

**John Ruskin College**  
**Reinspection of leisure and tourism: September 1998**  
**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. 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.*

*Reinspections are carried out in accordance with the framework and guidelines described in Council Circulars 97/12, 97/13 and 97/22. Where the original inspection was carried out before September 1997, the reinspection is carried out in accordance with the framework and guidelines described in Council Circular 93/28. 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.*

*For reinspections carried out in accordance with the framework and guidelines described in Council Circular 93/28 the grade descriptors are:*

- *grade 1 - provision which has many strengths and very few weaknesses*
- *grade 2 - provision in which the strengths clearly outweigh the weaknesses*
- *grade 3 - provision with a balance of strengths and weaknesses*
- *grade 4 - provision in which the weaknesses clearly outweigh the strengths*
- *grade 5 - provision which has many weaknesses and very few strengths.*

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**John Ruskin College  
Greater London Region**

**Reinspection of leisure and tourism: September 1998**

**Background**

The college was inspected at the beginning of the autumn term in 1996 and the findings were recorded in inspection report 26/97. Provision for leisure and tourism, hotel and catering was awarded a grade 4.

The strengths of the provision were that: tutors worked closely together in teaching and assessment activities; students worked well in small groups; there was effective development of students' key skills, particularly in IT, within the context of vocational work; students' work was orderly and well presented; staff were appropriately qualified and experienced. These strengths were outweighed by weaknesses which included: poor retention on the GNVQ advanced leisure and tourism course; below national average achievements on the GNVQ intermediate leisure and tourism programme; very poor students' achievements on the GNVQ intermediate course in hospitality and catering; inadequate written feedback by teachers on students' work; limited specialist resources for hospitality and catering; few industrial links; poorly-utilised travel centre; and limited library bookstock.

Since the previous inspection, the college has discontinued the hospitality and catering courses. The leisure and tourism provision was reinspected by one inspector over three days in September 1998. The inspector observed seven lessons, examined students' written work, met with managers, teachers and students and scrutinised a wide range of documentation relating to the college and the courses. Under normal circumstances, the reinspection should have been carried out within one year of the original inspection. However, at the request of the college, the reinspection was delayed to allow sufficient time for measurable improvements in the provision to occur.

**Assessment**

The college has made progress in addressing some of the weaknesses identified in the original inspection. Most teaching is satisfactory or better. Achievements on the GNVQ intermediate course in leisure and tourism have improved, and in 1998 were above the national average for the sector. Retention rates on the GNVQ advanced course in leisure and tourism have improved significantly over the past two years. There is effective integration of key skills teaching, and teachers have developed interesting and relevant learning materials. Students' work is carefully organised and portfolios are well presented. There are well-equipped dedicated classrooms with attractive displays of students' work. Weaknesses still to be addressed include: some instances of poor planning by teachers; low retention rates on the GNVQ intermediate course; and below sector average pass rates on the GNVQ advanced course. There is continuing under utilisation of the college's travel agency for teaching and learning and inadequate monitoring of the activities students undertake during their weekly research days.

**Revised grade:** leisure and tourism 3.