

SPRING - May 2016

NEWSLETTER



SEAL OF APPROVAL FOR BRIT!



QAA Reviewed

Quality Assurance Agency
for Higher Education

We are delighted to announce that Brit College has passed the recent Higher Education

Review with flying colours and has met expectations in all areas of the review; maintenance of academic standards, quality of learning opportunities, quality of information and enhancement of learning opportunities. The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) visited the College in February 2016 to conduct the Higher Education Review over two days - a rigorous assessment of all UK higher education institutions which measures the College against the same standards as universities.

The QAA's review highlighted several areas in which the College excelled and identified the following features of good practice:

- The detailed programme specification and other high quality documentation, which are valued by students and extend beyond the formal obligations to the awarding organisation
- The embedding of employability awareness and skills within the curriculum
- The creation of an inclusive and supportive learning environment, which is fit for the purpose of meeting the expectations of a diverse intake

We would like to thank all staff and teachers for their hard work in preparing for, and participating in, the review meetings. A special thanks to our Student Representatives who also gave their time and commitment to attend training sessions and meet with the QAA Reviewers on the day - you were all a credit to the College!

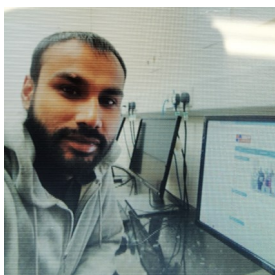
Students Visit Canary Wharf HQ



Staff and students in the Canary Wharf Board Room

As part of our ongoing commitment to embed employability within the curriculum and develop links with businesses, some of our students had the opportunity to visit the Canary Wharf Group head office earlier this month. This was an exciting day which enabled an insight into the corporate business world. The group were able to gain exclusive access to areas not usually open to the public, such as the Board Room, the marketing suite and find out about how the company has been able to grow successfully and their plans for the future. Students particularly liked hearing about current projects, how the organisation engaged with the Tower Hamlets community and the kinds of job opportunities available. The group also enjoyed amazing views of East London from the 30th floor!

My Role as a Student Representative by Muktadir Rahman



I volunteered to take on the role of a Student Representative so I could represent the views of my class. As a Representative, I attend Academic Management Team (AMT) meetings every month which I find very useful. I think it is important that

Student Representatives attend AMT meetings as it allows us to voice the issues raised by our class and also get an update of what is going on with the College as a whole.

During the meetings, I raise any views my class want the Management to be made aware of and try to reach solutions to any problems students may have. We have been successful in getting air conditioning in the

classrooms and new vending machines following requests from students, and there are a few other things in process. After AMT meetings, I report back to my class and inform them about what was discussed, what is being done to resolve issues and take any questions they may have. If students have any enquiries, I answer them as best as I can or I ensure that these are raised at the next meeting.

I am recently had the opportunity to Chair an AMT meeting. This was a great experience as it allowed me to improve my public speaking skills, enable me to communicate better and also boost my confidence. I am really happy that I have the opportunity to be a Student Representative for my class and will continue to do what I can to help students to the best of my ability, with the help of the Academic Management Team.

Student Reps Brush Up on Their Leadership Skills



Pictured above: Student Reps participating in a team-building activity

Earlier this year, Student Representatives undertook a full day's training on Leadership skills. The purpose of this training was to enable Representatives to improve their skills to enable them perform their role more effectively. Based on key areas identified by Representatives as requiring improvement, the training focused on communication skills, leadership styles, confidence, team building and presentation skills. The session was an exciting, hands-on day, filled with a variety of activities to enhance these skills.

We would like to thank our Student Reps for their continued participation, dedication and engagement to ensure that students' views are heard.

You Asked...We Listened



We are pleased to see that you have been using the Student Representative system to inform the College management about feedback and changes you would like to see. Below are some recent changes we have implemented as a result of your requests:

You asked	We listened
Blinds for classrooms →	Blackout blinds have been installed in rooms LG10, LG13 and LG14 to ensure you are able to see the board clearly during the summer months.
Better snack facilities →	Two vending machines have been installed to provide hot and cold drinks, and snacks at all hours.
More IT resources →	To supplement the current IT facilities, we have purchased laptops for students to use in class.

Employability Masterclasses



We were pleased to host three more Masterclasses this term which were all well-attended by students. Volunteers from Barclays led a Lifeskills session in January 2016 which focused on employability skills. Students learned about how to improve their CVs and efficiently network to gain job opportunities.

We received excellent feedback from the volunteers who really enjoyed meeting students and are excited to work with us again!

Imran Ahmed from the Tower Hamlets College Careers Service visited us again to hold two careers advice workshops in April 2016, following the success of the session held for Cohort 1 students. The workshop focused on progression opportunities after the HND, university and UCAS applications, funding and career planning.



Barclays Lifeskills Masterclass

The National Careers Service team at Tower Hamlets College welcome our students to use their services. Their team of fully qualified advisors can hold individual appointments with you to provide you with tailored advice and guidance regarding your options for work and education. For further information, please contact Aroz Miah in the Registry Office.

100% Attendance Award



We place great importance on good attendance as it shows your commitment to engage with your studies and increases your ability to achieve higher. We are proud of the following students who achieved 100% attendance last term! To recognise their achievement, they receive the Attendance Award - well done to Franklin Noel Miranda, Surat Ali and Khadija Sharmin Chowdhury who all received prizes. We encourage all students to aim high!



Beyond HND by Jozsef Kiss, Brit alumni



When I first started the Higher National Diploma in Business at Brit College, I was unsure about myself and thought the course would be too hard for me. As time went by, I realised that I was wrong. All I had to do was attend classes, pay attention and of course do a lot of studying at home. Whenever I struggled on a topic, I received useful advice from the teachers. With hard work, everyone has the potential to succeed and achieve the Diploma like I did.

After completing the HND, I received some good job offers but decided to continue with my studies as I realised I could do one more year and achieve a degree. I am currently studying for my Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at the London School of Business and Management and will graduate with my degree in summer 2016.

My study at Brit College gave me the basic knowledge to go onto this higher level course and I also received a lot of help from Brit with the application process. I still have lectures and seminars but the main emphasis is on independent study so I have to push myself harder to make sure I learn everything. After I finish my degree, I hope to go into HR or Marketing role.



I would like to thank Brit College staff for their help during my 2 years here and wish everyone the best. I also encourage the present students at Brit to never give up and continue their way towards success!

Staff Update

The Brit family is always growing! We would like to wish a warm welcome to the following staff who have joined us this term:

Jahanzeeb Qurashi - HND Business teacher

Peter Akinwande Akinsowon - HND Business teacher

Roman Puchkov - HND Business teacher

Akuete Homawoo - Health and Social Care teacher

Colin Fu Chee - HND Business teacher

Emma Bobocea - Health and Social Care teacher



"I am a Masters in Education student hoping to pursue a career in lecturing after undertaking a PhD in Education. I have a very warm personality and work very well with people of all ages and backgrounds. I have experience tutoring at various levels both in the UK and abroad and I am keen to shape people's future in any way that I can" - Emma



"Brit is a lively college. Every staff member is very helpful and learners are a true reflection of diversity"

- Colin

Changes to Student Finance



Following the announcement of the Summer Budget 2015, government policy on Student Support has changed for the next academic year 16/17. Maintenance grants have been abolished, so new students will not be able to apply for a grant, but can apply for an income-assessed maintenance loan instead, which is repayable like the tuition fee loan. This **does not affect funding for students already studying with us** but will impact students who go on to a Top-up programme after the HND, and new students starting the HND course in September 2016.

10th Anniversary Celebration



Brit College is 10 years old!

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, we will be holding an exciting gala event on Thursday 8th September 2016. This will be a formal evening to showcase the College, celebrate our achievements and share our aspirations for the future. Tickets are FREE for staff and students - with a 3 course dinner included - but there are limited spaces available so will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Invitations will be sent out soon so you can reserve your place. Keep your eyes peeled for more information!

Key Dates



What?	When?
Student Spring Dinner	Tuesday 31st May 2016 (tickets can be purchased from Registry)
10th Anniversary Celebration	Thursday 8th September 2016
End of Term (for HND Business only)	Saturday 2nd July 2016 (return week commencing 12th September 2016)

Get Involved!



The Newsletter is published every Spring and Winter to keep staff and students up to date with the latest news and information. If you have some news, photographs or views you would like to share, then we'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch with Rifat: rifat.akhtar@britcollege.org.uk

Brit College

602 Commercial Road, Limehouse Lock
London, E14 7HS



T: 0207 265 8497 E: info@britcollege.org.uk W: www.britcollege.org.uk  www.facebook.com/britcollege1td