Spot check report

Organisation name	Oxford Scholars Programme
Inspection date	12 August 2026
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2029; 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 Oxford Scholars Programme in August 2025 and August 2026. 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 residential courses in academic English for adults aged 18 and under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the areas of strategic and quality management, academic staff profile, academic management, course design, care of students, leisure opportunities, and safeguarding under 18s.

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 very effectively to the benefit of the students and in accordance with the provider's clearly stated goals and values. The structure of the organisation is well established and clearly understood, communication is good and student administration is efficient and effective. *Strategic and quality management* is an area of strength.

Premises and resources
The provision meets the section standard. The premises provide students and staff with a comfortable, pleasant and professional environment for work. Learning resources are matched to the 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 which is highly appropriate to the context. Teachers receive excellent support, and courses are designed and managed to provide the maximum possible benefit to students. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme. *Academic staff profile*, *Academic management* and *Course design* are areas of strength.

Welfare and student services
The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The safety and welfare of students is a priority. Student services are well managed, including very well-planned, organised and safely delivered out-of-class activities. Accommodation is suitable, welcoming and well managed.
Care of students and *Leisure opportunities* are areas of strength.

Safeguarding under 18s
The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The safeguarding policy is supported by efficient reporting tools, and safeguarding training is very good. Supervision of students is very well thought through and executed and the accommodation is suitable. *Safeguarding under 18s* is an area of strength.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance
The items sampled were satisfactory.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	August 2025
Last full inspection	August 2025
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	Course in Law.
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Courses held in Oxford University colleges (St Hughes and Keeble): Medicine, Engineering, AI & Programming, Business and Finance, Engineering, and International Relations.

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: August
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	5	5
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	14	14
Typical age range	16−17	16−17
Typical length of stay	2 weeks	2 weeks
Predominant nationalities	American	American
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	1	1
Total number of managers including academic	3	3
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	1	1

Premises profile	
Address of main site	Linacre College, St Cross Road, Oxford OX1 3JA
Additional sites in use	St Hughes College, St Margaret's Road, Oxford OX2 6LE Keeble College, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PG
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Linacre College, St Cross Road, Oxford OX1 3JA

Introduction

Background

This was a routine spot check to follow up on a newly accredited provider. Oxford Scholars Programme's (OSP) first full inspection was in August 2025. The programme offers a two-week residential course to international students aged 14−18 in a range of subjects. Only the English and Communications course is currently accredited. 5 of the 121 students enrolled on the OSP were following the English strand. Students enrolled on this programme have their English classes separately but share other aspects of the programme with students following different strands. All courses in the programme are offered to international students, and there were a number of students for whom English was a second language on the other courses; in 2026, the students on the English course were all from the USA.

The English classes are held in Linacre College, where the students are also accommodated. Some of the shared workshops and guest presentations were taking place in two other Oxford University colleges.

Preparation

The spot check was carried out by one inspector, who had not been involved in the previous inspection. The inspector had an online meeting with the CEO to check if there were any dates which would not be suitable and when key staff would be present. The Accreditation Unit sent relevant documents and the inspector looked at the OSP website.

Programme and persons present

The inspector arrived at 09.45 and left at 13.30. Meetings were held with the CEO, the academic lead, the EFL lead, the academic administrator, the teacher and the students. The premises at Linacre College were inspected and lunch in the dining room was sampled. In advance, and during the visit, the inspector requested a range of documents, all of which were provided.

Findings

Management
The provision continues to be of the high standard described in the full report.

Premises and resources
Oxford Scholars have use of the same rooms and facilities in Linacre College as at the time of the full inspection. They are very suitable.

Teaching and learning
The teaching was not observed but there is evidence that the provision is managed to provide the maximum possible benefit to students. Continuity of provision is ensured as the members of academic staff are returners from the previous year. Students reported that they were enjoying and benefiting from their lessons.

Welfare and student services
The students are accommodated within Linacre College. Policies have been drawn up and appropriate procedures implemented to ensure the welfare of students at all times.

Safeguarding under 18s
At the time of this spot check all the students on the English course were under 18. There are suitable arrangements for the safeguarding of students during classes and activities, and in their accommodation.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance
The items sampled were satisfactory.

Action taken on points to be addressed

Points from the previous full inspection and/or subsequent spot checks or interim visits with comments (in bold) to indicate how far these have been addressed.

T15 There is no specific assessment of students' linguistic proficiencies.
Addressed: in addition to an interview, a commercially produced standardised test is used to assess students' language level.

Conclusions

Standards have been maintained in all areas of the provision and there are no outstanding points to be addressed.

Items requiring early action

None.