

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	Maria Montessori Institute
Licence number	QFE97RAR6
Principals	Ms Lynne Lawrence, Director of Training and Schools Ms Louise Livingston, Director of Training of Full-time Courses Ms Cheryl Ferreira, Director of Training of Part-time Courses
Proprietor	Maria Montessori Training Organisation
Address of college	26 Lyndhurst Gardens, Hampstead, London, NW3 5NW (Administration) 126-134 Baker Street, London, W1U 6SH (Teaching)
Telephone numbers	0207 435 3646
Email address	info@mariamontessori.org
Fees charged	Various
Date of college's last inspection, and by whom	23-24 September 2012 School Inspection Service
Date of inspection	25 November 2013

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Section A: Introduction and summary of findings

COLLEGE DETAILS

Name of college:	Maria Montessori Institute
Address of college:	126-134 Baker Street London W1U 6SH
Telephone number:	0207 435 3646
Email address:	info@mariamontessori.org
Proprietor:	Maria Montessori Training Organisation
Name of Principal	Ms Lynne Lawrence
Name of Chair of Trustees:	Mr Richard Partridge
Licence number:	QFE97RAR6
Type of college:	Private Adult Education College
Age range of student body:	18+
Gender of students:	Male and female
Total number on roll:	(Full-time) Male: 3 Female: 22
	(Part-time) Male: 5 Female: 66
Students below 18:	Male: 0 Female: 0
Annual fees:	Various
Type of inspection:	Annual follow-up visit for Educational oversight
Reporting Inspector:	Mr Mike Thirkell
Date of inspection:	25 November 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 UK Border Agency 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 and 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. This inspection was an interim visit in order to monitor progress.

Characteristics of the college:

The Maria Montessori Institute (MMI) is situated in the West End of London. It offers a number of courses awarded by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) which has its head office in Amsterdam. The principal course for the purpose of this inspection and Tier 4, is the course in Montessori education of children aged three to six years in affiliation with AMI. The course is currently being offered on a one or two year basis according to the individual students' needs. Four students taking the AMI course in Montessori education of children aged three to six years are currently taking the course over a two year period to meet their individual needs. The Institute also offers a part-time diploma course in the education of children aged from six to twelve years, an AMI Montessori Assistants to Infancy course, an AMI Montessori Assistants Certificate, an internally awarded Post-Diploma Observation Course, and works in collaboration with AMI to offer the AMI Trainer of Trainers programme. The college has provision located at five different sites which offer opportunities for teaching practice. The current student body on the Tier 4 course are from within the EU, and also from outside the EU, coming from Kenya, Mexico, Tanzania, Indonesia, India and Singapore.

The Institute is still situated on two campuses, though the location for teaching has changed since the previous inspection. It retains its Tier 4 and highly trusted status. The main administrative centre continues to be in Hampstead, North London with the main training centre now in refurbished accommodation in West London. The move to West London is recent. Refurbishment of the premises has been to a high standard and provides teaching spaces that are appropriate to training students using Montessori methods. There have been no changes to the management structure of the college since the last inspection. There are currently eight Tier 4 students attending the main course.

Summary evaluation of the college:

The college continues to maintain the high standards of educational provision for its students described by the last full inspection and report. Students say that they enjoy the course and that they find it both interesting and challenging. This was confirmed by both the demonstration and practice sessions attended during the inspection. Students confirm that they feel that they are making progress and that

the college provides them with good support at personal, academic and practical levels. They emphasise the frequency of discussions and feedback provided by their tutors; in particular they say that assessment and guidance provided is well matched to their previous experiences and personal needs, including experience of higher education. This confirms the information contained in the college's detailed and thoughtfully maintained assessment records. Teaching is enhanced by the high quality of accommodation provided and resources available to support training.

The college shows good knowledge of the procedures required by the Home Office and maintenance of Tier 4 status. They understand the use of CAS. Courses are reviewed each year to ensure that the needs of each intake of students are met through the methodology used to convey the Montessori course content. The college keeps thorough details of its courses and assessment procedures. The admissions register provides a helpful and ready check on all aspects of student information, including in relation to nationality, passport and visas, as well as contact details. Attendance is regularly checked and suitable records maintained. Students understand clearly that ninety per cent attendance is an essential prerequisite for sitting for the diploma examinations at the end of the course. An appropriate range of information is provided to prospective students prior to enrolment, including details of requirements relating to competency in English.

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