

## **ACCREDITATION VISIT**

### **MAIN FINDINGS and RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Name of Provider:** ICMP (UK) Ltd, Institute of Contemporary Music Performance

**Date of visit:** 12-13 March 2009

**Number of students enrolled on date of visit:**

Diploma: 58

Higher Diploma: 141

Degree: 127

#### **The provision in context**

The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance (ICMP) has been established for approximately 25 years. ICMP moved to their current location in Kilburn, greater London in 2006. ICMP provides specialist music education to students from the UK and internationally. The majority of international students are currently recruited to the Degree or Higher Diploma programmes. The provision specialises in guitar, bass, drum and vocal training, although many aspects of music industry relevant topics are provided. All the tuition takes place at the providers' premises. A range of very well equipped specialist music accommodation and resources are provided for teaching and learning.

The "Degree", a three year first degree level BMus programme, is offered through a validation agreement with the University of East London (UEL). The "Higher Diploma" level 3 course is currently validated by the Open College Network (London) and is offered as a full time programme over 30 weeks. The "Diploma" course is provided through a franchise arrangement with the College of North West London (CNWL) and students on this programme attend for 40 weeks. The qualification offered to students on the "Diploma" course is the level 3 BTEC National Certificate in Popular Music. Most students successfully complete their programmes. Over 50 teachers, all of which are part time, provide the tuition. In addition, ICMP employs programme leaders and assistant programme leaders on part time contracts to manage the programmes. A range of administrative staff and senior managers support the provision.

#### **Overall judgement**

Provision is satisfactory and can be recommended for accreditation for a UKBA Sponsors Licence in accordance with UKBA guidance and the Tier 4 points based system (PBS). Continued approval is subject to satisfactory external validation of the Higher Diploma course as a national qualification at level 3, within twelve months of the date of this letter.

#### **Feedback**

This feedback contains the findings from the accreditation visit brought together under the three main aspects of the Common Inspection Framework. The findings also focus on the five key questions of the Common Inspection Framework and the requirements of the student entry

Points Based System (PBS) operated by United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) for private education providers.

### **Achievement and standards**

Success rates on the National Certificate in Popular Music during 2007 – 2008 were good at 74%. Most students on the provider's Higher Diploma in popular music successfully achieve the planned qualification. Students on the provider's Degree programme are in their second year of study and, it is too early to judge the overall success rates, currently students are making good progress. All students develop high standards of performance and technical skills. Students take a highly professional approach to their studies which enable them to make good progress in acquiring a broad range of industry-related skills and knowledge. Students demonstrate good attention to safe working practices. Some students progress from ICMP to enjoy considerable success in their chosen careers in the music industry, raising the aspirations of their peers. Student attendance and punctuality are generally good.

### **Quality of education and training**

All students' contact hours exceed UKBA requirements. Students are highly enthusiastic about the progress they are making and the quality of training. They are inspired and motivated by teachers' excellent specialist subject knowledge and instrumental expertise. Students have good access to an outstanding range of high quality and well managed specialist resources and accommodation for lessons and private rehearsal. Most tutors are qualified teachers or working towards a recognised teacher training qualification. Teachers and students make good use of the high quality course handbooks in lessons to support learning. Students demonstrate good stylistic awareness in their performance work and study a range of musical forms and genres. Students and teachers from diverse cultural backgrounds enjoy respectful working relationships. Students work and practice hard, undertaking regular practical assessments which are effective in monitoring progress. In a minority of lessons, too few opportunities for students to consolidate or record their learning against planned learning outcomes are provided. In some lessons, students are insufficiently challenged, encouraged to participate or think for themselves.

The curriculum is very well-designed to meet students' aspirations and the requirements of the popular music industry. Structured and flexible progression and subject pathways provide good opportunities for students to develop their practical and theoretical skills and knowledge. Students benefit from the extensive links with high profile music industry companies and professionals, and an outstanding range of master classes, live performance opportunities and auditions.

Course audition and assessment processes are effective in ensuring students are placed on the correct programme of study. Student progress is monitored by programme or module leaders, who provide effective pastoral support and guidance. Some students receive additional learning support to help with assignment work.

## **Leadership and management**

Leadership and management are very effective. Clear strategic priorities are set and well managed. The leadership team has a clear vision and a comprehensive strategy to achieve this through strong business planning. ICMP has implemented a wide range of management functions which very effectively focus on the needs of students. Effective actions include good attention to health and safety, staff appraisal and development and the provision of high quality resources to support teaching and learning. ICMP has been very successful in establishing valuable links with the music industry which benefit students' progress and achievement. ICMP has recognised the need to review the qualification attached to the Higher Diploma course and has plans in place to deal with this.

Effective processes are in place to ensure that attendance is monitored, accurate reports are available supported by clear absence notification processes. Student records are comprehensive and details of progress and attendance are regularly reviewed. Comprehensive tracking is in place to record student activity from initial application to successful completion. Measures to inform UKBA of student non-arrival or failing attendance are sound.

ICMP's approach to equality and diversity is developing. The organisation has recognised that it needs to further improve its detailed understanding of quality and diversity matters. Relevant policies and procedures are in place and the organisation has begun to provide training to staff, which includes safeguarding matters and dealing with vulnerable adults. Appropriate CRB checks are made on teaching staff and these are regularly reviewed and updated. Access to the premises for students with mobility difficulties are limited, ICMP has recognised the need to deal with this.

Quality assurance arrangements are effective, however some of the processes are relatively new and not yet fully developed. ICMP has plans in place to extend the range of quality assurance processes, however insufficient emphasis is currently placed on the continuous improvement of the quality of learning. ICMP responds effectively to the quality assurance requirements of partner organisations, however some of the quality processes within the organisation do not yet fully encompass these requirements, such as those referred to in the handbook provided to students.