



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 trustees/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 College of Art and Therapy received a full inspection in February 2016 and interim inspections in May 2017, March 2018 and September 2019. Each of these 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. It is a registered charity, constituted as a limited company whose trustees form its board of directors. The School provides professional training for students to become transpersonal arts counsellors working with people in need of support in a wide variety of settings including education, the armed services, healthcare, care of the elderly and mental health. The pedagogical approach follows the developmental philosophy founded by Rudolf Steiner, known as anthroposophy. Students are invited to explore this approach in order to come to their own judgements about its validity and relevance. This is taught within a critical context including Psychodynamic and Humanistic theory and practice. All of the students are aged over 24 years and come from the United Kingdom, the European Community and countries all around the world. There are 46 students on roll of whom currently two require a Tier 4 visa. The School offers a full-time course in Transpersonal Arts for Health and Wellbeing at Level 5 and full-time course in Transpersonal Arts in Therapy at Levels 6 and 7 which can also be followed part-time on a modular basis. These courses are externally validated by City and Guilds. The School is situated on a spacious campus on the edge of East Grinstead, West Sussex.

SECTION A: Main Findings and Actions Required

Main findings

Tobias School of Art and Therapy continues to meet the SIS Standards and UKVI requirements for sponsoring students who need a Tier 4 visa to study in the United Kingdom. The college continues to offer a full-time course in Transpersonal Arts for Health and Wellbeing at Level 5; and a full-time course in Transpersonal Arts in Therapy at Levels 6 and 7 which can also be followed on a part-time modular basis. Both courses are externally validated by City and Guilds and meet their requirements in full. The Transpersonal Arts in Therapy course includes a substantial amount of practical work which is undertaken by the students in a wide variety of placements organised by the college which include but also reach beyond education, health and social care settings. The range and quality of the placements are a strength of the course. The planning and delivery of the courses in college are of high quality, characterized by teaching which is confident and stimulating. Students are very well prepared for their placements and given clear guidance on producing case studies. Regular assessment and clear feedback support the excellent progress students make in personal development and the acquisition of practical skills. The students report that they grow in confidence and self-awareness as they move through the course and attribute this to the excellent teaching and pastoral care they receive. They report that the course prepares them well to confidently offer help and support through art therapy to the vulnerable children and adults they encounter through their placements.

The college adheres fully to the requirements for sponsoring students with Tier 4 visas. These students are only admitted to full-time courses. Student attendance is checked and recorded appropriately and absences are followed up. The college is aware of its reporting requirements should students with Tier 4 visas fail to enrol, drop out or have a prolonged period of absence. Course completion rates are high. All non-native speakers have reached the required level of competency in English. Prospective students are given a substantial amount of clear information and guidance prior to application and throughout the joining process. The website, college policies and informative student handbooks support them well. Students report that the diverse multi-cultural nature of the student population adds considerably to the success of the course through the different perspectives students bring. All forms of prejudice and discrimination are actively challenged by staff and students. Staff have received training in the Prevent strategy.

The college is very well led and managed and is financially stable. The five-year plan demonstrates a clear vision for the college and makes an accurate evaluation of its strengths and areas for development. Policies are clear, helpful, reviewed regularly and kept up to date. They are implemented consistently and effectively and support the college ethos well. There are effective arrangements for health and safety, fire prevention, first aid and risk assessment, and staff receive appropriate training in these matters. The college has thorough procedures for the recruitment and vetting of staff. The college accommodation is

good: it is fit for purpose and maintained in good order. The learning environment is enhanced by colourful and well-maintained gardens which add to its tranquil and supportive atmosphere. Students receive all the information they require and know how to complain should they need to do so. There have been no formal complaints.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive a full inspection next year.

Actions Required

No action is required.

SECTION B: COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

Details of college

Name of college:	Tobias School of Art & Therapy
Address of college:	Coombe Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 4LZ
Telephone number:	01342 313655
Email address:	info@tobiasart.org
Proprietor:	Tobias Trust Ltd, Charity No. 1098710 Companies House No. 4766518
Name of Principal:	Gill David
Licence number:	3MMY8EHA0
Type of college:	Private Further Education College

Details of student body

Age range	24+
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Number on roll:		Male	Female
	Full Time:	0	33
	Part Time:	1	12
	Below 18	0	0

Annual fees:	£2,460 - £6,150 (full time course)
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Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim
Reporting Inspector:	Mrs Jane Cooper
Dates of inspection:	18 th June 2019

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