



**EDUCATIONAL OVERSIGHT INSPECTION OF PRIVATE FURTHER
EDUCATION COLLEGES AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS**

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE

(Company registration number - 5828476)

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Website	www. oxintstudycentre.com		
Principal	Mr Benjamin Llewelyn		
Proprietor	Mr Benjamin Llewelyn		
	Mrs Carolyn Llewelyn		
Age Range	12+		
Total number of students	61		
Numbers by age and type of study	Under 16:	1	
	16 to 18:	18	
	18+:	42	
	EFL only:	20	
	FE only:	33	
	EFL and FE:	8	
Inspection dates	28 to 30 April 2026		

PREFACE

This inspection report follows the Framework for Educational Oversight of private further education colleges and English language schools. The inspection consists of a three-day team inspection of the institution's educational provision.

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is an approved Educational Oversight body authorised by the Home Office to inspect privately funded further education colleges and English language schools in England and Wales offering courses on the Qualifications and Credit Framework. It is designed to improve the quality of education on offer to international students who attend UK colleges through student visas.

ISI inspections are required to:

- report on the extent to which colleges comply with the published Educational Oversight Standards;
- assess and report on the quality of educational outcomes and provision;
- where applicable, make recommendations outside the scope of the Standards to support continued improvement of quality.

Inspection provides objective and reliable reports on the quality of colleges and, by placing reports in the public domain, makes this information available to students, Government and the wider community. Inspection takes account of the context of each individual college, and of how it evaluates its own performance and demonstrates its success.

The inspection of the college is from an educational perspective and provides limited inspection of other aspects, though inspectors will comment on any significant hazards or problems they encounter which have an adverse impact on students. The inspection does not include:

- (i) an exhaustive health and safety audit;
- (ii) an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the college, its services or other physical features;
- (iii) an investigation of the financial viability of the college or its accounting procedures;
- (iv) an in-depth investigation of the college's compliance with employment law.

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1. CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT

- 1.1 Oxford International Study Centre (OISC) is a limited company established in 2006. It is jointly owned by two directors, one of whom acts as the principal. Its aim is to help all students achieve their personal educational goals, regardless of their previous levels of academic attainment, through learning in a safe, welcoming and encouraging environment. It occupies two listed buildings in the centre of Oxford, one of which has been recently acquired. Neither site provides access for wheelchair users.
- 1.2 The college typically accepts students over the age of 12 years, although younger children are accepted as part of closed groups or when accompanied by parents/guardians. It arranges residential accommodation for students aged between 16 and 18 years and homestay accommodation for students of all ages.
- 1.3 OISC offers flexible general English courses, from beginner to advanced levels, and preparation classes for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Students can enrol at any time and study for a little as one week and up to two years, in group classes or one-to-one tuition. Students complete a pre-arrival written test to ensure they are placed at the correct level of class. Longer-term students, studying for more than eight weeks, are interviewed online prior to arrival to ensure their suitability and identify any additional learning needs.
- 1.4 The college also offers a University Foundation Pathway (UFP) in business, and A levels and GCSEs in a wide range of subjects. These are referred to by the college as academic courses. Students can enrol in September or January of each year and these courses last one or two years. The college is not academically selective, but students' capabilities and goals are assessed through an interview, written assessments and needs analysis, so that they are offered an appropriate and realistic programme of study. Students wishing to enter UK universities or boarding schools can take combined programmes, studying academic subjects alongside additional English language support.
- 1.5 Summer English language courses and bespoke professional training courses are also offered but were not running at the time of inspection.
- 1.6 At the time of inspection 61 students were enrolled at OISC, 10 of whom were studying exclusively online. The large majority were over the age of 18 years. There were roughly the same number of male and female students. The majority of students are visiting from a wide range of countries from around the globe and no particular nationality dominates. A small minority of students are UK nationals. Twelve publicly funded students are placed at OISC by Oxfordshire County Council. These students have an education health and care plan (EHCP) created during their previous schooling, which sets out their learning needs and goals. Four other students have declared special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Eight students were studying under Student visa arrangements. Forty students speak English as an additional language (EAL).

- 1.7 The college was previously inspected on 12 March 2024 when it met all Key standards and the quality of education was judged to exceed expectations.

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 2.1 **The college exceeds expectations for the quality of education.** At the time of the inspection, all Standards for Educational Oversight were met and quality is excellent.
- 2.2 The quality of the curriculum, teaching and learners' achievements is excellent. Assessment of students prior to and on arrival to the college is excellent. A thorough needs analysis is undertaken and effective support is arranged, as appropriate, for students who have SEND or who speak EAL. Highly flexible courses are very well matched to students' objectives and the aims of the college. All courses on offer to those studying under Student visa arrangements meet the definition of an approved qualification according to Home Office guidance. Teaching is excellent. Teachers plan highly effective lessons that are closely aligned with each student's individual needs. They use a wide range of interesting activities, which motivate students to work hard. Consequently, students make rapid progress in lessons and develop in confidence. Assessment of students is regular, frequent and fair. As a result, students make excellent progress from their starting points over time and achieve well in external examinations. Students are highly successful in progressing to UK universities.
- 2.3 Students' welfare, including health and safety, is excellent. There are highly effective arrangements to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. The premises provide a safe and comfortable learning environment. The college keeps highly accurate admission and attendance records. Extremely effective arrangements are in place to follow up absences and make reports to the Home Office as required. Pastoral and personal support for students is excellent. Students appreciate an extensive social programme that supports their learning and understanding of life in the UK. Arrangements to safeguard students under the age of 18 are excellent. Safeguarding has a high priority in the college and is led by a suitably qualified Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). All staff receive regular safeguarding training and understand their responsibilities very well. Residential accommodation is excellent. Homestay hosts are recruited carefully and well supported by the college. Quality monitoring visits are made to externally managed residences twice a year. However, written records of these visits are not always kept.
- 2.4 The effectiveness of governance, leadership and management is excellent. Ownership and oversight of the school is excellent. The proprietors, one of whom acts as principal, have excellent oversight of the college and ensure sufficient investment in staff, accommodation and resources. They fully discharge their responsibility to ensure the welfare, health and safety of students and staff and fulfil their duty to safeguard students under the age of 18. All legal permissions are met. Leaders and managers provide clear educational direction and ensure that a high level of care and education for students is maintained. Quality assurance is excellent. Staff recruitment and suitability checks are good. The college makes all necessary checks to confirm the suitability of staff and, obtains Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks prior to employment. References are taken up and verified. However, the date of the verification check is not always clearly recorded. An accurate single central record of appointments (SCR) is kept.

3. THE QUALITY OF the CURRICULUM, TEACHING AND LEARNERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

3. (a) Assessment of students prior to or on arrival

- 3.1 Assessment of students prior to and on arrival to the college is excellent. Students receive accurate information, advice and guidance through the college's website and agents to enable them to choose a suitable course of study. Students studying English complete a placement test as well as specific needs analysis documents, prior to arrival to determine the correct level of class.
- 3.2 Students studying academic courses, such as A Level, GCSE or UFP, are interviewed and a thorough needs analysis is undertaken to ensure that they are enrolled on a realistic and appropriate programme of study. Additional support for English is arranged if needed.
- 3.3 Support requirements for students who have SEND are identified through the application form or by using the details supplied in the EHC plan they bring with them from their previous schooling. When students arrive, teachers are expert at identifying undisclosed SEND and then planning to provide additional support as needed.
- 3.4 The results of initial assessments are provided for teachers so that they can plan effectively to meet students' individual needs. Consequently, outcomes for students are excellent.

3. (b) Suitability of course provision and curriculum

- 3.5 Course provision is excellent. Students are well educated in accordance with their objectives and the stated aims of the college. Courses are very well matched to students' needs and aspirations and are highly flexible in terms of level and length of study for students taking English courses. There is a wide range of subjects and combinations available, carefully tailored to meet the needs of students on academic courses. The vast majority of students complete the course for which they registered.
- 3.6 Courses offered match those advertised on the website and in promotional materials.
- 3.7 All courses on offer to those studying under Student visa arrangements meet the definition of an approved qualification according to Home Office guidance. The eight students currently studying under Student visa arrangements are undertaking at least twenty hours per week of classroom-based, daytime study.

3. (c) The quality of teaching and its impact on learning

- 3.8 The quality of teaching and learning is excellent. Well qualified and experienced teachers use their excellent subject knowledge to plan and deliver highly effective lessons. They have an excellent knowledge of their students' aptitudes, cultural backgrounds, additional needs and prior attainment, which they use highly effectively to plan lessons to meet students' individual needs, either in small groups or one to

one. Teachers use a wide range of activities and resources to keep students interested and engaged in their learning. Time is used wisely and lessons are conducted at an appropriate pace so that students make good, and often excellent progress in lessons.

- 3.9 Students are well motivated and work hard in their lessons. They work well individually and in pairs to complete activities. Students from a very wide range of backgrounds and cultures study in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance. Teaching promotes fundamental British values and does not discriminate against those with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010.
- 3.10 Students who have SEND are extremely well supported in classes so that they make excellent progress towards their personal and academic goals. Teachers use effective strategies to keep these students motivated and focused on their studies.
- 3.11 Assessment of students is regular, frequent and fair. Students learning English have weekly progress tests and academic students have tests at least monthly. Students are kept well informed of their progress and, where the student is under the age of 18, parents are also kept informed. Longer term students receive weekly tutorials in which their progress is discussed and additional support needs identified. Teachers provide helpful and constructive feedback on students' written work so that they know how to improve their work. Regular homework is set and students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and make good use of their time in the UK.

3. (d) Attainment and progress

- 3.12 Students' progress and attainment is excellent. Students make excellent progress from their starting points. They develop in confidence and express high levels of satisfaction with their progress. The small numbers of students who take external IELTS examinations achieve at, or above the grades predicted by their teachers. The large majority of students who take external A level and GCSE examinations achieve at or above the grades they need to progress to their next steps in education. All students who make an application, progress to a UK university of their choice.

4. STUDENTS' WELFARE, INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY

4. (a) Health, safety and security of the premises

- 4.1 Health, safety and security of the premises is excellent. The premises are fit for purpose and very well maintained in a clean, tidy and hygienic state. Both buildings provide a safe and comfortable environment for students to learn and socialise. Free drinking water is provided to enhance students' wellbeing. There are highly effective security arrangements for both buildings. The premises are attractively decorated. Heating, lighting, ventilation and sound insulation are adequate. Furniture and fittings are appropriate for the ages and numbers of students. Classrooms are well equipped to support learning. There are sufficient washrooms for students and staff. Access to the college allows students to enter and leave safely, including for emergency evacuations. The buildings are not accessible for those with significantly impaired mobility or wheelchair users and cannot be adapted due to their listed status.
- 4.2 There are highly effective arrangements to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. Health and safety have a high priority within the college and students and staff are consulted about these matters. Staff are well trained in matters relating to health and safety and students receive high-quality information during induction so that they know how to keep themselves safe. Comprehensive risk assessments are carried out for all activities undertaken on college premises and off site.
- 4.3 There are highly effective arrangements for fire safety, including regular fire drills, fire alarm testing, more than the required number of fire extinguishers, clear signage and notices detailing fire evacuation procedures. Fire exits are clear and emergency lighting is provided to aid speedy evacuation of the building. Sufficient staff are trained in first aid and as fire marshals. An appropriate first aid policy is in place and implemented. Effective arrangements are in place to assist students who are ill or injured. Records of incidents are meticulously kept.

4. (b) Student registration and attendance records

- 4.4 Student registration and attendance records are excellent. The college keeps highly accurate admission and attendance records. Prompt actions are taken to locate students who fail to attend and ensure their welfare and safety. Appropriate reports are made to the Home Office where students fail to meet attendance requirements, or discontinue study. Attendance overall is good.
- 4.5 Arrangements for the collection and refund of fees are clear and fair.

4. (c) Pastoral support for students

- 4.6 Pastoral and personal support for students is excellent. Highly effective pastoral welfare, and personal support is provided for students by personal tutors and managers. Students feel safe and know who to go to with any problems. Relationships between students and staff, and between students themselves, are excellent. No instances of bullying or harassment have been recorded.

- 4.7 Students receive a thorough induction on arrival that prepares well them for study and life in Oxford and the UK. Induction is effectively tailored to the differing needs of student groups. A programme of enrichment activities, lunchtime clubs, trips and visits is wide ranging and promotes British values and students' understanding of life in the UK. Activities are closely aligned to students' suggestions and interests. Evening social activities are arranged for students over the age of 18.
- 4.8 Students receive highly effective careers advice and guidance that supports them to make informed decisions about their next steps in education. They receive intensive support in choosing, and making successful applications for, university courses in the UK. The college arranges work experience and volunteering opportunities to enhance students' applications to higher education or to prepare them for progression to employment.

4. (d) Safeguarding for under 18s

- 4.9 Safeguarding arrangements are excellent. Safeguarding has a high profile with management and there is a clear culture of awareness that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The college places significant importance on gaining regular feedback from students about whether they feel safe, and on promoting a safe environment for students. Information contained in the student handbook provides helpful advice to students on keeping themselves safe when in the city and away from school.
- 4.10 The college completes the annual safeguarding audit provided by the Oxford Safeguarding Children Partnership to ensure systems are compliant with statutory regulations. The principal is the DSL, and also a director, which ensures appropriate challenge and accountability at board level. A deputy is also in place to ensure that cover is provided at all times. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at the monthly board meetings ensuring that all directors are fully aware of safeguarding issues in the college.
- 4.11 There is a comprehensive safeguarding policy setting out arrangements for the protection of students under the age of 18 and this is reviewed at least annually. The DSL and deputy DSL are both trained to the appropriate level and clearly understand their responsibilities with respect to the protection and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, though no referrals have yet been required. All staff receive training at induction in safeguarding and in the 'Prevent' duty related to radicalisation and extremism. This is refreshed annually. Consequently, staff at all levels understand their obligations in relation to safeguarding and fulfil their responsibilities very well.

4. (e) Residential accommodation

- 4.12 Residential accommodation is excellent. Effective arrangements are implemented to place students in accommodation appropriate to their ages, needs and preferences. Externally managed residences are visited twice a year and monitored for quality. However, written records of these visits are not always kept.

- 4.13 The majority of students are placed in homestay accommodation. Homestay hosts are carefully selected and monitored through annual visits to the home. All adults in the home are DBS checked and receive safeguarding training. Nearly all students express satisfaction with their accommodation and the college addresses any minor issues they raise quickly and effectively.
- 4.14 Appropriate reports are made to the local authority where students under the age of 16 are placed in homestay for over 28 days.

5. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

5. (a) Ownership and oversight

- 5.1 Ownership and oversight of the school are excellent. The proprietors, one of whom acts as principal, have excellent oversight of the college and its day-to-day operation. They lead its strategic development and carefully monitor all aspects of provision to ensure that high standards of care and education are maintained for students. They provide challenge and stimulus to ensure the growth and improvement of the college.
- 5.2 Robust financial planning ensures that there is sufficient investment in staff, accommodation and resources. The proprietors fully discharge their responsibilities to ensure the welfare, health and safety of students and staff and fulfil their duty to safeguard students under the age of 18. All legal permissions are met.

5. (b) Management structures and responsibilities

- 5.3 Management structures and responsibilities are excellent. Management roles and responsibilities are clear. Leaders and managers provide clear educational direction so that students are well educated in line with the college's stated aims and objectives. They provide well-designed and appropriate policies and procedures and ensure that these are effectively implemented. Self-evaluation is accurate and used effectively to identify and address priorities for improvement.
- 5.4 Managers are successful in securing, supporting and developing high-quality staff so that staff turnover is low and there is consistency of care and education for students.

5. (c) Quality assurance including student feedback

- 5.5 Quality assurance is excellent. The college has excellent quality assurance systems which include frequent gathering of feedback from students and group leaders. The views of staff and parents are surveyed annually. Staff and students can, and do, give feedback informally at any time to approachable managers. Feedback is used very effectively to make improvements to provision and the student experience.
- 5.6 Surveys indicate that students feel that they are placed on courses that are right for their ability, that teaching meets their needs and that they are kept well informed of their progress. All students surveyed would recommend the college to a friend.
- 5.7 There is an appropriate complaints procedure that is effectively implemented. Complaints are few and are resolved at an informal stage. Arrangements exist to record the outcomes of formal complaints but none have occurred within the last three years. The complaints policy includes provision for independent arbitration of unresolved complaints.
- 5.8 The college has an excellent system of staff appraisal that is valued by staff and leads to improvements in the standard of care and education for students. Managers

observe lessons frequently, both formally and informally, and the results of these observations feed into appraisals and staff development plans. As a result of this process, teachers demonstrate high levels of self-reflection and willingness to improve.

5. (d) Staff recruitment, qualifications and suitability checks

- 5.9 Staff recruitment and suitability checks are good. The college makes all necessary checks to confirm the identity of staff and their right to work in the UK. Disclosure and Barring Service checks are made on all staff prior to employment, as well as overseas police checks, where applicable, to ensure their suitability to work with students under the age of 18. In the rare instances that DBS clearance is not received prior to commencement of employment, a suitable risk assessment is put in place and implemented.
- 5.10 Two references are taken up and verified prior to the commencement of employment. However, the date of the verification check is not always clearly recorded. A suitable SCR is kept, which is largely accurate, but contained some small typographical errors that were corrected before the end of the inspection.

5. (e) Provision of information

- 5.11 Provision of information is excellent. The college has a detailed and easy-to-navigate website. It contains all the information required by the inspection framework and much that would be useful to students and prospective students. All information required by inspectors was provided promptly in a well organised fashion.

6. ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for further improvement

In order to further improve the excellent quality provided, the college should:

- ensure written records are kept of all visits to monitor the quality of externally managed residential accommodation
- ensure the dates of checks made to verify references are recorded accurately in the staff files.

INSPECTION EVIDENCE

The inspectors observed lessons, conducted formal interviews with students and examined samples of students' work. They held discussions with senior members of staff and with the proprietors. They held discussions with staff and students. Inspectors visited residential accommodation. The responses of staff and students to confidential pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined regulatory documentation made available by the college.

Inspectors

Ms Angela Moir	Lead Inspector
Mrs Pat Clayfield	Team Inspector

7. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY CHECK

ISI has shared a summary of financial sustainability data with the Home Office.