



**INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT FOR
TOBIAS SCHOOL OF ART AND THERAPY
UKVI LICENCE No: 3MMY8EHA0**

Inspection relating to the educational oversight of private further education colleges on behalf of the Home Office's division of United Kingdom Visas and Immigration - UKVI

The overall inspection findings for this college

UKVI Standards for

courses and qualifications are	MET
teaching, learning and assessment are	MET
the cultural and moral development of students are	MET
welfare, health and safety are	MET
the effectiveness and suitability of staff are	MET
financial sustainability, leadership and governance are	MET
premises and accommodation are	MET
information and complaints are	MET

Compliance with UKVI Standards

The college meets all the UKVI Standards

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose and scope of the inspection

The School Inspection Service (SIS) is an approved educational oversight body authorised by the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) section of the Home Office to inspect privately funded further education colleges in England, with a Steiner, Montessori or Eurythmy basis or background, or with a clear religious purpose. Inspection by SIS is designed to assess the college's compliance with the SIS College Standards. The Standards cover the quality of education and welfare provided to all students, including those from overseas who are sponsored by the college for Tier 4 visas, and, where applicable, those under eighteen and vulnerable adults. On-site student accommodation, where provided, is assessed for compliance with the Standards but is not subject to a full boarding inspection. Inspection provides objective and reliable reports on the extent to which colleges meet the Standards. By placing reports in the public domain, the information they contain is available to students, the UKVI, and the wider community.

Inspection takes account of the context of each individual college, and of how it evaluates its own performance and demonstrates its success. It helps colleges, their staff and governors/proprietors to recognise and build on their strengths and to identify and remedy their weaknesses in relation to compliance.

The inspection also takes account of the college's financial performance over the last two years for new providers and since the last inspection for established providers. Based on this evidence an assessment is made of the college's financial sustainability over the next four-year period. This work is done by a qualified accountant on the basis of information provided by the college. Prospective students, their parents and agents should make their own enquiries into the financial viability of institutions before accepting a place.

Colleges are inspected on a four year cycle, with a full inspection of two days by two inspectors every four years, and an interim inspection of one day by one inspector in each of the three intervening years.

Tobias School of Art and Therapy received a full inspection in 2016 and an interim inspection in 2017. Both inspections resulted in published reports which are available on the SIS website: www.schoolinspectionsevice.co.uk.

Characteristics of the college

Tobias School of Art and Therapy was founded in 1982 and is situated in a semi-rural location close to East Grinstead. The school is a registered charity whose five trustees form the board of directors as the school is constituted as a limited company. The aim of the school is to train professionally competent transpersonal art counsellors. The pedagogical approach follows the developmental philosophy founded by Rudolf Steiner, known as anthroposophy. There are 64 students, 42 full-time and 22 part-time who attend the modular course. Students range in age from 25 to 64 years. They work towards accreditation in the City and Guilds Professional Recognition Awards (PRA) which is externally moderated by City and Guilds. A faculty team of teaching staff and senior managers report regularly to trustees.

SECTION A: Main Findings and Actions Required

Main findings

The school continues to meet the School Inspection Service Standards and UKVI requirements. The curriculum is planned in thorough detail and effectively delivers the requirements of the courses offered. It meets the needs of students and reflects the aims and ethos of the school. The City and Guilds qualification in Transpersonal Arts for Health and Wellbeing and Transpersonal Arts in Therapy Training continue to be offered to students either full-time or on a modular part-time basis. The school has collected data which shows that the high completion rate of courses at the previous full inspection is being maintained.

Staff are well qualified and teaching demonstrates their specialist knowledge and an in-depth understanding of anthroposophical methods that enables students to acquire a broad range of theory and skills in art therapy. The appointment of a medical doctor to regularly teach aspects of the courses has given greater continuity to their delivery. Students say that courses challenge them intellectually and stimulate personal reflection. They value the opportunities provided by placements to develop their skills in practical situations and feel supported by supervisors, school staff and fellow students. Students' work continues to be rigorously assessed through a variety of strategies which include dissertations and presentations of case studies. Students particularly appreciate the strong sense of companionship and level of trust between students and staff.

Students show regard for the law in England and behave responsibly. The course content includes a requirement to complete a unit on prejudice and diversity. Students demonstrate an ability to reflect in depth on their personal experiences and, through discussion, have an appreciation for the diverse backgrounds of their fellow students. Members of the senior management have undertaken training to raise awareness of the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and to identify signs of radicalisation.

All the necessary policies and procedures for welfare, health and safety have been updated since the previous full inspection and trustees have implemented a three year programme to review policies in a systematic way. The general manager has undertaken training to update requirements as the fire safety officer.

All the required checks are made on staff, including those made through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The school continues to ensure that students, and institutions where they have placements, carry out the same checks with regard to their suitability to work with children and vulnerable adults.

The buildings and grounds continue to be maintained to a suitable standard and are appropriate for the courses delivered. The premises have been adapted for students with special needs or disabilities and elements of the course timetable have been revised to ensure that all students have access to classroom and studios. The premises have been improved since the previous full inspection through the re-siting of the car park to enable more convenient access and the

re-decoration of the kitchen and toilet facilities.

Scrutiny of the college's recent financial performance, together with its plans and forecasts over the next four years, was undertaken before the inspection by a qualified accountant on behalf of SIS. There continues to be reasonable confidence in the school's financial sustainability. There has been a rising trend in the number of students over the last three years which the school attributes to greater use of social media advertising. Based on the information provided by the school, students are not at risk of being unable to complete their course as a result of the school's financial failure.

The school is well supported by trustees who work closely with the faculty team to review the quality of provision and identify further improvements. Two trustees have been appointed since the previous full inspection and there is now a broad range of educational, financial and marketing skills represented on the board of directors. Trustees have a clear grasp of the school's strengths and areas to improve. To develop their knowledge of the school further, trustees have agreed that a focus for the current year is to have a greater awareness of the students' work and academic outcomes.

Discussion with students and their responses to an inspection questionnaire show that they are overwhelmingly positive about the courses offered and the quality of provision. They confirm that courses meet their expectations and reflect the information they received prior to joining the school and that which is available on the school website. The student handbook is up to date and provides clear details of course requirements, expectations of the level of study and the conduct of students and staff. No complaints have been recorded since the previous full inspection.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive an interim inspection check in one year and a further full inspection in three years.

Actions Required

No action is required.

SECTION B: COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

Details of college

Name of college:	Tobias School of Art and Therapy
Address of college:	Coombe Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 4LZ
Telephone number:	01342 313655
Email address:	info@tobiasart.org
Proprietor:	Helen Scott
Name of Principal:	Gillian David
Licence number:	3MMY8EHA0
Type of college:	Private Further Education College

Details of student body

Age range	18 and over
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Number on roll:		Male	Female
	Full Time:	1	41
	Part Time:	1	21
	Below 18	0	0

Annual fees:	From £5,760 (FT) - £2,395 (PT)
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Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Andrew Rickett
Dates of inspection:	3 rd May 2017	

This report has been prepared by the School Inspection Service (SIS), which provides independent professional inspection of colleges who offer education on offer to international students through Tier 4 of the points-based system for student visas. Further copies of the report are available from the college and on the SIS website: www.schoolinspectionservice.co.uk