

# Students/Agents and Host family Newsletter March 2010

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## Beacon Award Celebrations

It was very good to see you all at our recent awards evening. Our guests were very impressed with you all and particularly enjoyed your contributions. Many thanks for your participation, and in particular to all those of you who gave individual talks, presentations and entertainment.

## Overseas Visits

In March our College representatives have visited Bangladesh and Libya. Interest for our courses has been good and we expect to recruit more students from these visits.

## Student Reviews

We will shortly be undertaking individual reviews with you all. These will start later in March and will go through to mid April. Please see the International Office about making an appointment. The focus of these will be to discuss your progress and your plans for courses in September 2010.

## Student attendance

The College and the UK Border Agency requirement is that you attend **all** of your classes. If you do not attend **at least** 80% of classes you may be asked to leave College and can be reported to UKBA. Some of you have had letters and warnings about this. The International Office is now compiling a letter to UKBA regarding students who have been warned about their attendance but have made no improvement. If you think you may be on this list please check and discuss an improvement action plan with the international office now.

## Changes to the visa system - Points Based System (PBS) - Tier 4 Student Visa

The new PBS tier 4 electronic student visa system is now in operation. From now on no manual/paper course offers will be given for visa purposes.

The visa offices in Nepal, North India, and Bangladesh remain closed for Tier 4 visa applications. We hope that these offices will soon re-open. Applications for degree level courses are being accepted from Delhi now.

Last week the government announced a number of changes to the visa regulations for students on new Tier 4 visa's. These apply to students who get their new visas after March 4<sup>th</sup> or who renew their visas after March 4<sup>th</sup> 2010. We have summarised these for you:

- **ENGLISH LEVELS**

In future all students coming to the UK to study will have to study at least B2 level (around IELTS 5 – 5.5 or above). This means their level when they apply will have to be at B1 (around IELTS 4.5 to 5.0). There is no minimum level for students on 6 months Student Visit Visas, however our English Language classes are only offered at Pre Intermediate (B1) level and above.

- **WORKING REGULATIONS**

In future students on level 3 courses and full time English will only be permitted to work 10 hours per week. Those on Degree level courses may continue to work 20 hours per week. Full-time work during college breaks is still permitted.

- **DEPENDANTS**

Dependents of students on level 3 or full time English courses can no longer work in the UK. Students coming on short term courses through the Student Visitor Visa route will no longer be permitted to bring their dependants.

### **Course Fee and registration fee changes – reminder**

From September 2010 onwards the new course fees will be £4,500 per year for Pre-Degree courses including English and £6,500 per year for Degree level courses. If you are continuing on the same course of study your course fees will remain the same as for 2009. However if you are progressing on to a new course of study the higher fee will apply.

For September 2010 applicants we will require a registration fee of £1000 for Vocational and Academic courses lasting two years or more and £2000 for one year courses. £100 of this will be retained if the visa is refused and a refund is made.

### **Easter break**

The College closes for a two week break from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010. **During this time there will be no classes.** (The International Office will be open with exception of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April if you should require anything urgently). If you are working, you are free to work full time during this period. We will re-start college on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

### **Visits and Activities**

We hope to arrange a visit for the Easter break. Please come to the International Office if there is anywhere you would like to visit or if you have any suggestions.

***Best wishes for Easter  
Summer is on its way!!!!!!!!!!!!***

