INSTITUTION: Professor John Grainger

Accreditation status: Accredited

Date of visit: 31 August 2016

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION ON ACCREDITATION: 13 October 2016

PART A - INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the institution

Transnational Education Africa Ltd is a member company of a group that includes ABN360 (CNBC Africa and Forbes Africa), Global Institute ME (Murdoch University, Dubai), Lancaster University Ghana (in partnership with Lancaster University, UK) and Transnational Education Ghana (TNE-G). TNE-G offers a University Foundation Programme at the Lancaster University Ghana campus in Accra. This programme is validated by Lancaster University and is based on a programme developed and delivered by TNE in Dubai. The relationship between Lancaster University and TNE-G is set out in a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for an International Teaching Partnership in Ghana. Through this MoA, the parties agreed to develop and deliver: a teaching partnership, known as Lancaster University, Ghana (LUG); and programmes of study leading to the award of degrees from Lancaster.

TNE has a responsibility to: provide academic and physical infrastructure for the campus that meets local regulatory standards; employ all non-academic staff as well as academic staff who meet both local regulatory standards and criteria pre-agreed between the parties; market LUG; and take responsibility for the operational management of the LUG campus. Lancaster's main responsibilities are to: provide the curriculum and assessment systems; take responsibility, through the Deputy Provost, for the day-to-day academic management of the campus, including teaching and research activities; award its degree to students who successfully complete its programmes and satisfy the specific requirements for the award. Joint responsibilities include setting entry requirements and recruitment events.

A Partnership Management Group (PMG), chaired by the Pro-Vice Chancellor (International) undertakes the management of the partnership. The PMG ensures that programmes are approved, delivered and managed in accordance with the MoA. Within TNE, its Board of Directors has ultimate responsibility for the collaborative partnership. Management of LUG is the responsibility of a Management Council, with equal representation from TNE and Lancaster.

2. Brief description of the current provision

The one-year Foundation Programme is designed to prepare students for direct entry into Lancaster University's undergraduate degrees. Students who complete the programme and achieve minimum completion grades are guaranteed progression into the first year of a LUG undergraduate degree programme in Business and Management Studies, Computing or Law and Social Studies. The first programme began in October 2013; the third programme was nearing completion at the time of the inspection.

The Programme is delivered in three trimesters. Critical Thinking, Research and Writing are taught throughout the whole year. In addition, in Trimester 1, students take core units in: Mathematical Foundations; and Computer Productivity. In Trimesters 2 and 3, students move into one of three streams: Business, IT, or Law and Social Studies. In Trimester 2, all students take three core units plus one related to their specialisation. In the third trimester, three out of four units relate to the specialisation.

The programme continues to grow in popularity and at the time of the inspection, 144 students were enrolled on the course, which is an increase of 27% since the last inspection.

The Academic Oversight Team (including one senior academic from Lancaster) monitors on-going development and delivery of the Programme. The Board of Examiners meets three times a year to review the performance of students and determine progression into undergraduate programmes. The Programme is taught by ten staff (five of whom are full time) and is supported by 28 administrative and 11 ancillary staff.

3. Inspection visit process

The interim inspection involved one inspector and lasted just over half a day. The inspector toured the facilities, including the new campus for the undergraduate students, scrutinised documentation, undertook three lesson observations and met a number of staff. The inspector reviewed the progress made against the recommendations in the previous report, and noted any changes that had taken place since the last inspection.

4. Inspection history

Full inspection: 19 – 20 August 2015

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

The undergraduate programme has now relocated to new high quality accommodation nearby which has freed up the space on the original campus for the growth of the foundation programme.

LUG has been successful in being awarded another 5-years accreditation by the National Accreditation Board in Ghana

2. Response to actions points in the last report

8.2 TNE should produce an annual report with analysis of year-on-year results on student satisfaction, retention, achievement, examination results, completion and progression rates.

A comprehensive report has been completed and presented to the Transnational Education Africa Board. A copy was provided to the inspector. It provides a review of the academic years 2013- 2015 and analyses the retention, outcomes and progression rates of the four cohorts during this period as well as the results of student satisfaction surveys.

Two cohorts study each year. The data shows a steady increase in progression rates from the foundation programme to the undergraduate courses from 66% for cohort 1 in 2013 to almost 83% for cohort 2 in 2015. Results of student satisfaction surveys, which are undertaken for each module, show a mainly positive picture with a very high percentage of students giving positive responses to the questions asked on topics such as the quality of the teaching, the suitability of the assessment tasks and feedback on assessed work, the approachability of teachers, etc.

The report also includes a 'Report of Development Review' undertaken by Lancaster University that features a number of commendations and some recommendations.

3. Response to recommendations for improvement in the last report

Develop a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) to support the development of independent learning.

A Moodle VLE has been implemented for the foundation programme, this will go live in October 2016, and staff have been trained in its use. The VLE will support independent study and research and will feature access to the electronic library available from Lancaster University. The VLE will also allow students to submit assignments online and it will include access to the Turnitin plagiarism software.

Provide Health & Safety (H&S) briefings for visitors.

A H&S briefing has been developed for staff, students and visitors and an abridged version is on display on each floor of the campus. H&S briefings are covered at induction. However, when the inspector arrived, the reception staff did not make the inspector aware of the briefing.

4. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements – spot check

4.1 Management, Staffing and Administration

| | Met | Partially met | Not met | NA |
|--|-----|---------------|---------|----|
| The standards are judged to be | ✓ | | | |
| <p>Comments</p> <p>The management staffing and administration continues to be of a high standard. A very competent and cohesive management team enjoys a strong and effective partnership with Lancaster University.</p> <p>High quality management and administrative systems prevail and managers respond in a timely manner to student feedback.</p> | | | | |

4.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

| | Met | Partially met | Not met | NA |
|---|-----|---------------|---------|----|
| The standards are judged to be | ✓ | | | |
| <p>Comments</p> <p>Academic management continues to be effective and well organised. Courses are well planned to meet the needs of students. Three lessons were observed to sample the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.</p> <p>High standards of tuition continue, and students' feedback is very positive about the quality of teaching. This high quality has resulted in the significant improvement in outcomes and progression rates from the foundation programme to the undergraduate courses.</p> | | | | |

4.3 Student Welfare

| | Met | Partially met | Not met | NA |
|---|-----|---------------|---------|----|
| The standards are judged to be | ✓ | | | |
| <p>Comments</p> <p>Students are well supported and feedback positively on the help provided to succeed.</p> <p>The good range of clubs and societies are now more established. Students are actively involved in community projects.</p> | | | | |

4.4 Premises and Facilities

| | Met | Partially met | Not met | NA |
|--|-----|---------------|---------|----|
| The standards are judged to be | ✓ | | | |
| <p>Comments</p> <p>The premises are attractive, well maintained and spacious and provide a good learning environment.</p> <p>The new undergraduate facilities are of a very high quality and have created additional space for the expansion of the foundation programme.</p> | | | | |

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

| |
|---|
| Provider's strengths |
| A very competent and cohesive management team that enjoys a strong and effective partnership with Lancaster University. |
| Well-planned courses and effective tuition meet the needs of students very well and result in high success and progression rates. |
| Attractive, well-maintained and spacious premises provide a good learning environment. |
| Students are well supported and engage well in a variety of extra-curricular activities and community projects. |

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Actions required | Priority H/M/L |
| None | |

| |
|---|
| RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT |
| Provide training for reception staff to ensure that visitors are made aware of the new H&S briefing |

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