

ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE UK

- **Universities**

UK DIUS (formerly DFES) - recognised UK degrees

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/recognisedukdegrees/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.view&CategoryID=1>

Listing over 150 higher education institutions in the UK that are permitted to award a wide variety of degrees to suit most educational aspirations. All institutions have degree awarding powers recognised by the UK authorities (UK and Scottish Parliament, Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies).

- **Distance learning providers**

UK Open & Distance Learning Quality Council

<http://www.odlqc.org.uk/colls.htm>

A membership organisation that offers accreditation to open and distance learning providers in the UK. Use this website to see a list of all accredited providers. Membership is voluntary.

- **Independent further and higher education colleges**

UK British Accreditation Council (BAC) - <http://www.the-bac.org/>

See an alphabetical list of BAC accredited institutions. Membership of BAC is voluntary. Independent sixth form and tutorial colleges. Note, members of CIFE are accredited by BAC.

UK The Accreditation Service of International Colleges (ASIC) -

<http://www.asic.org.uk/>

ASIC is a new organisation offering accreditation to UK colleges.

- **State funded further and higher education colleges**

England Ofsted <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Ofsted inspects further education colleges and sixth form colleges. Mainly interested in the education of 16-19 years olds. Search this website for reports. State further education colleges are listed on the website of the LEA where the college is based

www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/index.cfm?action=authority or from the DCSF www.edubase.gov.uk/

Northern Ireland Department of Education for Northern Ireland

<http://www.deni.gov.uk/>

DENI inspects all further education institutions. On this website you can search for college reports by name of institution. A list of colleges is also available from www.delni.gov.uk/index/further-and-higher-education/further-education/further-education-colleges-and-courses.htm

Scotland Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE)

<http://www.hmie.gov.uk/>

HMIE inspects all further education institutions. On this website you can search for college reports by name of institution. Find a list of all colleges on www.sfeu.ac.uk/resources/scotlands_colleges

Wales Estyn <http://www.estyn.gov.uk/>

Estyn inspects all further education colleges. On this website you can search for college reports

UK Recognised UK Degrees <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/recognisedukdegrees/>

A useful check on a college.

- **English language schools**

UK Accreditation UK <http://www.britishcouncil.org/accreditation>
Education UK database of accredited providers Accreditation UK is run by the British Council and English UK and is the quality assurance scheme for the UK ELT sector. Search for an accredited provider on the Education UK website.

UK British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes (BALEAP)
<http://www.baleap.org.uk/>
BALEAP accredits courses for in English for Academic Purposes.

- **Independent schools**

England The Independent Schools Council (ISC)
http://www.isc.co.uk/Inspection_TheIndependentSchoolsInspectorateISI.htm
The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the agency responsible for the inspection of schools in membership of the Independent Schools Council Associations (ISC). (Independent schools not affiliated to ISC in England, and independent schools accredited to ISC in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are inspected through the national inspectorates in each country: HMIE, Estyn and DENI – see below.)

- **Independent schools (non-association schools)**

England Ofsted <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/>
All Independent schools have to be registered with the DIUS (formerly known as DfES). Ofsted inspects all independent schools that are not members of the Independent Schools Council Association. Independent schools not affiliated to ISC are called non-association schools.

Northern Ireland Department of Education for Northern Ireland
<http://www.deni.gov.uk/>
All independent schools have to be registered with the Department of Education. On this website you can search for school reports by the name of the school or by town or postcode.

Scotland Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE)
<http://www.hmie.gov.uk/>
All independent schools have to be registered with the Scottish Executive Education Department. On this website you can search for school reports by the name of the school or by the local authority.

Wales Estyn <http://www.estyn.gov.uk/>
In Wales, responsibility for inspections of non-association schools is with Estyn, the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales.

- **State funded schools**

England Ofsted <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/>
Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) inspects all state funded schools. You can verify the status of a school by searching the Ofsted website for an inspection report.
Schools are not accredited, but all state schools will be listed on the website of the Local Education Authority where the school is based
www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/index.cfm?action=authority or from the DCSF www.edubase.gov.uk/

Northern Ireland Department of Education for Northern Ireland (DENI)
<http://www.deni.gov.uk/>
DENI Inspection Services inspect all state schools. On this website you can search for school reports by the name of the school or by town or postcode.

Scotland Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE)
<http://www.hmie.gov.uk/>

HMIE inspects all state schools. On this website you can search for school reports by the name of the school or by the local authority.

Wales Estyn Office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales <http://www.estyn.gov.uk/>

Estyn inspects all state schools. On this website you can search for school reports by the local authority that the school is in.

- **School Certificates for O & A Level Candidates**

The certificate must be stamped and signed by the school or the Ministry of Education, ideally both, before British Council can stamp.

- **Private/British Council O & A Level Certificates**

The Examining board must verify these e.g.

www.cie.org - Cambridge International Examinations

www.edexcel.org - Edexcel