



INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT FOR NEXUS INSTITUTE OF CREATIVE ARTS

UKVI LICENCE No: YWC67DPC8

Inspection relating to the educational oversight of private further education colleges on behalf of the Home Office's division of United Kingdom Visas and Immigration - UKVI

The overall inspection findings for this college

UKVI Standards for:

courses and qualifications are	MET
teaching, learning and assessment are	MET
the cultural and moral development of students are	MET
welfare, health and safety are	MET
the effectiveness and suitability of staff are	MET
financial sustainability, leadership and governance are	MET
premises and accommodation are	MET
information and complaints are	MET

Compliance with UKVI Standards

The college meets all the UKVI Standards

CONTENTS OF THE REPORT

Introduction

Section A: Main Findings and actions required

Section B: College and Inspection Details

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and scope of the inspection

The School Inspection Service (SIS) is an approved educational oversight body authorised by the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) section of the Home Office to inspect privately funded further education colleges in England, with a Steiner, Montessori or Eurythmy basis or background, or with a clear religious purpose. Inspection by SIS is designed to assess the college's compliance with the SIS College Standards. The Standards cover the quality of education and welfare provided to all students, including those from overseas who are sponsored by the college for Tier 4 visas, and, where applicable, those under eighteen and vulnerable adults. On-site student accommodation, where provided, is assessed for compliance with the Standards but is not subject to a full boarding inspection. Inspection provides objective and reliable reports on the extent to which colleges meet the Standards. By placing reports in the public domain, the information they contain is available to students, the UKVI, 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. It helps colleges, their staff and trustees/governors/proprietors to recognise and build on their strengths and to identify and remedy their weaknesses in relation to compliance.

The inspection also takes account of the college's financial performance over the last two years for new providers and since the last inspection for established providers. Based on this evidence an assessment is made of the college's financial sustainability over the next four-year period. This work is done by a qualified accountant on the basis of information provided by the college. Prospective students, their parents and agents should make their own enquiries into the financial viability of institutions before accepting a place.

Nexus Institute of Creative Arts received a full inspection in March 2016 and interim inspections in June 2017, June 2018 and June 2019. Each of these inspections resulted in published reports which are available on the SIS website: www.schoolinspectionsservice.co.uk

Characteristics of the college

Nexus Trust was founded as a registered charity by the present Chair of Trustees and her husband in 1998. From the beginning, the college offered a one year full-time course in some musical instruments and biblical studies and Christian leadership classes. Its development over time includes the addition of a wider range of musical courses as well as technical studies such as a live sound engineering course. The opportunity was also created for students to continue with Nexus for a second or third year. Since 2006, Nexus Trust has become a charitable company and in 2014 formally changed its name to Nexus Institute of Creative Arts (Nexus ICA). At present there are 87 students all of whom are over 18 years of age, of whom 5 are Tier 4 students. Students come from a wide variety of Christian denominations and traditions from around the world and spend part of their year attached to one of 13 local churches in Coventry. In September 2013 Nexus ICA began delivering a one-year Certificate of Higher Education in Popular Music and Worship. In September 2014 the portfolio expanded to include a two-year Diploma of Higher Education in Popular Music and Worship, and in September 2017 the college began to offer a three-year course enabling students to take a B.A. Honours degree in Popular Music and Worship. New students enrol on the one year Certificate or three-year degree course. The college is in partnership with the University of West London (UWL) which franchises and validates its courses. In September 2019 Nexus ICA will launch a postgraduate Masters course which has been approved by UWL and is now accepting enrolment.

The college has no student accommodation of its own but has a network of local landlords so that its students may be accommodated in shared student houses. Currently there are twenty-one students accommodated in this way, none of whom are under 18. This aspect was not inspected.

The college aims 'to develop musicians into godly individuals who can express their hearts to God and others through their instrument and the whole of their lives.'

SECTION A: Main Findings and Actions Required

Main findings

Nexus Institute for Creative Arts (Nexus ICA) fully meets all the standards required for registration as an approved sponsor for overseas students who need a Tier 4 visa to study in the United Kingdom. The college continues to offer a one year full-time course leading to a Certificate of Higher Education in Popular Music and Worship and a three year full-time course leading to a B.A. Honours degree in Popular Music and Worship. From September 2019, Nexus ICA will also offer a new postgraduate Masters course for which a number of students have already enrolled. Nexus ICA works in partnership with the University of West London which franchises and validates its courses. Nexus has recently received confirmation from the Office for Students (OfS) that as all of its courses are in a franchise arrangement with UWL, the college is not required to register separately with the OfS in order to maintain its Tier 4 licence.

The vast majority of students come from the United Kingdom or the European Union, but each year five or six students require a Tier 4 visa to study at Nexus. All students have reached the required level of competence in English and the entry requirements of their course, so that the courses provided by the college are at a suitable level for the students. The combination of Bible study, theology and practical aspects of worship, popular music-making and music production make these courses fully compatible with the Christian aims and ethos of the college and distinct from those offered by UWL and its other partners. Students receive accurate and up to date information about the college and their chosen course before enrolment via the lively college website, social media announcements and through open days. Current students are well-supported by an informative handbook. The courses are well-documented and underpinned by detailed schemes of work. The staff are well-qualified experts in their field, and many are practising musicians with current performance experience. Students reach high standards and make good progress particularly in acquiring practical skills and experience. They report that teaching is challenging, lively, confident and well-focused on the needs of the individual. Assessment is regular and robust, so that the students receive accurate and detailed feedback on their work and know how to improve it. A particularly strong feature of the college's work is the high quality of its pastoral care which is at the heart of its ethos and makes a very positive contribution to students' personal development and well-being and to the very high retention rates. Nonetheless, when a Tier 4 student does withdraw, as occurred this year, the college followed the required procedure and informed the Home Office in a timely manner.

The college is well-led and is managed efficiently. Its financial position is stable, weathering the national reduction in student numbers in 2018 by drawing on its reserves in a planned way. The senior leadership team has been restructured this year and one of the posts is devoted to fundraising and gaining sponsorship: this arrangement has been highly successful. The former Principal is now Chair of Trustees and a new Principal was appointed very recently. Staff recruitment procedures are rigorous. The college is accommodated in a former cinema building which has been adapted for educational use and has a suitable and attractive performance area. It also uses the facilities of a local church for theology lectures and tutorials. The college is well-equipped to support the courses offered. All students are issued with an iPad at the start of their course and one of the teaching spaces, the 'MacLab', has dedicated computers with the latest music software. The college has improved its arrangements for students' welfare, health and safety by appointing a health and safety officer who has introduced effective systems to ensure that all electrical and fire prevention equipment is tested regularly, staff are

SIS UKVI educational oversight interim inspection: Nexus Institute of Creative Arts, 28.06.19 4

trained appropriately in its use, drills are held and recorded appropriately, and routine maintenance is carried out promptly. Policy documents match those of the UWL and are detailed and informative. Admissions and attendance registers are maintained accurately. The appointment of an admissions officer this year has improved the enrolment and admissions process. The college has a complaints procedure which meets requirements, and no formal complaints were made this year.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance
The college meets all UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.

Actions Required

No action is required.

SECTION B: COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

Details of college

Name of college:	Nexus Institute of Creative Arts
Address of college:	Astoria House, 71 Albany Road, Coventry CV5 6JR
Telephone number:	02476 713209
Email address:	admin@nexus-ica.co.uk
Proprietor:	Nexus Institute of Creative Arts
Name of Principal:	Dave Ashworth
Licence number:	YWC67DPC8
Type of college:	Private Higher Education College

Details of student body

Age range	18+
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Number on roll:		Male	Female
	Full Time:	60	27
	Part Time:	0	0
	Below 18	0	0

Annual fees:	£6,165 + £300 registration fee
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Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim
Reporting Inspector:	Mrs Jane Cooper
Dates of inspection:	28 June 2019

This report has been prepared by the School Inspection Service (SIS), which provides independent professional inspection of colleges who offer education on offer to international students through Tier 4 of the points-based system for student visas. Further copies of the report are available from the college and on the SIS website: www.schoolinspectionservice.co.uk