

Organisation name	BSC Edinburgh
Inspection date	12 and 13 August 2025
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2028; there are no grounds for bringing this forward.

Changes to the summary statement

No changes need to be made to the summary statement, apart from adding the date of this inspection.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited British Study Centres Edinburgh in November 2024 and August 2025. The Accreditation Scheme assesses the standards of management, resources and premises, teaching, welfare, and safeguarding under 18s and accredits organisations which meet the overall standard in each area inspected (see www.britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation for details).

This small private language school offers courses in general English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) and for closed groups of under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the areas of strategic and quality management, staff management, student administration, learner management, and teaching.

The inspection report stated that the organisation met the standards of the Scheme.

Summary inspection findings

Management

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The management of the provision operates to the benefit of the students, and in accordance with the provider's clearly stated goals, well-defined values, and publicity. Staff benefit from clear procedures and extensive development opportunities. Student administration is very well managed. *Strategic and quality management, Staff management and Student administration* are areas of strength.

Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard. The premises provide students and staff with a safe, comfortable and professional environment for work and relaxation. A range of learning resources is available, appropriate to the age and needs of the students.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The academic staff team has a professional profile (qualifications, experience and continuing professional development) appropriate to the context. Teachers receive sufficient guidance to ensure that they support students very effectively in their learning. Courses are structured and managed to provide the maximum possible benefit to students. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme. *Learner management and Teaching* are areas of strength.

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard. The welfare and security of students is ensured in a practical and sensitive manner; accommodation is of a good standard and well managed. The leisure programme provides a mixture of appropriate activities.

Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. There are effective policies and procedures in place to safeguard students under the age of 18 within the organisation. Procedures are clear and robust and encompass accommodation and leisure activities.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

Sampling of documentation revealed an issue in relation to *Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance* which the provider has been asked to follow up.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	April 2005 (as EAC Edinburgh)
Last full inspection	November 2024
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	Exam preparation classes for overseas medical professionals
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	BSC London, BSC Manchester, BSC York, BSC Brighton, BSC Education Young Learners
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	BSC Education colleges in Malta and Thailand

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: August
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	32	32
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	8	8
Typical age range	18–25	18–25
Typical length of stay	3 weeks	3 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Saudi, Brazilian, Italian	Saudi, Brazilian, Italian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	4	4
Total number of managers including academic	1	1
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	1	1

Premises profile

Address of main site	26 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AL
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	26 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AL

Introduction

Background

This was a routine spot check for a newly accredited organisation with a focus on points to be addressed from the previous inspection.

Preparation

Prior to the visit, the inspector contacted the college manager based in Manchester to confirm predicted student and teacher numbers in July and August. The date of the visit was not disclosed.

Programme and persons present

The inspection was carried out by one inspector and lasted for half a day. The inspector arrived at 10am and left at 2pm. Meetings were held with the college manager (remotely) and the lead teacher (acting manager). Separate focus group meetings were held with the teachers, including the student experience facilitator and a group of students, including a group leader. Documents viewed included collated student feedback, minutes of meetings, the major emergency plan, accommodation and student records and lesson observation records. A second meeting lasting an hour was held remotely the following day with the global director of people and performance and the senior people and payroll adviser to look at staff files. A brief round-up was given to the college manager and the lead teacher/acting manager.

Findings

Management

There have been no significant changes in staffing at head office since the last inspection. Findings in other aspects of this area are reported in the Action taken on points to be addressed.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

Sampling of documentation revealed an issue in relation to *Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance* regarding implementation of the new Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG) introduced in Scotland which the provider has been asked to follow up.

Action taken on points to be addressed

M26 Some information on the homestay provision was missing and there was no information on a student residence which was being used.

Partially addressed: Information on homestay provision is adequate and information on student residences in use has been added to the website. However, publicity does not make it clear that homestay accommodation is currently arranged by an agency.

Conclusions

BSC Edinburgh has partially addressed the one point to be addressed from the last inspection.