

INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT FOR WESTFIELD HOUSE

UKVI LICENCE No:86GB8DO97

Education oversight inspection 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

Introduction

Purpose and scope of the inspection

Mainland Education Ltd is an approved educational oversight body authorised by the United Kingdom 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 is designed to assess the college’s compliance with the Standards for colleges agreed with the Home

Office. These 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 who are under eighteen or are 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, and/or 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 since the last inspection and makes an assessment of the college's financial sustainability going forward, 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 subject to a full inspection once every four years which is conducted by two inspectors over two days. In the intervening years, colleges receive an annual interim inspection and are kept under review. Interim inspections build on the findings from the last full inspection and state whether or not the college continues to meet the agreed Standards.

The last full inspection of Westfield House was conducted by Mainland Education Ltd in October 2023 when the college met all the required Standards for privately funded colleges.

Characteristics of the college

Westfield House, the theological college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE) is a small residential institution located close to the centre of Cambridge. It prepares postgraduate students for ministry in the Lutheran Church either as pastors or for other church work, and offers to undergraduates a range of modular courses in the liberal arts and sciences. Twenty eight students are expected to be enrolled at the college and on-line over the course of the academic year 2024/25. All in-person students are foreign nationals, this academic year all from the USA, all over the age of eighteen. The vast majority of students this year, as last year, are attending Westfield House for one term only as part of the 'Study Abroad' programme from their home Lutheran universities or seminaries in the United States, with which Westfield House has built up close and strong partnerships over a long period of time. These students have a Learning Agreement which specifies a course of full-time study for the period that they are at Westfield House, consisting of modular courses of their choice through which they earn credits with their home institutions. As part of the college's enrichment provision students are given leave to attend University of Cambridge lectures and also have access to the university's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment), and all in-person students have access to the Cambridge Theological Federation so that they can, and do, attend lectures at the university and the federation. They also participate in a wide range of trips and study tours organised by Westfield House which are aimed at widening and developing their cultural awareness and understanding. Westfield House maintains a licence to sponsor overseas students with a Tier 4 Visa, but uses this facility only for the small number of postgraduate students who are in the United Kingdom for a year or more while following the Master of Divinity course.

The college also makes a Lutheran Theology Certificate course, accredited by the British Accreditation Council (BAC), available online. This is currently being followed on a part-time basis by a small number of Lutherans based in Ghana and the United Kingdom. Apart from the online students, all students live in the college's residential accommodation on site. The college shares the site with a Lutheran church, and this building also serves as a chapel for Westfield House.

Main Findings of Interim Inspection

Westfield House continues to meet all of the Standards required by UKVI, as it did at the time of the full inspection in October 2023. All the students follow a course of full-time study that focuses on different areas of theology including the scriptures and the Lutheran confessions. In addition students choose modules from a range of topics including liberal arts, science, including astrophysics, religion, British life and culture and world music. Formal agreements with the students' home universities enable them to gain degree credits from their Westfield House study modules.

A well established group of experienced and expert tutors, all active scholars and researchers in their own right, continues to provide high quality teaching and enable students to broaden their knowledge and develop their intellectual skills. Tutors are seen by the students as helpful and open to dialogue and discussion. Tutors arrange day seminars where distinguished scholars from a variety of disciplines, including technology and mental health, speak to students and engage in debate with them, helping to develop the students' knowledge and thinking skills. The college takes good account of the prior learning of their overseas students and employs a study skills tutor to help them adapt to the British approach to teaching, learning and assessment.

The college continues to make good provision for students to understand British life and culture. They also come into contact with people from different cultures within the college and the wider community. They travel to a range of significant British cultural locations and visit places of worship of other religions such as a mosque, a Sikh temple and a synagogue. Students' self-confidence develops through the college's encouragement of independent travel in the UK and abroad. The Lutheran ethos of respect for others is well established in the college and successfully promotes a harmonious community. All staff complete 'Prevent' and safeguarding training and are alert to any extremist or terrorist-related issues should they arise. The Standards for welfare, health and safety continue to be met as at the time of the full inspection. Fire alarm systems are checked annually and emergency lighting systems are checked monthly. Fire risk assessments and fire drills are carried out regularly. UKVI requirements for reporting extended student absences are known to the college, although these have never been needed and there is minimal absenteeism.

Westfield House has a small, well established staff with good qualifications and experience. All the necessary employment checks have been carried out. A new member of staff will be joining the faculty later in the current academic year, and the Principal has

suitable plans for making the necessary employment and character checks, including overseas checks. External academic supervisors are used occasionally and the necessary references and checks are provided by their employer. Westfield House has a strong and well established system of pastoral care and this is confirmed by student comment. All staff have undertaken safeguarding training and a suitable safeguarding policy is in place. Designated staff take pastoral responsibility for each student. All students are over the age of eighteen, but the college continues to keep a careful eye on students to address any pastoral problems. The college is very aware of these overseas students' concerns, including often an initial feeling of homesickness and some disorientation. The college is able to access professional counselling for students if needed. A Tier 4 student spoke warmly about the pastoral support they had received at the college and named several individual members of staff who had been able to provide personal support.

The college continues to be assured of financial sustainability and this gives confidence that students are not at risk of being unable to complete their courses. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE) and the ELCE Trust Ltd. underwrite Westfield House and the college also has a source of income from accommodation rented out to post-graduate students. As a member of the Cambridge Theological Federation the college is confident that alternative arrangements for study could be made in the event of any failure of provision at Westfield House. Regular meetings between the Principal and the ELCE Executive Council, the governing body, take place to review policies, procedures and resources. The Principal and her staff hold weekly faculty meetings to monitor and maintain the quality of educational and pastoral provision.

Westfield House premises and accommodation, a main teaching block and two residential blocks, meet the required Standards and are fit for purpose. Checks on the premises are made by a professional company and any necessary remedial work carried out. All Westfield House students are accommodated on site in self-catering rooms with communal cooking and laundry facilities. A small number of rooms are rented out to post-graduate students from the University of Cambridge. There are plans for the refurbishment of the older hall of residence and the conversion of an office into residential accommodation. Tier 4 visa students confirmed that they felt safe and secure in the accommodation provided by the college. Provision can be made if required for students with special needs or disabilities.

Westfield House is well known in the Concordia universities in the USA and in one university in Germany, and in the Lutheran community for its 'Study Abroad' semester and other courses. The college website gives further details, and once students are accepted on the courses they receive detailed preliminary information including through remote video meetings. On arrival students are given a good induction programme, and they say that regular emails and meetings, including a weekly tea meeting, keep them up to date during the term. The students know that there is a complaints procedure but this has only been invoked once in the sixty two year history of the college.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive an interim check in 2026.

Actions Required

- No action is required

COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

Details of college

Name of college:	Westfield House
Address of college:	30 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0HH
Telephone number:	07883 740117
Email address:	enquiries@westfield.cam.ac.uk
Proprietor:	Evangelical Lutheran Church of England Trust Ltd.
Name of Principal:	Dr. Cynthia Lumley
Licence number:	86GB8DO97
Type of college:	Further education and study abroad HE

Details of student body

Age range	18 - 26
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Number of students on roll:		Visa	Study Abroad (One Term)	UK	Total
	Full Time:	1	19	0	20
	Over 18:	1	19	0	20
	Below 18	0	0	0	0

Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Peter R. Jones
Date of inspection:	21 st January 2025	