



Review for Educational Oversight: report of the monitoring visit of South London College UK, November 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 South London College UK (the College) has made acceptable progress with implementing the action plan from the November 2012 [Review for Educational Oversight](#).

Section 2: Changes since the last QAA review

2 The College has been restructured following a decline in higher education student numbers from 906 at the time of the 2012 review to 382 currently, resulting in changes to its staffing and committee structure and the range of programmes offered. Programme teams now report directly to the Academic Committee, which in turn reports to the Senior Management Team meeting. The Principal is now part-time, the post of Faculty Director has been made redundant, and the Managing Director oversees operational management. Senior academic staff report to an interim Quality Director and the Managing Director.

3 The College continues to offer Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and Association of Business Executives (ABE) programmes but no longer offers higher education programmes validated by the Australian Institute of Business; BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT; the Institute of Leadership & Management; City & Guilds and the Association of Business Practitioners. Students on these programmes were supported in completing their studies or offered places on alternative programmes.

4 Pearson has accredited the College to offer business programmes at level 4, 5 and 7, and 31 students enrolled to the level 7 programme in October 2013. The College also became a listed course provider for the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and expects to recruit to these programmes next year. It continues to be approved by Leeds Metropolitan University to run level 6 business programmes but has not yet recruited sufficient students to ensure a viable cohort.

Section 3: Findings from the monitoring visit

5 The College has built on the good practice in its review report. It has maintained the Quality Improvement Plan which refers to the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (the Quality Code). However, the College could be more consistent in taking account of emerging chapters of the Quality Code each time the plan is updated.

6 Support to student representatives continues to be effective and appreciated by students. Student representatives are nominated from each class and elected to an active student representative council. There is a new sabbatical post expected to be filled in November. The established annual programme of training events for student representatives has been augmented with specialist training to meet student requests, which students found very useful. The College intends to develop a student forum on its virtual learning environment when it updates its platform in 2014.

7 The College has extended its support to students by providing a Study Skills Guide made available prior to enrolment. Students confirm the usefulness of the information in this document, though the College has yet to formally evaluate it with its level 7 students.

8 Newsletters continue to be produced twice yearly. Students have made additional contributions, and welcome the opportunity to write articles for publication. The College also continues to provide effective support for extra-curricular activities.

9 In response to the advisable recommendation, students are now represented at the Programme Team Meetings, with attendees nominated by the student representative council. They also attend the Academic Committee. Students confirmed that they now engage with Programme Team Meetings, citing as an example their requests for changes to teaching materials for the ACCA programme which had been heeded.

10 The College has made variable progress with the desirable recommendations in the report,. It has been unable to provide students with access to external examiners' reports as those programmes which were subject to visits by external examiners no longer run. The residual programmes prepare students for external exams only. To compensate for the lack of input from external examiners, the College has sought to use exam board data to reflect on the quality of its provision, and deliberations on the available data were held at Programme Team meetings and the Academic Committee where student representatives were present. As the College is now delivering Pearson programmes, it will be in receipt of regular external verifier reports from 2014, which could be shared with students.

11 Feedback has been developed, with a tracker document to ensure all students receive formative feedback on their work. Clear feedback guidelines for staff are provided in the quality manual and students reported that the feedback is thorough, timely and helpful.

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

12 The College is aware of the Quality Code and makes reference to relevant sections in its Quality Improvement Plan. The Academic Committee also refers to the Quality Code in its deliberations.

13 National exam data from ACCA and ABE programmes are analysed and benchmarked against the data the College is able to gather on its performance to drive quality improvement. In April 2013, ACCA conferred a Gold Award on the College as an Approved Learning Partner.

14 The College continues to engage with Leeds Metropolitan University with a view to recruiting a viable cohort to its level 6 validated provision, and demonstrated an awareness of external reference points through the Pearson and CIMA accreditation process.

Section 5: Background to the monitoring visit

15 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.

16 The monitoring visit was carried out by Ms Ruth Stoker (Coordinator) and Ms Deborah Trayhurn (Reviewer) on 7 November 2013.