



INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT FOR

YESHIVA GEDOLA LUBAVITCH LONDON

UKVI LICENCE No: 3XQJ4HNJ6

Inspection relating to the educational oversight of private further education colleges on behalf of the Home Office's division of United Kingdom Visas and Immigration - UKVI

The overall inspection findings for this college

UKVI Standards for:

courses and qualifications are	MET
teaching, learning and assessment are	MET
the cultural and moral development of students are	MET
welfare, health and safety are	MET
the effectiveness and suitability of staff are	MET
financial sustainability, leadership and governance are	MET
premises and accommodation are	MET
information and complaints are	MET

Compliance with UKVI Standards

The college meets all the UKVI Standards

CONTENTS OF THE REPORT

Introduction

Section A: Main Findings and actions required

Section B: College and Inspection Details

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and scope of the inspection

The School Inspection Service (SIS) is an approved educational oversight body authorised by the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) section of the Home Office to inspect privately funded further education colleges in England, with a Steiner, Montessori or Eurythmy basis or background, or with a clear religious purpose. Inspection by SIS is designed to assess the college's compliance with the SIS College Standards. The Standards cover the quality of education and welfare provided to all students, including those from overseas who are sponsored by the college for Tier 4 visas, and, where applicable, those under eighteen and vulnerable adults. On-site student accommodation, where provided, is assessed for compliance with the Standards but is not subject to a full boarding inspection. Inspection provides objective and reliable reports on the extent to which colleges meet the Standards. By placing reports in the public domain, the information they contain is available to students, the UKVI, 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. It helps colleges, their staff and trustees/governors/proprietors to recognise and build on their strengths and to identify and remedy their weaknesses in relation to compliance.

The inspection also takes account of the college's financial performance over the last two years for new providers and since the last inspection for established providers. Based on this evidence an assessment is made of the college's financial sustainability over the next four-year period. This work is done by a qualified accountant on the basis of information provided by the college. Prospective students, their parents and agents should make their own enquiries into the financial viability of institutions before accepting a place.

Colleges are inspected on a four year cycle, with a full inspection of two days by two inspectors every four years, and an interim inspection of one day by one inspector in each of the three intervening years.

Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch London received a full inspection in November 2016 and an interim inspection in December 2017. Both inspections resulted in published reports which are available on the SIS website: www.schoolinspectionsevice.co.uk.

Characteristics of the college

Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch is a rabbinical college located in Hampstead, London. Founded in 1982, it educates young men in the Talmud and in Chassidic philosophy as part of the international Lubavitch Yeshivas network. Students attend the college for one, two or three years. Student numbers have decreased since the last inspection and there is now a total of 40 students, aged 16 to 21, of whom 19 are under eighteen. About half of the students are British while others come from France, Holland, Spain, Switzerland and the USA. All of the 19 Tier 4 students are from the USA. About half of the students receive some form of support with their fees and no student is turned away due to lack of funding. Not all students become full-time rabbis at the end of their course, with some taking on other occupations. The college is led and managed by experienced rabbis with a small governing body from the Lubavitch community. Since the time of the last inspection the substantive principal has taken on the role of honorary dean and another senior rabbi has become acting principal. The college's stated aims remain as last year: 'The yeshiva aims to provide an orthodox Jewish education within the framework of the Code of Jewish Law in accordance with Chassidic teachings, enabling the students to reach the standard required by each course, whilst fostering in the students an understanding that Torah study is not just an academic exercise, but instruction in a way of life'.

SECTION A: Main Findings and Actions Required

Main findings

Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch London continues to meet all the Standards. The three full-time courses on offer in Rabbinic Studies are linked to enable students to progress from one course to the next and are in keeping with the ethos and methodology of the worldwide Lubavitch education system. The courses are accredited externally and meet UKVI requirements.

The courses are very well suited to the needs of students and encourage the development of skills and knowledge in rabbinical and Talmudic scholarship. Students are fluent English speakers as well as working in Hebrew during their study sessions. Students say that their prior involvement in Lubavitch education gives them good awareness of the competencies required for the courses.

The yeshiva's teachers are all experienced rabbis who are scholars with extensive knowledge and teaching experience. Students say that they value their teachers' expertise and their ability to communicate and explain complex ideas. Discussion with students shows that they enjoy the intellectual challenge of learning the rigorous methodology of Talmudic study, and progressing to the creative challenge of venturing their own views within the framework of that methodology. Course planning is highly structured in line with the well-established conventions of Talmudic study. Students' progress is regularly monitored and recorded by their teachers through verbal and written testing.

The students show self-confidence and good social skills. They have a sense of pride in belonging to the yeshiva and the wider Lubavitch community. They enjoy taking part in the Mitzvo'im outreach programme through activities such as assisting in local schools and old people's homes. The yeshiva emphasises respect for people of all cultures. Staff are well aware of the Prevent duty and have received up to date training.

The college has made sure that policies and procedures for health and safety continue to be monitored, reviewed and kept up to date. Fire safety checks, including records of regular fire drills are in place. The college has trained first aiders on site. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL), a senior rabbi and tutor, has carefully maintained and updated his DSL training to ensure awareness of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018, and other staff have been given appropriate training.

There is a well-established system of pastoral care which is in line with the Lubavitch ethos. Talking to students of all ages and scrutinising their responses to a questionnaire completed in connection with this inspection shows that they feel safe and well cared for. Students say that the relatively small size of the yeshiva enables them to receive good personal support from their tutors. They know who they could contact in the event of any worries or concerns and are familiar with the role of the DSL, as well as being aware of two named persons who they could contact outside the college.

The computerised admissions register is up to date and is well maintained, and includes, for example, two contact telephone numbers for students' parents. Attendance registers are taken several times each day, and the college is fully aware of UKVI reporting procedures in the event of any Tier 4 student failing to attend.

As at the last inspection, the Standards for the effectiveness and suitability of staff are met. One additional member of staff has been appointed for kitchen duties and the appropriate checks were carried out.

Since the last inspection, improvements in accounting practice at the overarching Chabad Lubavitch UK charity, of which Yeshiva Gedola is part, have given greater clarity on the financial position of the college. There can be reasonable confidence in its financial sustainability, given support from the Lubavitch and wider Jewish community, and the college's ownership of its own premises. Students are not at risk of being unable to complete their courses.

The college continues to benefit from the active support of governors to further its aims. Since the last inspection the substantive principal has been appointed honorary dean, with a temporary arrangement for delegated leadership formalised to enable a senior rabbi to become acting principal. The smooth running of the college is enabled by a stable and experienced group of senior staff who work effectively together to sustain and improve provision.

The college has made a number of improvements to its accommodation since the last inspection through refurbishment of bathrooms and a rolling programme of re-decoration. The accommodation, both in the main house and in nearby flats, is clean and suitably maintained, and students are encouraged to keep their bedrooms tidy. The yeshiva's prayer room is used by small numbers of local people but this is always supervised and does not affect students' education or threaten their welfare. The college has re-opened its food preparation facilities, a cook now prepares daily meals on site and the local authority has inspected and certified the facilities as conforming to regulations. Students say they appreciate having freshly cooked meals.

The students usually learn about the college through contacts in the Lubavitch community. There is an up to date website, and the prospectus and student handbook also provide the necessary information for students. The complaints policy meets requirements, and there have been no formal complaints since the last inspection.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive an interim inspection check in one year and a further full inspection in two years.

Actions Required

No action is required.

SECTION B: COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

Details of college

Name of college:	Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch London
Address of college:	3-5 Kingsley Way, London N2 0EH
Telephone number:	0208 731 6049
Email address:	yeshivalondon@gmail.com
Proprietor:	Lubavitch UK
Name of Principal:	Rabbi I.M. Hertz (Honorary Dean) Rabbi M. Jacobs (Acting Principal)
Licence number:	3XQJ4H NJ6
Type of college:	Rabbinical college

Details of student body

Age range	16-21		
Number on roll:		Male	Female
	Full Time:	40	0
	Part Time:	0	0
	Below 18	19	0
Annual fees:	£6,000 - £11,000		

Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Peter Jones
Dates of inspection:	17 th December 2018	

This report has been prepared by the School Inspection Service (SIS), which provides independent professional inspection of 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.schoolinspectionservice.co.uk