

SCHOOL INSPECTION SERVICE

Independent professional inspection of colleges with a Montessori, Steiner or Eurythmy basis

INSPECTION REPORT

INSPECTION RELATING TO THE EDUCATIONAL OVERSIGHT OF PRIVATE FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES WITH A STEINER, MONTESSORI OR EURYTHMY BASIS OR BACKGROUND

Name of college	Modern Montessori International
Licence number	V0VK0X4A4
Principal/Head of college	Marianne Bourke Bob Durgude (Academic Director)
Proprietor	Modern Montessori International
Address of college	46 Leslie Grove Croydon CR0 6TJ
Telephone number	0208 686 2727
Email address	modernmontessori.intl@btinternet.com
Fax number	0208 688 4257
Date of inspection	11 October 2013

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Section A: Introduction and summary of findings.

COLLEGE DETAILS

Name of college: Modern Montessori International

Address of college: 46 Leslie Grove
Croydon
CR0 6TJ

Telephone number: 0208 686 2727

Fax number: 0208 688 4257

Email address: modernmontessori.intl@btinternet.com

Proprietor: Modern Montessori International

Name of Principal of College: Marianne Bourke

Licence number: V0VK0X4A4

Type of college: Montessori teacher training college

Age range of student body: 21-70

Gender of students: Male and female

Total number on roll: (Full-time) Male: 3 Female: 68(including 2
visa students)
(Part-time) Male: 0 Female: 0

Students below 18: Male: 0 Female: 0

Annual fees: Various

Type of inspection: Annual follow-up visit for Educational oversight

Reporting Inspector: Ted Cohn

Dates of inspection: 11 October 2013

SECTION A: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COLLEGE AND SUMMARY EVALUATION

Purpose and scope of the inspection

Inspection by the SIS is designed to strengthen the quality of education on offer to international students through Tier 4 of the points-based system for student visas. Inspection provides objective and reliable reports on the quality of colleges, and by placing reports in the public domain, makes this information available to students, the Home Office and the wider community. Inspection takes account of the context of each individual college, and of how it evaluates its own performance and demonstrates its success. Reports help colleges, their staff and governors/proprietors to recognise and build on their strengths and to identify and remedy their weaknesses. Reports also address the issues relating to the safeguarding, welfare, health and safety of students including, where applicable, those under eighteen and vulnerable adults.

Characteristics of the college

Modern Montessori International is a small Montessori teacher training college with an onsite nursery. Incorporated as a private limited company in the UK, the college houses the global administrative centre for Modern Montessori International Ltd, based in Singapore. An international advisory board and examination board oversee and provide independent moderation of teaching and examinations. Frequent contact is maintained with the overseas directors through emails and international Montessori conferences. The college aims to provide a good grounding in Montessori philosophy and practice and enable students to apply Montessori principles in modern teaching environments. It offers two courses, a Diploma in the Montessori Method of Education and an International Diploma in the Montessori Method of Education (both for teaching children from two and a half to six years old). The International Diploma includes assessed teaching practice and is recognized by the Department for Education as a Level 4 course. Most students, who are based in other countries, take the International Diploma as a distance learning course, but a small group takes the course at the college, including those granted Home Office visas.

The college is situated in spacious premises in East Croydon. The onsite nursery can accommodate 73 children (up to 37 of whom can be under 3) and has a secure garden area. The nursery was last inspected by Ofsted in October 2010. The last accreditation visit by British Accreditation Council (BAC) took place in March 2013 and judged that the college provision met all the requisite standards in full.

The college manager and her office manager deal with daily matters relating to student administration, welfare, teaching, examinations and site management. Staff details and contracts are securely held on file.

What the college does well:

The organisation and management of the courses continue to be efficient and effective, including ensuring that all the necessary checks and requirements for international students to study in the United Kingdom are carried out rigorously. Teaching and assessment maintain the high quality identified at the time of the last inspection. The course is rigorous and students find it demanding, but appreciate the judicious combination of theory and practice, which gives them a thorough grounding in Montessori philosophy and its application in the teaching of and learning by young children. The teaching team work well together and students appreciate their support and guidance.

The full inspection concluded that the college should improve in the following area:

- Review its prospectus to ensure that all information provided is entirely relevant in all respects to its current practice.

This recommendation has been fully addressed.

A follow-up visit was made to the college on 11 October 2013 by Ted Cohn of SIS. The principal, office manager and students were interviewed. Documentation relating to communication with UK BA and the Home Office was scrutinised. A copy of the E-prospectus sent to prospective students, together with course documentation, students' work and assessment of this work were also scrutinised. The recommendation from the last inspection had been addressed. The number of students has also increased, mainly those taking courses through distance learning, but the group at the college has also increased in size.

This report has been prepared by the School Inspection Service (SIS), which provides independent professional inspection of all colleges who offer education on offer to international students through Tier 4 of the points-based system for student visas. Further copies of the report are available from the college and on the SIS website: www.schoolinspectionsservice.co.uk

