



Review for Educational Oversight: report of the monitoring visit of St Peter's College of London, September 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 the St Peter's College of London (the College) has made acceptable progress with implementing the action plan from the September 2012 [Review for Educational Oversight](#).

Section 2: Changes since the last QAA review

2 Following the UK Border Agency's revocation of its Tier 4 status in April 2013, the College has relocated its overseas students. It currently has 8 part-time students studying for a Higher National Diploma in Business. The College has undertaken a broad review of its educational portfolio, and, while it has been approved to offer a range of other programmes at this level, it has yet to commence doing so.

Section 3: Findings from the monitoring visit

3 The impact of revocation and the ensuing portfolio review has affected the emphasis the College has afforded the 2012 review report. It has, however, maintained its good practice in providing students with tutorial support, including constructive formative feedback; it has updated its Quality Assurance Manual and Academic Constitution; and the comprehensive College Handbook remains a useful source of information for staff and students.

4 The College has, however, yet to make optimal use of the elements of the action plan linked to academic standards and quality assurance. While brief and largely descriptive notes of action points appear in minutes, the College has not developed supplementary plans to operationalise the monitoring and evaluation of improvements. Hence the review team was unable to locate specific plans, which include responsibilities, monitoring and timelines, linked to the recommendations made in Standards Verifier reports. Accordingly, while the College analyses a range of relevant matters and identifies potential enhancement opportunities, the lack of emphasis it affords the ensuing plans and decisions restricts its capacity to ensure that they are effectively and consistently implemented.

5 The College has made progress in reviewing the teaching and learning observation scheme, and staff have received relevant training. Its monitoring of teaching and learning delivery is effective, and students now receive improved written feedback, which the College assures through internal and external verification reports.

6 The College has revised the scope and content of its Public Information Policy and procedures, such that they now include additional guidance, checklists and designated responsibilities, including clear requirements for ensuring that information is regularly monitored and updated. It has modified student surveys, which now include questions on the clarity and appropriateness of public information. The review team confirms that the student voice informs revisions and developments.

7 The College continues to develop the Student Zone (its virtual learning environment), and ensures that notes of lectures and support materials are current, timely and accurate. Its investment in library facilities continues, though the reduction in student numbers has necessarily limited the scope for larger scale improvements.

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

8 The College has made progress in incorporating the use of external reference points in the College Handbook, the Quality Manual and policies and procedures: it makes it clear where policies are reflective of national guidelines and legislation. Nevertheless, the College has yet to link all policies to the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (the Quality Code) or awarding body requirements, and referencing to subject benchmark statements is limited to documentation provided by awarding bodies and College handbooks and guides. The College has not comprehensively mapped its teaching and learning or assessment strategies against either the Quality Code or subject benchmark statements.

Section 5: Background to the monitoring visit

9 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.

10 The monitoring visit was carried out by Mrs M Hobart (Coordinator) and Mrs S Miller (Reviewer) on 9 September 2013.