

Ealing Tertiary College
Reinspection of Leisure and Tourism: September 2000
Report from the Inspectorate
The Further Education Funding Council

THE FURTHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL

The Further Education Funding Council (FEFC) has a legal duty to make sure further education in England is properly assessed. The FEFC's inspectorate inspects and reports on each college of further education according to a four-year cycle. It also assesses and reports nationally on the curriculum, disseminates good practice and advises the FEFC's quality assessment committee.

REINSPECTION

The FEFC has agreed that colleges with provision judged by the inspectorate to be less than satisfactory or poor (grade 4 or 5) should be reinspected. In these circumstances, a college may have its funding agreement with the FEFC qualified to prevent it increasing the number of new students in an unsatisfactory curriculum area until the FEFC is satisfied that weaknesses have been addressed.

Satisfactory provision may also be reinspected if actions have been taken to improve quality and the college's existing inspection grade is the only factor which prevents it from meeting the criteria for FEFC accreditation.

Reinspections are carried out in accordance with the framework and guidelines described in Council Circulars 97/12, 97/13 and 97/22. Reinspections seek to validate the data and judgements provided by colleges in self-assessment reports and confirm that actions taken as a result of previous inspection have improved the quality of provision. They involve full-time inspectors and registered part-time inspectors who have knowledge of, and experience in, the work they inspect. The opinion of the FEFC's audit service contributes to inspectorate judgements about governance and management.

GRADE DESCRIPTORS

Assessments use grades on a five-point scale to summarise the balance between strengths and weaknesses. The descriptors for the grades are:

- *grade 1 - outstanding provision which has many strengths and few weaknesses*
- *grade 2 - good provision in which the strengths clearly outweigh the weaknesses*
- *grade 3 - satisfactory provision with strengths but also some weaknesses*
- *grade 4 - less than satisfactory provision in which weaknesses clearly outweigh the strengths*
- *grade 5 - poor provision which has few strengths and many weaknesses.*

Audit conclusions are expressed as good, adequate or weak.

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**Ealing Tertiary College
Greater London Region**

Reinspection of leisure and tourism: September 2000

Background

Ealing Tertiary College was inspected during February 1999 and the findings published in inspection report 49/99. Provision in leisure and tourism was graded 4.

The key strengths in the provision were: some good teaching; effective support for individual students in lessons; and good access to computing facilities. The main weaknesses were: achievement rates on all courses below national averages; inconsistent monitoring and recording of students' progress; few opportunities for students to relate theory to practice; ineffective course management; and lack of rigorous internal verification.

The provision was reinspected in September 2000. Eleven lessons and one tutorial were observed. Meetings were held with managers, staff and students. Student achievement and retention data were evaluated. Documentation and students' work were examined.

Assessment

The college has taken action to address the weaknesses identified in the inspection. This has resulted in improvements in most aspects. A staff development programme in language awareness has improved the teaching of technical language and concepts. Specialist teachers have been recently appointed and they have improved learning opportunities. Most courses have good schemes of work. The students work with good quality learning materials appropriate to their level of study. Assignment briefs contain clear instructions and specific assessment criteria. Assignments take into account the students' diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences. Teachers' written feedback on assignments is full and helps students to improve their performance. Since the inspection, the college has developed a model office providing students with the opportunity to access simulated activities such as computerised booking systems, as well as electronic mail and the Internet. This resource is used effectively to help students relate theory to practice. Trade journals are available to students in the specialist rooms to use with their assignments.

The management of leisure and tourism courses has improved since the last inspection. The courses are now situated on one site. Course teams meet regularly, although the records of meetings are inadequate. Key skills numeracy teaching had not been fully implemented at the time of the reinspection.

The pass rates on most courses have improved over the last two years. Achievements on all courses are at least in line with national averages for the year 2000. GNVQ foundation pass rates are above the national average. Retention rates on GNVQ foundation and intermediate courses for 2000 show a significant improvement and are in line with national averages. Targets for retention and achievement are set at course level. There is closer monitoring of students' progress, which is rigorously documented. There is an effective process for helping students to plan how they will improve their work. Progress against the plan is reviewed regularly. Regular internal verification is undertaken, although arrangements for this need to be formalised. A few staff need to update their industrial experience.

The college needs to improve: the recording of team meetings; the formal arrangements for internal verification; opportunities for staff to update their industrial experience; and arrangements for the timely provision of key skills support. There needs to be continued attention to improvements in teaching and learning.

Revised grade: leisure and tourism 3.