

Organisation name	Oxford International, Edinburgh
Inspection date	1 October 2025
Current accreditation status	Accredited by extension
Reason for spot check	Signalled: first inspection of new extension

Recommendation

We recommend continuation of the extension of accreditation pending a full inspection of the provision within 12 months.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Oxford International Edinburgh in October 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 private language school offers courses in general English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) and for closed groups of under 18s (12+). The inspection report stated that the organisation met the standards of the Scheme.

Updated summary inspection findings

None

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	2009 as Inlingua Edinburgh
Last full inspection	2023 as Inlingua Edinburgh
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	Teacher training courses
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Oxford, Brighton and Greenwich schools and junior programmes.
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Schools in North America and Australia.

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: September
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	52	52
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	12	12
Typical age range	16–50	16–50
Typical length of stay	2–3 weeks	2–3 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Austrian	Austrian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	6	10
Total number of managers including academic	2	2
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	1	1

Premises profile

Address of main site	40 Shandwick Place, 3 rd floor, Edinburgh EH2 4RT
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	The Melting Pot Community Hub used for 4 days in summer for juniors.
Sites inspected	Main site

Introduction

Background

Oxford International Edinburgh (OIE) is one of the four UK-based schools in the English Language division of Oxford International Education Group (OIEG). The group, which was acquired by THI Investments in 2021, also offers university partnerships, pathways and online courses. The Edinburgh school provides general English and examination courses for adults and young learners (16+) and for closed groups of young learners (12 to 17) and adults throughout the year. All courses take place in the main school premises; some junior courses took place at a nearby community centre in the summer.

The school was previously accredited as Inlingua. In late 2023 it became International House Edinburgh before closing completely in November 2024. Oxford International opened the Edinburgh school in January 2025 and operations started at the end of March 2025 with many of the original staff from Inlingua/International House joining the team. Accreditation was granted by extension from the London Greenwich school in April 2025. This spot check was the first opportunity to inspect the school with staff and students present.

Preparation

Prior to the visit, the inspector contacted OIE to confirm key staff would be available during the date allocated for the inspection. The Accreditation Unit sent the inspector relevant documents. The inspector requested additional documents at the set-up meeting all of which were sent before the inspection. The inspector looked at the OIE website.

Programme and persons present

The inspector arrived at 9.40 and left at 14.45. She had meetings with the head of UK English language, the managing director of EFL UK, the school principal (SP) the director of studies (DoS) and separate meetings with a group of adult students, a group of junior students, a group of teachers and three group leaders. The inspector observed four classes. The SP conducted a full tour of the premises. Upon arrival, the inspector requested a range of documents, all of which were provided.

Findings

Findings are reported in the following section

Management

At the time of inspection, the SP had overall responsibility for the school, supported locally by a DoS and a student support officer/groups' coordinator. In addition, support is provided at a group-wide level by the managing director UK EL, the head of UK EL and the OIEG operations and admissions team at head office.

The provision meets the section standard. The management of the provision operates to the benefit of the students and staff. The structure of the organisation is well established, communication is good, and student administration is carried out efficiently and effectively.

Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard. The premises are in a good state of repair and provide staff and students with a bright, clean and comfortable place to work and study. All classrooms are suitable for the numbers of students allocated, and there is a wide range of teaching and learning resources available. Regular checks and maintenance of the premises are carried out, and evidence of fire drills was seen.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard. The profile of both the academic management team and the teachers is satisfactory; teachers receive very good support from the DoS. Programmes of learning are managed to the benefit of the students; course design is reviewed regularly and the teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme.

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard. There is generally a good provision for the pastoral care and safety of students. Students benefit from the services provided and suitable accommodation options. The leisure programme caters very much for the varied needs and interests of the students.

Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. There is appropriate provision for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 within the school, and on the leisure activities provided. There is a clear and comprehensive safeguarding policy, and staff are well trained to implement it.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

Conclusions

The management of the provision operates to the benefit of its students and provides continuity and stability. The building provides highly suitable premises and facilities for staff and students. Students in the focus group confirmed that they received a good level of care from all the staff and teachers spoke highly of the support they received.
