



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM INSPECTION (College)

INSTITUTION: Newbold College

ADDRESS: St Marks Road
Binfield
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG42 4AN

HEAD OF INSTITUTION: Dr John Baildam

Accreditation status: Accredited

Date of inspection: 12 August 2015

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE: 10th September 2015

PART A - INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the institution

Newbold College of Higher Education (the College) is the senior academic institution of the Trans-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the only HE institution within a grouping covering some 40 countries, with its headquarters in St Albans. It is part of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist education network, which has some 1.5 million students. The College is affiliated with two regionally accredited Adventist Universities in the US: Andrews University in Michigan and Washington Adventist University in Maryland. However, the majority of its undergraduate Theology students and all of its postgraduates are enrolled for degrees awarded by Theologische Hochschule Friedensau, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany.

The College has its origins in a ministerial training institute established in London in 1901 which eventually moved to larger premises in the Watford area. In 1931 it moved to Newbold Revel in Warwickshire, thereby gaining its present name. The College eventually moved in 1946 to its present premises, in a village between Bracknell and Wokingham. It occupies an attractive campus which was originally in the grounds of a mid-Victorian mock Tudor mansion. This was redesigned in the Edwardian era and now houses a residence for some mature students, a student common room and cafeteria. The original gardens of the house are in the process of being restored under a planning agreement. On the campus there are two large purpose-built buildings (Salisbury Hall and Murdoch Hall) housing classrooms and administrative offices, two purpose-built halls of residence, a modern library and houses for staff and students with families.

The College itself is accredited by the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges and Universities, which is recognised by CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation) in the US, but not by UK NARIC. However, the three current awarding bodies are all recognised by UK NARIC. In 1983, the College changed its former arrangements for a link with Andrews University Michigan, and a new arrangement with Washington Adventist University was agreed for a Business Studies degree in 1998. In 2004, the College moved its Theology provision to the University of Wales Lampeter (subsequently the University of Wales Trinity Saint David), with awards being offered in partnership with and accredited by the University. A degree in Business Management was added in 2008 via a franchise arrangement. All Theology provision under the aegis of the University of Wales, Lampeter has been taught out and the final cohort of Business students completed their programmes in the summer of 2013.

The College's School of English was inspected by Accreditation UK/the British Council in October 2011 and was not included in the present inspection.

The College obtained educational oversight after a successful review by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in December 2012. It received a further review in December 2014 and is due for a full scale review in December 2015.

2. Brief description of the current provision

In summary, the College offers a variety of humanities, theological and business-related undergraduate and postgraduate programmes under the aegis of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Washington Adventist University (USA), Andrews University (USA) and Theologische Hochschule Friedensau (Germany). Trinity Saint David, a university created out of a merger between numerous Welsh higher education institutions, has approved the College as a collaborative partner following the recent reorganisation of Welsh higher education.

Although the College does not see itself as exclusively a college for members of the Adventist faith, the overwhelming majority of the student body belong to the Church and a high proportion are intending to work within the Church. About 50% of the students are pursuing degrees in Theology at undergraduate or

postgraduate levels. In the region of 15% of the students are from the UK; around the same number from elsewhere in the EEA (notably Scandinavia); and a slightly higher percentage come from other areas within the Trans-European Division of the Church, including students from Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. Some 35 students are from the USA, mainly either on Andrews or Washington Adventist University degree programmes or as 'year abroad' students under the Adventist Colleges Abroad scheme. The largest number of students (74) are recruited from Brazil. In all, some 60 different countries are represented at the College.

3. Inspection process

This interim inspection took place over a half-day with one inspector. Extensive and well compiled documentation was reviewed before and during the inspection; meetings were held with certain members of the senior management team (SMT), namely with the Principal and the Academic Registrar. At the time of the inspection no meetings with students or teaching staff were held and no teaching observed because of the summer vacation.

4. Inspection history

Full inspection:	3 and 4 November 2008
Interim inspection:	20 January 2010
Reaccreditation inspection:	9 and 10 April 2013

PART B – JUDGEMENTS AND EVIDENCE

The following judgements and comments are based upon evidence seen by the inspector(s) during the inspection and from documentation provided by the institution

1. Significant changes since the last inspection

The major changes which have been made since the last inspection are those of the senior members of the SMT. The new Principal, who has worked for some years at the College, was appointed in June 2014 to his present role. The post of Academic Registrar is a new one and the present incumbent was appointed in September 2014.

Annual mapping plans are conducted in line with the Quality Code Parts B & C of the Quality Assurance Agency. Action plans are duly formulated under the guidance of the Academic Registrar and the Principal.

The College has formerly introduced various changes to the curriculum and administrative procedures in line with recommendations made in the inspection report of April 2013. It is to the credit of the College that these changes have been introduced speedily and that, in appropriate cases, student feedback has been positive.

2. Response to action points in last report

There were no action points in the last report.

3. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements – spot check

3.1 Management, Staffing and Administration

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments The College has introduced a new publication “Newbold Matters”. This is issued on a regular basis and sent to all staff giving an update on relevant College matters. The latest issue outlines the conclusions of the report provided (June 2015) by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David panel. This commends the College on a variety of different matters, including the steps taken to engage with UK quality assurance processes. The report also praises teaching staff and the general learning environment. The College has been approved as a collaborative partner of the University. The current website is to be further upgraded to ensure better accessibility through a variety of new technology. In Autumn 2014, the College started to develop an intranet website in order to provide specific information for staff and students.				

3.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments Library resources have been strengthened by patron-driven acquisition through its document delivery service. The Business curriculum has also been strengthened by business excursions and a series of guest speakers. Students are encouraged to become members of relevant boards and committees. They form together a panel to submit the QAA student self-evaluation evidence on behalf of the student body, thereby taking an active				

part in shaping and enhancing the College's provision.

In June 2014, a revised Tutorial and Personal Development Planning Policy formalised the tutorial process. This has been given significant approval by the student body.

3.3 Student Welfare

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<p>Comments</p> <p>The College has implemented a centralised system of attendance recording which gives the Admissions and Records Office the power to monitor student attendance. This system is currently being further updated to reflect overall attendance across all modules in order to maintain better oversight over the requirements for Tier 4 students and non-visa students.</p> <p>The College has gained further confidence in the accuracy of its data records.</p>				

3.4 Premises and Facilities

	Met	Partially met	Not met	NA
The standards are judged to be	✓			
<p>Comments</p> <p>These remain of a high quality. Further fundraising is being undertaken to improve facilities including the Moor Close building.</p>				

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

Institution's strengths

Excellent relationships with the student body

A well managed commitment to QAA good practice in higher education

Effective channels of communication across the College

A clear commitment to improve the curriculum on an on-going basis

Well qualified teaching staff.

Actions required	Priority H/M/L
None.	

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Declaration of compliance has been signed and dated.	YES
Further comments, if applicable	