



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

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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 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.

Colleges are inspected on a four year cycle, with a full inspection of two days by two inspectors every four years, and an interim inspection of one day by one inspector in each of the three intervening years.

Nexus Institute of Creative Arts received a full inspection in 2016 and an interim inspection in 2017. Both inspections resulted in published reports which are available on the SIS website: www.schoolinspectionsevice.co.uk.

Characteristics of the college

Nexus Trust was founded as a registered charity, by the present Director 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 76 students aged 18-37 years. 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 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. From September 2017 the college will offer a three-year course to allow existing Diploma students to take a B.A. Honours degree in Popular Music and Worship. New students will enrol on the one-year Certificate or three-year degree course. These courses are franchised and validated by the University of West London. A leadership training course offering an internal award will close in July 2017.

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

The college continues to offer courses which lead to qualifications meeting the definition of an approved qualification for UKVI purposes. The curriculum is well planned to meet the needs of students, including those coming from outside the UK, and is in line with the ethos of the college. Since the last inspection the college has adapted and extended its course provision. It still offers a one-year Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE) in Popular Music and Worship, and its two-year Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) in Popular Music and Worship has now been converted into a three-year B.A. Honours degree course to commence in September 2017. Both are full-time courses and are franchised and validated by the University of West London. A leadership training course, previously offered as internally awarded qualification after the original two-year diploma course, will no longer be available. The college continues to offer specialist instrumental tuition and classes in biblical study and Christian worship. The introduction of a degree level course has led to a significant increase in student recruitment for September 2017, with new students starting the course, a number of the current second year students enrolling for the third year and alumni of the Diploma course returning to complete their studies to degree level.

Teaching and learning continue to be well planned ensuring students make progress and develop their skills and knowledge. Tutors have secure subject expertise which is valued by the students. The college has successfully maintained and developed its use of electronic tablets and laptops linked to the college's own web-based suite of teaching, learning and assessment resources. This is a strength of the provision. Students are given regular written assessments of their assignments although some of them say that at times they would like assessment feedback to be more specific, and to reflect aspects of their work in, for example, music workshops. Students with specific learning needs are identified and supported by their tutors.

Through questionnaire responses and interviews, students showed positive attitudes in line with the ethos of the college. Students, including those with Tier 4 visas, say that the college community offers pastoral support which enables them to feel safe and secure. Staff awareness of the Prevent agenda and extremism has been raised by recent training, including a presentation by an expert from the local authority.

The college has suitable policies for health and safety, with the recent introduction of an outside specialist consultancy helping to secure college procedures in this area, including fire safety. Updating training of staff as fire marshals is scheduled for the end of June. Registers of admissions and attendance continue to be maintained accurately and the college is aware of the UKVI requirements with regard to the attendance of students with a Tier 4 visa. Attendance and course completion figures are both very high.

The college continues to make the required checks on staff suitability, including those made through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and those carried out on staff from overseas.

Scrutiny of the college's financial performance continues to give reasonable confidence in the college's financial sustainability, and based on the information provided by the college, students are not at risk of being unable to complete their course as a result of the college's financial failure. At the time of the previous inspection the college was moving towards a new management structure with a view to sustaining development and growth. This has been put in place, with a new Director of School and a new head

of academic studies now in post. A comprehensive business plan provides detailed projections for future development. The board of trustees has followed a recommendation in the last inspection report to undertake a systematic review of college policies.

Premises and accommodation meet the college's current needs. Managers are aware of the likely impact of higher student numbers from September and have identified potential additional accommodation in the locality.

Accurate and up-to-date information on the Nexus ICA website gives students and prospective students a clear view of the college's provision. Students confirm that routine communication between the college and its students is timely and ensures they are kept well informed. A complaints procedure is set out in the student handbook, although some students said that they were not aware of it. There have been no formal complaints since the last inspection.

Main findings

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive an interim inspection check in one year and a further full inspection in three years.

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:	Kate Silber
Licence number:	YWC67DPC8
Type of college:	Private Higher Education College

Details of student body

Age range	18-37
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Number on roll:		Male	Female
	Full Time:	51	25
	Part Time:	0	
	Below 18	0	0

Annual fees:	From £2,100 to £5,995
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Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Mr. Peter Jones
Dates of inspection:	14 th June 2017	

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