



Educational Oversight for Embedded Colleges: report of the monitoring visit of Kaplan International Colleges UK Ltd, April-May 2019

Outcome of the monitoring visit

1 From the evidence provided in the annual return and at the monitoring visit, the monitoring team concludes that Kaplan International Colleges UK Ltd is making commendable progress with continuing to monitor, review and enhance its higher education provision since the [April-May 2018 annual monitoring visit](#).

Changes since the last QAA monitoring visit

2 Kaplan International Colleges UK Ltd, trading as Kaplan International Pathways (Kaplan Pathways), is part of Kaplan Inc, a private provider of education. Kaplan Pathways was established in 2005 with the aim of developing a network of international colleges providing progression routes for international students wishing to enter UK higher education. Kaplan Pathways has eight international colleges which are embedded college arrangements with a partner university, and Kaplan International College London (KIC London) provides pathways offering progression to several universities. There is a further International Pathway college with the University of York, for which Kaplan Pathways is responsible for marketing and recruitment, and delivering student support and welfare provision.

3 In the 2019 annual monitoring round, visits took place to Kaplan Pathways Headquarters (Kaplan Pathways HQ), Glasgow International College (GIC), The University of Nottingham International College (TUNIC) and Kaplan International College London (KIC London). This report covers the outcome of the monitoring visit to the Kaplan Pathways HQ in London in April 2019, with associated separate reports covering the monitoring visits to KIC London, GIC and TUNIC in May 2019. Visits were not required to a further four Pathway colleges which were included in the annual return. A further three colleges operate in the UK but were not covered by this round of annual monitoring.

4 At the time of the annual monitoring return, the overall student number headcount for the seven colleges included, was 4252 - representing a small increase of 1.2% compared to student numbers in the comparable period in 2018 (4201). Percentage changes in student numbers vary across the colleges, with the most significant changes (increases of more than 20%) being reported for TUNIC and Glasgow.

5 There have been no changes to senior staff at Kaplan Pathways HQ since the 2018 annual monitoring visit. There have been recent changes at several Colleges including TUNIC (an increase in the number of permanent teaching staff and extension of premises), KIC London (extension of premises) and University of Brighton International College (a temporary change of College Director). A new college, the University of Essex International College (UEIC), opened in Autumn 2018.

Findings from the monitoring visit

6 The provider is making commendable progress with continuing to monitor, review and enhance its higher education provision. Identified actions are being taken forward and a number of further enhancements have been introduced (paragraphs 8-9). The academic standards and quality of learning opportunities of the provision are being maintained (paragraph 15-17). Information produced by the provider for its intended audiences, about the learning opportunities it offers, is fit-for-purpose, accessible and trustworthy (paragraph 11). The provider demonstrates effective engagement with relevant external reference points, including the Quality Code for Higher Education (Quality Code) (paragraph 19).

7 The most recent Higher Education Review (Embedded Colleges) of Kaplan Pathways HQ in June 2016 made two recommendations relating to governance arrangements at KIC London,

10 Recruitment, selection and admissions processes are managed by a central team and/or through Kaplan Partner Services in Hong Kong. In-country recruitment is undertaken by Kaplan Partner Services in Hong Kong through its management of overseas offices,

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covers due diligence, monitoring, training and termination. The ratio of in-country staff to agents (1:6), allows for effective support and monitoring. Agents can access resources,

qualifications' frameworks and Subject Benchmark Statements, and assessment processes are designed and operated to ensure that academic standards are maintained in line with external reference points. Ongoing action planning by Colleges is informed by, and explicitly mapped to, sections of the Quality Code. Recent developments include staff training on Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA) standards, which are being introduced to guide and inform programme delivery.

Background to the monitoring visit

20 and its embedded colleges' continuing management of academic standards and quality of provision. It focuses on progress since the previous review. In addition, it provides an opportunity for QAA to advise the provider and its embedded colleges of any matters that have the potential to be of particular interest in the next monitoring visit or review.

21 The monitoring visit was held on 10 May 2019. The visit was led by QAA's Monitoring and Improvement Team (MIT) and was supported by QAA's Quality Assurance Team (QAT).