

ACCREDITATION VISIT: MAIN FINDINGS

Name of Provider: FTTL
Date of visit: 2nd and 3rd September 2008

Overall judgement

Provision is satisfactory and is ready to be approved for accreditation subject to satisfactory external validation of qualifications within twelve months.

Feedback

This feedback contains the findings from the accreditation visit brought together under the three main headings of the Common Inspection Framework. The feedback focuses on the five key questions of the Common Inspection Framework and the requirements of BIA for private education providers.

Achievement and standards

A high percentage of students achieve successful outcomes in terms of the objectives of the programme. 100% of those students who began the programme in 2006 completed the programme satisfactorily and 73% progressed to related full-time employment.

Students progress well, broaden their underpinning knowledge appropriate to their activities within the church and to their future roles. At present, the programme does not lead to externally validated awards.

Quality of education and training

Full-time courses comprehensively exceed the minimum attendance requirement. Tutors are generally well experienced and demonstrate a lively interactive approach, which engages students well in learning. The level of student interaction is high and peer support is strong. Resources are used effectively to support learning and develop student understanding. Practical role-play activities are used to help students apply their knowledge effectively in real life situations. There are some missed opportunities to provide individual feedback to students and to allow all students to participate fully in role play and other wider learning activities.

The programme is well designed to meet the personal and intellectual needs of students. It provides carefully structured opportunities to improve students' appreciation of the wider context in which they will be engaged, and builds progressively on their prior experience and knowledge. Students agree clear goals each term for their future personal development; these are not always shared or monitored sufficiently.

Students receive particularly strong pastoral support. This includes individual mentoring by experienced students and teachers from the time students apply for the programme, as well as good initial orientation for students to the programme and to life in the UK. Supervised student accommodation is provided.

Leadership and management

Leaders and managers have a very clear strategy and purpose, and provide strong direction. The programme is well managed with frequent reviews of the quality of provision informed by student and sponsor feedback. FTTL has clear policies, procedures and guidance in place, which include individual student agreements, attendance requirements and codes of conduct and dress. Management information systems are used very effectively to monitor students' attendance and progress very closely. An effective system exists to inform UKBA routinely of student attendance and withdrawals. FTTL has recently introduced a process of teacher observation and professional development, which is not yet fully embedded. FTTL is aware that there are insufficient strategies in place to support the development of students' language skills. FTTL is also aware that formal safeguarding arrangements are not yet in place.