



FULL 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

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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 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.

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. There are a total of 29 students aged 16 to 20, of whom 17 are under eighteen. Most of the students are British while others come from the USA, Canada, Spain, Germany and Poland. The college is led and managed by experienced rabbis with a small governing body from the Lubavitch community. 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 meets the Standards and UKVI requirements. The courses, which cover the Talmud and Chassidic philosophy, are in line with the ethos of the college and with the worldwide Lubavitch education system. Teaching is based on secure and extensive knowledge of subject matter and is well matched to student ability and attainment. Learning is progressive and intellectually challenging. Students enjoy their courses and say they feel well supported. Their outreach work brings them in regular productive contact with the local community. The college makes suitable provision for welfare, health and safety, including safeguarding, with required policies and procedures in place. The necessary checks on the suitability of staff are carried out. For reasons beyond its control the college has not provided fully up to date details of its financial performance. Nevertheless there is sufficient evidence to have reasonable confidence in its financial sustainability. Leadership and governance are well integrated and help sustain effective provision. Premises and accommodation, including on-site residential accommodation for students, meet requirements.

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 four years

Actions Required

No action is required.

SECTION B: Detailed evaluation of the standards

Standards for courses and qualifications

The Standards for courses and qualifications are met. All courses offered to international students sponsored under Tier 4 arrangements lead to qualifications which meet the definition set out by the UKVI. Courses, which are all full time, are in line with the ethos of the college and with the worldwide Lubavitch education system. The college provides a progressive range of qualifications at three levels: a basic course, an advanced course and a second level advanced course. Every year a different sacred text is studied at three different levels. The first year Diploma course is designed to provide students with basic competencies, and subsequent years build on these skills through the Certificate in Rabbinic Studies and subsequently the Higher Certificate in Rabbinic Studies. All courses are accredited externally by the Council for Higher Education and Accreditation (CHEA). There are no college accredited courses. Courses are offered at suitable levels and care is taken to place students on courses and in classes according to ability. This is guided by baseline information, regular assessment, testing and one-to-one discussions with tutors. Where necessary, individual students receive additional support. Observation of lessons and discussions with students confirm that they enjoy their courses and are suitably challenged. Students say that prior to joining the college they receive an appropriate range of information about courses and the level of English required. Observation confirms that no students require support for English as an additional language (EAL), and most foreign students are competent in Hebrew and Yiddish as well as in their home language and English. College documentation shows that all students have completed their courses in recent years.

Standards for teaching, learning and assessment

The college meets the Standards for teaching, learning and assessment. Students rapidly acquire new knowledge and make progress. The teachers, all experienced rabbis, have very secure knowledge of their subject matter, and they deliver well planned lessons confidently and communicate ideas clearly. Teaching emphasises the methodology of learning: students are shown how to learn texts and how to approach their interpretation. There is a strong focus on individual, paired and class study of traditional Jewish texts and works of the Chassidic scholars. Students take a keen interest in their studies and show consistent and determined application of intellectual effort. They work hard with each other and their teachers to interpret and understand the meaning of texts. Key features of teaching and learning are a high level of dialogue and debate between teachers and students and the students themselves and a productive use of time.

Assessment of students' work is thorough and supports progress and improvement. Written essays and tests are set and marked, and teachers give

regular verbal feedback. There are good systems for tracking and recording student progress which identify when attainment falls below expected levels. This enables targeted support to be given, for example, through one-to-one teaching with a rabbi or help from a senior student.

Standards for cultural and moral development of students

The Standards for cultural and moral development are met. The college provides a programme of moral and cultural development for students which reflects the aims and ethos of the college. Emphasis is placed on how students can contribute to the wider community in line with the aims of the college, in particular showing respect and tolerance for everyone, including those of different cultural traditions, and listening to their views. Students develop self-knowledge and self-esteem through the progress they make in their studies. Students' excellent communication skills reflect the positive impact of the college in developing self-confidence, including, most importantly, through a well-established outreach (Mivtzo'im) programme. This enables students to gain practical experience of working to help others, for example, the elderly, by assisting them with everyday tasks or by speaking to members of the Jewish community about the traditions of religious observance. The college is in the process of reinforcing guidance to students on how outreach work supports the clearly defined aims and ethos of the college.

Students show regard for the law in England and their behavior reflects the religious character of the college. An appropriately detailed Prevent policy outlines the college strategies with respect to preventing radicalisation. Anti-extremism training has been undertaken by a college governor who has subsequently provided training for all staff.

Standards for welfare, health and safety

The college meets the Standards for welfare, health and safety. Policies and procedures for health and safety are clear, well organised and up-to-date, with annual review dates indicated. Policies are prepared carefully to address the specific needs of the college, with designated staff responsibilities identified. The key areas of first-aid provision and the risk assessment of general safety hazards are covered effectively. Fire safety provision is in place throughout the teaching and student accommodation areas. Fire notices are displayed, fire safety equipment is checked regularly and fire drills are carried out and recorded.

Pastoral care meets requirements, and students say that staff know and support them well, in keeping with the Lubavitch community ethos. The college has the required arrangements, including up to date policies and procedures, for safeguarding the welfare of students, including those who are under the age of eighteen. There is a designated safeguarding lead (DSL), with a deputy, both of whom have undertaken recent training, and local safeguarding arrangements

are recorded in college and known to staff. The student handbook names the DSLs as well as two persons not directly connected with the college, whom students can contact if they have any welfare concerns. In interviews with inspectors students showed that they were fully aware of these safeguarding contacts. The college has accurate and well-kept admissions and attendance registers, and is aware of its responsibilities for reporting absences of Tier 4 students to UKVI.

Standards for the effectiveness and suitability of staff

The Standards for the effectiveness and suitability of staff are met. The college demonstrates a clear understanding of its responsibility to ensure the effectiveness and suitability of staff, including in relation to those of its students who are under the age of 18. The college has a well-qualified staff who are fully in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the college. Staff to student ratios are good. Records are suitably maintained, and cover the required checks undertaken on staff, including those made through the Disclosure and Barring Service, and those carried out on staff from overseas.

Standards for financial sustainability, management and governance

The college meets the Standards for financial sustainability, management and governance. The college has been unable to provide detailed financial accounts or plans and forecasts for the next four years. This is beyond the control of the college because it is part of the wider Lubavitch charity which has been late in submitting accounts to the Charity Commission. The college is able to give reasonable confidence of financial sustainability because it has assets in the form of two wholly-owned mortgage-free properties in London: the main college building, and another property which provides rental income. The college also receives financial support from the Lubavitch and wider Jewish communities. This allows reasonable confidence that students are not at risk of being unable to complete their courses. Nevertheless, in the event of financial failure, the link with the worldwide Lubavitch education system would provide for ease of student transfer to similar institutions with parallel rabbinical courses in the UK and a range of other countries.

The college is well supported by a governing body which works very closely with senior staff with the agreed purpose of furthering the aims of the college. The governing body ensures that resources for building maintenance are readily available. The support of governors has been instrumental in ensuring the timely preparation and review of appropriate policies and procedures for welfare, health and safety, including safeguarding.

Governors and senior staff have a clear view of the college's strengths in terms of its maintenance of stringent rabbinical training. As a governing and leadership

group they have identified where improvements can be made, such as in recent changes to course planning to support the needs of the broad range of students more effectively.

Standards for premises and accommodation

The Standards for premises and accommodation are met. Premises and accommodation are suitable both for academic studies and with respect to student accommodation. The college is well maintained, carefully cleaned and there is a clear programme for continuing refurbishment. Occasional use for prayers by members of the local Jewish community is supervised appropriately. Food preparation is undertaken carefully and the college has received four stars following a local authority inspection to ensure hygienic practices.

Standards for information and complaints

The Standards for information and complaints are met. Students are provided with sufficient and accurate information about their courses prior to joining the college. All confirm, irrespective of the level of their course, that their studies and the college in general meet their expectations. The website provides a clear view of college life and the recently up-dated prospectus and student handbook provide additional useful detail relating to courses and conduct. Systems for formal and informal communications are appropriately established and reports on student progress are provided three times a year. There are no recorded complaints but the college is vigilant in relation to its responsibility in this respect.

SECTION C: 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 Foundation (UK) Ltd.
Name of Principal:	Rabbi I.M. Hertz
Licence number:	3XQJ4HNJ6
Type of college:	Rabbinical college

Details of student body

Age range	From 16 to 20
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Number on roll:		Male	Female
	Full Time:	29	0
	Part Time:	0	0
	Below 18	17	0

Annual fees:	From £6,000 - £11,000
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Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Full	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Peter Jones
	Supporting Inspector:	Mike Thirkell
Dates of inspection:	30 th November – 1 st December 2016	

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