

Annex 3: Glasgow International College

Introduction and background

Glasgow International College (GIC) was established in 2007. It is an embedded college within the KIC pathways framework, in a partnership with the University of Glasgow. Students achieving the agreed grades proceed directly to a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered by the University. In 2010-11, around 700 students were enrolled at GIC, with the majority following pre-master's programmes.

GIC offers the following pathway programmes and awards:

Programme	NQF Level
Diploma in Business	NQF 4
Foundation Certificate in Business	NQF 3
Foundation Certificate in Social Science	NQF 3
Foundation Certificate in Science	NQF 3
Foundation Certificate in Engineering	NQF 3
Pre-Master's for Business, Social Sciences and Law	NQF 6
Pre-Master's for Science and Engineering	NQF 6

Key

- the positive arrangements for student access to the University of Glasgow's learning facilities (paragraphs 20-22)
- the effective use of the KIC's virtual learning environment in enhancing the student learning experience (paragraph 22-23).

Recommendations

The review team makes the following recommendations in relation to this College:

The team considers that it is **advisable** for GIC to:

- review the design and content of the transcripts issued by KIC, so as to ensure that there is no confusion regarding the ultimate responsibility for the KIC award (paragraph 4).

The team considers that it is **desirable** for GIC to:

- encourage engagement by GIC with the enhancement work of the KIC Centre for Learning Innovation and Quality (CLIQ) (paragraph 18).

Detailed findings

How effectively do KIC and GIC fulfil responsibilities for the management of academic standards at this college?

Written agreement

1 The written agreement between partners is fit for purpose and is subject to regular review at joint University/College committee level. Processes exist for the review and updating of programme articulation lists.

Arrangements for approval, monitoring and periodic review

2 The KIC quality assurance framework allows flexibility at college level, which in the case of GIC has resulted in joint University/College structures that give confidence in the security of academic standards and the development, approval and monitoring of the embedded College's provision. The role of the Joint Strategic Management Board is significant here. Similarly, learning opportunities for students are well supported by College processes and through service level agreements (including access to libraries and laboratories) and other arrangements to facilities within the host University.

How effective is the management of student assessment?

Assessment of students

3 Using the flexibility allowed by KIC, GIC applies the former's framework for assessment in an effective manner. Staff work closely with colleagues at the University in the verification of assessments and to assure standards.

Certificates and transcripts

4 The award certificates are not issued by KIC. Transcripts are issued by GIC but there is a lack of clarity over the transcript's reference to an 'awarding body' and 'awarding institution' (GIC). The inclusion in the document's title heading of University of Glasgow adds

How effectively are external reference points used in the management and enhancement of learning opportunities?

10 SCQF is taken into account by subject teams when developing new programmes/modules, with national subject benchmark statements reflected in the articulation of GIC provision against University of Glasgow programmes.

How effectively do KIC and GIC assure themselves that the quality of teaching and learning is being maintained and enhanced?

11 The KIC framework has a range of processes for monitoring the quality of learning opportunities, including the annual review process which reports on progression and completion figures, and the use of external examiners to comment on the quality as well as the standard of student work.

How effectively is student feedback used to assure and enhance the quality of learning opportunities?

12 In accordance with KIC quality assurance procedures, student feedback is collected at a number of points during a student's programme, including induction, module and programme completion, the last contributing to annual programme reports with potential for programme enhancement. There was good evidence that matters raised in student feedback were addressed, and that student representatives had the opportunity to raise issues relating to the quality of learning.

How effectively do KIC and GIC assure themselves that students are supported effectively?

13 KIC's strong emphasis on effective student services and tutorial support for students is evident throughout GIC. Students were very positive in their comments on the accessibility and helpfulness of staff.

How effectively does GIC manage the recruitment and admission of students?

14 The recruitment and admission of students is managed centrally by KIC. GIC and the University of Glasgow also work closely together in this area, especially towards the diversification of student intake.

What are the arrangements for staff development to maintain and/or enhance the quality of learning opportunities?

15 GIC follows KIC's expectations for appropriate processes in support of the recruitment, induction, development and appraisal of staff. The quality of teaching in programmes is regularly reviewed on the basis of student feedback.

16 GIC's activities in support of its staff benefit from KIC's encouragement of secondments to other colleges and to CLIQ, and the support for attendance at conferences, and funded study for further qualifications.

17 Staff have access to staff development events and library facilities at the University. The input of the university-appointed subject moderators provides more informal opportunities to benefit GIC teaching staff.

18 Staff at GIC saw CLIQ primarily as monitoring quality assurance procedures and administering KIC's Learning and Teaching Innovation Fund, rather than as a source of innovative practice.

How effectively do KIC and GIC ensure that learning resources are accessible to students and sufficient to enable them to achieve the learning outcomes?

19 GIC regularly reviews the quality and availability of learning resources through the use of student feedback, which is included in the broader evaluation carried out through the Annual Programme Report. This is produced by the Programme Leader, supported by the Programme Committee. The oversight of GIC's provision, including learning resources, is made by the Joint Strategic Management Board.

20 In using the facilities of the University, GIC benefits from the systems for ensuring good management of learning opportunities that have been established by the University.

21 KIC's expectations for the provision of learning resources are met through a comprehensive set of service level agreements with the University, allowing student access

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