

# Accreditation of private providers of education to international students

Information leaflet



Border and Immigration Agency

Points Based System

Tier 4 Sponsor Registration

# Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)

## Who we are

Ofsted is the official national body in England responsible for inspecting and regulating academic and vocational education to achieve excellence in the care and education of children, young people and adults.

Ofsted represents a wide range of experience in inspection, designed to make a difference to the educational, economic and social well-being of individuals. Each year Ofsted is responsible for inspecting many hundreds of state-funded schools, colleges and learning and skills providers throughout England.

## Why approval by Ofsted?

The Border and Immigration Agency is introducing a new Points Based System (PBS) for managing entry to the UK. Under the PBS, businesses and institutions which bring migrants to the UK to work, train or study will need to be registered on a new Sponsor Register. For the education sector, this means that only those institutions on the Sponsor Register will be able to bring international students from outside the European Union to the UK.

On behalf of the Border and Immigration Agency, Ofsted will carry out accreditation visits to those private businesses and institutions who wish to be accredited as part of their application to join the Sponsor Register.

Accreditation of your organisation by Ofsted is clear evidence of the quality of your provision, and will play a crucial part in deciding your organisation's eligibility for inclusion on the Sponsor Register. Further details of the PBS can be found at on the Border and Immigration Agency website:  
[www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk)

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## How we accredit sponsoring organisations

Accreditation by Ofsted is based on a similar process to the one used nationally by Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMIs) in inspections of state-funded providers.

Prior to the accreditation visit, you will be asked to complete a self-evaluation form which will provide essential background information about your organisation.

A small team of inspectors will then visit your organisation for a short period, normally two days, to consider the quality of education provided for international students. The team will also evaluate your organisation's ability to comply with the requirements of the Border and Immigration Agency. As the basis for inspection, inspectors use the Common Inspection Framework. This is the same framework that is used routinely by HMIs.

You will receive immediate verbal feedback from the accreditation team at the end of the visit, followed, normally within two weeks, by a written report. All accreditation reports will be published on Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## How much does it cost?

All fees are calculated on a cost recovery basis only and will be based on the number of inspectors and time required. Naturally this will vary depending on the size of your organisation and the number and range of programmes offered. Typically, costs range between £3,400 and £5,600.

## How long does Ofsted accreditation last?

Accreditation normally lasts for four years from the time you receive approval.



For further information and a full application pack, contact:

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