



## Educational oversight: report of the monitoring visit of Middlesex College of Law Ltd, March 2015

### Section 1: Outcome of the monitoring visit

1 From the evidence provided in the annual return and at the monitoring visit, the review team concludes that the Middlesex College of Law has made acceptable progress with continuing to monitor, review and enhance its higher education provision since the previous [Review for Educational Oversight](#) (REO) monitoring visit in March 2013.

### Section 2: Changes since the last QAA monitoring visit

2 The College has 24 students, 24 fewer than at the last monitoring visit in March 2013. These are made up of 16 Diploma in Law students and eight LLB students. The reduction is partly due to the suspension of the College's Tier 4 Sponsor Licence by UK Visas and Immigration in October 2014.

3 The College no longer has students on its International University Foundation Programme (IUPF).

### Section 3: Findings from the monitoring visit

4 The College is making acceptable progress in relation to the good practice identified in its last REO monitoring report. A number of actions, identified through staff meetings, have addressed the recommendation of the 2013 visit which required more explicit use of data analysis in its monitoring process. Student achievement data is now used in the evaluation of actions taken, introducing a more formal process which will enable it to effectively record progress and produce its own annual action plan which can subsequently be monitored by its Academic Board.

5 The College is aiming to improve the quality of its intake by ensuring that students admitted are capable of benefiting from the course, possess the required academic and language qualifications, and clearly understand what is expected of them. All students are now interviewed following the completion of a written test. Evaluation of 2014 results shows a marked improvement in student achievement in University examinations.

6 Student induction has been enhanced and now includes introductory sessions in each subject. Evaluation reveals that students are largely positive about their induction experiences, and students whom the monitoring team met valued the range of information provided including the Student Handbook.

7 The College has taken specific steps to rigorously track and monitor student progression, including the introduction of progress charts for each student, the requirement for each student to undergo a progression meeting with the Head of Law, and oversight of student progression by the Academic Development Committee. In parallel, the College's new Required Academic Standard (RAS) sets out its academic expectations alongside those related to attendance and commitment. Currently the two processes occur separately. Students commented positively on the support that is available to them.

8 The College has revised its approach to formative assessment in its efforts to improve student examination success. Some mock examinations have been re-scheduled, and early indications suggest this is helping students to perform better in summative University examinations.

9 Student engagement has been enhanced through meetings every other week between the College's Chief Executive and Student Liaison Officer, and between the Head of Administration and President of the Student Body. Students commented positively on the value of these meetings.

## **Section 4: Progress in working with the external reference points to meet UK expectations for higher education**

10 The College was subject to the University of London's Institution Periodic Review process in October 2013. This assessed the College against the Teaching Institutions Recognition Framework and Teaching Institutions Recognition Criteria. The outcomes were largely positive and the review panel recommended that the College continues as a Registered Centre. The requirement for a Special Needs Policy has been met.

11 The University Institution Periodic Review panel provided guidance to the College to enhance practice in a number of areas: campus access for disabled students is an ongoing matter with the landlord; library resources, including careers, are continually updated, staff appraisal is being updated, formative assessment has been enhanced, with results improved, and professional statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRB) guidance is under continuous review.

12 The College's Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) was updated in September 2013 following a recommendation of the March REO monitoring visit to map the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (Quality Code) to this framework. Further updates followed in September 2014. Mapping has been partially completed with specific reference to Part B Chapters 2, 3, 5 and 6. No reference to Parts A and C of the Quality Code are made. The College will wish to ensure that the entire Quality Code is considered and relevant reference made within its QAF.

## **Section 5: Background to the monitoring visit**

13 The monitoring visit serves as a short check on the provider's continuing management of academic standards and quality of provision. It focuses on progress since the previous review. In addition, it provides an opportunity for QAA to advise the provider of any matters that have the potential to be of particular interest in the next monitoring visit or review.

14 The monitoring visit was carried out by Dr John Butcher (Coordinator) and Mrs Amanda Greason (Reviewer) on 17 March 2015.

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