

Organisation name	Yorkshire College, Leeds
Inspection date	6 March 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

The need for improvement in the area of publicity can now be removed.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Yorkshire College, Leeds in January 2024 and March 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+).

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

Summary inspection findings**Management**

The provision meets the section standard. Overall, the management of the provision operates to the benefit of the students, and in accordance with the provider's clear and well communicated goals, values, and publicity.

Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard. The premises provide students and staff with a comfortable and professional environment for work and relaxation. A range of appropriate learning resources is available, and guidance on the use of these resources is provided for staff and students where needed.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard. The academic staff team has a professional profile appropriate to the context. Teachers generally receive sufficient day-to-day guidance to ensure that they support students effectively in their learning. However, academic management roles and support procedures need to be clarified. Overall, courses are structured and managed to provide the maximum possible benefit to students. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme.

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard. Security and welfare are well managed, and the staff team as a whole is very committed to the care of their students. Accommodation is suitable. The leisure programme is limited but well organised.

Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. Overall, systems to ensure the safety of under 18s are appropriate. The safeguarding training profile of the team is very good, and the supervision of students within lessons and activities is suitable.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	January 2024
Last full inspection	January 2024
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	N/a
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: <i>July</i>
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	20	65
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	16	16
Typical age range	20–30	20–30
Typical length of stay	3–6 months	10 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Saudi Arabian, Ukrainian	Saudi Arabian, Ukrainian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	5 (but 2 were absent)	6
Total number of managers including academic	4	4
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	3	3

Academic manager qualifications profile

Profile at inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of academic managers
TEFLQ qualification and at least three years' full-time relevant teaching experience	1
Academic managers without TEFLQ qualification or three years' relevant experience	1
Total	2
Comments	

The DDoS is not TEFLQ. Both academic managers were covering on the day of the spot check; they are not usually timetabled to teach.

Teacher qualifications profile

Profile in week of inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of teachers
TEFLQ qualification/profile	2
TEFLI qualification	2
ATEFL registered portfolio in progress	0
Non-ELT-related qualified teacher status only (for short courses for under 18s)	0
Holding specialist qualifications only (for ESP/CLIL)	0
Alternative professional profile	1
Total	5
Comments	

One teacher had no ELT qualification or QTS, but some relevant experience.

Premises profile

Address of main site	Stewart House, St Andrew's Court, Leeds LS3 1JY
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Main site

Introduction

Background

The school first enrolled students in January 2023. The students are generally based in Leeds, and the majority of one nationality. Student numbers and nationality have remained fairly stable but increased during the peak weeks when a programme which included afternoon activities was run. Accommodation, when needed, is arranged in a local university residence or in homestay, but there is currently very little demand for either of these options.

This was a routine spot check carried out 12 months after the first full inspection. The inspector had also been on the first inspection.

Preparation

The school was informed that a spot check would be carried out, but the exact date was not given. The inspector was sent a list of key staff, an updated action plan and self-evaluation before the check.

Programme and persons present

The spot check took the inspector half a day. Meetings were held with the CEO/director, the director of studies (DoS), the deputy director of studies (DDoS), and the school manager. The inspector also spoke to students and teachers and visited all the classes very briefly. Documentation was provided during the check as requested.

Findings

Management

The CEO/director remains in the role of managing the school overall. There have been several changes in key academic management staff since the last inspection 12 months ago, with three changes in the DoS position. The current DoS was appointed just one month ago, as was the DDoS. The DoS was previously academic coordinator and has been with the school since before the previous inspection. The DDoS has been with the school for a few months. A new marketing/finance position has been created.

Teaching and learning

Academic management is shared between the TEFLQ DoS and the non-TEFLQ DDoS. However, the role responsibilities, particularly regarding observations, for the current TEFLQ DoS and non-TEFLQ DDoS are not based on their qualifications. One teacher, who has relevant experience does not have an ELT qualification or relevant QTS, and there is no structured support policy in place for this teacher. The observation policy does not state when or how frequently new or continuing teachers will be observed. Not all teachers have been observed by a TEFLQ DoS.

Welfare and student services

The school currently has two homestays, one of which was being used by an adult student. The leisure programme remains limited because the majority of current students are based in Leeds and do not request this service.

Safeguarding under 18s

There was one student aged under 18 at the time of the spot check. He was living with his family in Leeds.

Action taken on points to be addressed

Points from the previous full inspection with comments (in bold) to indicate how far these have been addressed; where relevant, current criteria references are in brackets.

Management

M3 There is no formalised cover in place for the DoS role.

Addressed. The DDoS is now able to cover the DoS in respects not requiring TEFLQ.

M5 Lower-level students require assistance in order to complete feedback forms, and the description of actions taken in response to feedback is not complete.

Addressed. There are now questionnaires which are simple to complete, and help is offered for lower-level students if needed. Feedback is discussed in weekly meetings and records kept of actions taken. Relevant actions taken are displayed to students on posters.

M13 There are no written procedures for CPD relevant to different roles.

Addressed. A written procedure is now in place for all roles, along with a list of completed CPD activities.

M22 (M21) There are some exaggerated comments such as 'exceptional learning atmosphere', 'outstanding academic management', 'we have a diverse range of homestay and student accommodation providers in our network'.

Addressed. All exaggerated comments have been removed. The comments now reflect the provision accurately.

M23 (M22) The language used in publicity is often complex and inaccessible.

Addressed. The language is now accessible and clear.

M28 (M27) Teachers are described as 'experienced'. This is not an accurate description.

Addressed. Teachers are no longer described as 'experienced' and the description offered now reflects the teachers' profiles.

Premises and resources

P8 Some resources which were no longer appropriate or in use had not been removed from the stock.

Addressed. Outdated resources and resources no longer appropriate have been removed.

Teaching and learning

T8 (T6) Some aspects of continuous enrolment have not been adequately considered, and teachers are not given specific guidance about how to deal with it.

Addressed. All aspects of continuous enrolment have been considered, and teachers are given clear guidance on how to deal with it.

T11 Course structures for other courses, including IELTS, one-to-one and short courses, are not appropriately described.

Addressed. All courses now have detailed syllabi and are adequately described.

T15 (T11) Study and learning strategies are not included in all courses and there is no specific guidance given to teachers in how to incorporate this aspect into lessons.

Not addressed. Teaching and learning strategies are not always included in courses or made clear to teachers.

T21 (T16) A certificate given to students at the end of their course states that a certain level has been 'passed', which cannot be empirically validated.

Partially addressed. Although the certificate no longer states 'passed', the academic report still states a certain overall level reached by the end of the course which is not based on any clear criteria.

Welfare and student services

W6 (W5) Routes to either the college or accommodation are not given. No links to transport providers are included.

Addressed. Information and links are given to students.

W12 (W10) Accommodation confirmations are missing much of the required information.

Addressed. This criterion is now met, and all relevant information is included.

Conclusions

Almost all of the points to be addressed have been fully addressed.

Despite the various changes in the academic management team since the full inspection, there has always been a TEFLQ DoS and appropriate policies and procedures in place to ensure continuity. The current academic management team is very new, but both the DoS and DDoS have considerable and appropriate experience. Development of respective roles within the team is ongoing and as these become more established, policies and procedures can be reviewed and revised as needed.

The appointment of a new marketing officer will allow for a clearer focus on increasing and diversifying enrolments, particularly of international students. This will lead to the need for further expansion in student services such as accommodation and leisure programme. Appropriate policies and procedures are already in place for these services.
