

Recognition Scheme for Educational Oversight: report of the monitoring visit of EUSA LLP, March 2022

The impact of COVID-19

1 As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the monitoring visit was conducted online and included meetings with senior, teaching and support staff, and students. The scope of the evidence considered, and the nature of the outcomes and operational milestones have remained the same but with some adjustments due to the online format. A risk assessment was carried out prior to the review to identify and mitigate any potential risks.

Outcome of the monitoring visit

2 From the evidence provided in the annual return and at the monitoring visit, the review team concludes that EUSA LLP (EUSA) is making acceptable progress in continuing to monitor, review and enhance its higher education provision since the [March 2021 Recognition Scheme for Educational Oversight annual monitoring report](#).

Changes since the last QAA monitoring visit

3 There is a 40% increase in students currently enrolled at the provider, from 2021's lower numbers due to COVID-19 restrictions. Student numbers are expected to increase in the summer term of 2022. The provider has one London Director, one Assistant Director, one Programme Manager, six Placement Managers and one Office Manager.

4 EUSA London delivered one academic course in 2021 that reflects the situation due to COVID-19. There have been no other significant changes to the provision since the desk-based monitoring visit of March 2021.

Findings from the monitoring visit

5 EUSA LLP is making acceptable progress in responding to the recommendation and good practice identified in the Recognition Scheme for Educational Oversight Review of 2020 and implementing its own action

7 In the 2021 monitoring visit, the team identified that the provider had devised an appropriate action plan to implement improvements against the advisable recommendation and feature of good practice identified in the March 2020 review, and had been taking appropriate steps to address these. Although further steps were needed to fully complete the action plan, satisfactory progress had been made at that time.

9 Several enhancement priorities have also been identified by the provider in the Annual Enhancement Plan, including Covid Policies, the Virtual Internship Programme and a Partner Feedback Loop. The Management Team meeting in August 2021 considered a Covid-related action plan which included drafts of 'return to work policy' and 'internship policy'. The Annual Enhancement plan was considered at the October 2021 meeting of the Academic Committee.

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Student data return

15 Due to the nature of the provision, which is made up of short programmes of study, analysis of student data does not allow meaningful conclusions to be drawn. Also, due to the pandemic, the number of students on programmes taught by EUSA LLP has been low.

Progress in working with the external reference points to meet UK expectations for higher education

16 EUSA LLP's main external reference point for academic standards continues to be working closely with its fully-accredited US university partners to meet the quality and inclusivity standards of those degree-awarding institutions.

17 The Advisory Committee serves as an external reference point for academic standards. Although this body did not meet in 2020 or 2021 because of the pandemic, meetings are planned for later in 2022. In the past, the Advisory Committee has typically met twice a year at major study abroad conferences.

18 The provider states that it utilises QAA's cyclical monitoring and evaluation process, underpinned by the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (Quality Code), to shape its own structures and goals, and that the Quality Code informs all of EUSA's processes. Staff at the virtual visit stated their intention to carry out a benchmarking of its provision against the Quality Code to ensure alignment.

19 The provider's Growth Tracker scheme was developed in alignment with key professional competencies as defined by the National Association of Colleges and Employers. Changes to student communication methods have been influenced by contemporary research to include a more visual approach.

20 Prior to the pandemic, EUSA staff attended international conferences as finances