

Recognition Scheme for Educational Oversight: report of the monitoring visit of Washington International Study Council, February 2023

Outcome of the monitoring visit

1 From the evidence provided in the annual return and at the monitoring visit, the review team concludes that Washington International Study Council (WISC) is making acceptable progress since the February 2022 [Desk-based review](#).

Changes since the last monitoring report

2 Washington International Study Council is a short-term study abroad provider. Students studying at home universities in the USA attend for either one or two terms at one of the University of Oxford colleges with which it has an arrangement. These are Oriel, Trinity, Magdalene and New College. Credits gained in study at WISC can contribute to overall degree grades at the home university.

3

comprehensive, and the Action Plan for 2022-23 confirms that the reviews initially planned for May 2022 will now be completed in April 2023 following the appointment of a member of staff with specific responsibility for analysis of student evaluation. In 2022, to broaden options for direct feedback, senior managers decided to include student representatives in Academic Board meetings and inaugurate Student-Staff Liaison Committee sessions. To assist in developing a more systemised approach to data collection and usage, the external consultant originally hired to undertake the mapping exercise on the UK Quality Code in 2021 has now agreed to assist the Senior Team in embedding the recommendation.

7 The institution demonstrates a proactive approach in responding positively to student comments. For example, to address student complaints that the Bodleian Library was intimidating, WISC has introduced a separate orientation session on use of the library. To reduce concerns raised by some students about the roles and responsibilities of primary and secondary tutors, the contract for tutors has been revised to clarify responsibilities. In response to comments made by students wishing to have more interaction with students in their designated colleges and the University of Oxford in general, senior managers are currently exploring possibilities for students to live in-college, rather than in third-party accommodation.

8 The second recommendation advised WISC to formalise the terms of reference for the Academic Board and to ensure that records provide sufficient confirmation of actions planned and reviewed. The recommendation relating to structuring the Board has been fully met. The terms of reference, membership and frequency of meetings were agreed in

compulsory attendance policy ensures that students meet regularly with their designated tutors and that results are recorded by academic team members. At designated points in the

16 The monitoring visit was carried out by Dr Tommie Anderson-Jaquest, Reviewer, and Millard Parkinson, QAA Officer, on 14 February 2023.

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