

Review for Educational Oversight: report of the monitoring visit of Redcliffe College, June 2013

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 Redcliffe College (the College) has made acceptable progress with implementing the action plan from the June 2012 [Review for Educational Oversight](#).

Section 2: Changes since the last QAA review

2 There have been no significant changes since the 2012 review. Student numbers have dropped from 56 to 43 (23 per cent) undergraduate students and from 79 to 74 (six per cent) postgraduate students in the past year. There have been no changes in the number of permanent, or part-time, remunerated teaching staff, which remains at 5.6 full-time equivalents. One faculty member has retired since the 2012 review, but has been replaced with a new appointment. Dr Kemp took over as Academic Dean in September 2012 from Dr Bulley following the latter's absence through illness.

Section 3: Findings from the monitoring visit

3 The College has built on the good practice in research-informed teaching identified in the 2012 review and students met by the team said that they particularly appreciate the opportunity to become involved in research projects.

4 Students report that, continuing the good practice identified in the 2012 review, there is college-wide use of the virtual learning environment (VLE). Information provided to students using the Course Handbook, VLE and the website is viewed favourably by them. All assessments are submitted and marked electronically. Students confirm that, typically, feedback was timely, but one exception was mentioned.

5 A Quality Manual is under development as recommended in the 2012 review, but is still very much a brief draft. Given staff illness, the deadline in the action plan of a complete manual being available by August will not be met, but staff are aware that the manual must be in place by the time of the Periodic Review and Revalidation by the University of Gloucestershire in December 2013, which is the new deadline.

6 Good practice is shared both formally and informally. Faculty meetings - at least seven a year - have a regular agenda item for the sharing of good practice. In addition, good practice is shared practically through informal discourse within the relatively small teaching team. Staff agree that the newly implemented peer observation scheme has been beneficial to staff and students in terms of improving the quality of teaching.

7 Since the 2012 review the College has put in place a disability policy. A work placement policy is being developed, but is not yet complete.

8 A document listing all staff teaching qualifications does not yet exist although the information has been sought. Once this list is available it will be used to identify gaps in skills or knowledge, and appropriate training put in place. The College has a robust system in

place both to support staff undertaking higher degrees and/or sabbaticals and to share the outcomes of these with other staff.

9 The College benefits from a strong working relationship with the University of Gloucestershire. The recent Periodic Institutional Reapproval event, which looked at the partnership between the two institutions, has recommended that the partnership be renewed.

10 There are major changes planned in the future with the integration of the Wycliffe Bible Translators' European Training Programme into Redcliffe College's provision. There are also planned staff reductions in response to falling student numbers. A redesigning of the entire Redcliffe offer is underway.

11 All other recommendations in the action plan have been addressed satisfactorily.

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

12 The College has not established an overarching senior academic committee with clearly defined terms of reference as recommended as advisable in the 2012 review. It does not consider an additional committee is necessary given the relatively small number of staff and students. There therefore remains a considerable overlap in the remit of several College committees as identified in the 2012 review and there is a risk that the integrity of the higher education provision could be compromised by the lack of a link between academics at the College and the governing body that is independent of the Executive.

13 The College uses the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (the Quality Code) at all levels and refers to the Quality Code when developing new procedures and practices. College staff are actively engaging with the Quality Code as part of their preparation for the upcoming Periodic Review and Revalidation (December 2013) of all higher education programmes validated by the University of Gloucestershire. Explicit use is being made of Quality Code language by staff, for example when explaining programme learning outcomes during student induction.

Section 5: Background to the monitoring visit

14 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.

15 The monitoring visit was carried out by Dr Alun Thomas, Coordinator, and Dr Hayley Randle, Reviewer, on 18 June 2013.