

Complaints

Policy

It is policy of OHC to hear complaints fairly and openly and to resolve them as quickly as possible.

Procedure - Student Complaints

We hope that students are happy with both their teacher and the College in general. There is a separate written Complaints Procedure for Students, which is displayed in every classroom and this outlines the steps available and the order in which they need to be taken.

If there is anything they are not happy about they should be able to talk to somebody immediately to try and resolve it. As employees of the College all staff have a responsibility and duty of care to students. In the first instance this involves taking the time to actively listen to the student without prejudice. Oxford House College is committed to a fair and open complaints policy without any form of discrimination.

An initial judgement should be made as to whether it is appropriate for the conversation to take place publicly. To make this judgement staff should take into consideration the sensitivity of the issue, the preference of the student and the potential impact and consequences of speaking openly and publicly. If it is deemed best not to speak publicly then two members of staff should be present.

After listening to the complaint the staff member should not make any comment but instead make a judgement on the severity and seriousness of the complaint. If it is deemed to be a minor issue which can easily and quickly be resolved then the issue should be dealt with immediately avoiding the use of any subjective or provocative language. A diary note should be made in the OHC BECAS portal for future reference.

If the complaint is not deemed to be a minor issue then a member of the management team should be involved. In the first instance contact the appropriate member of the management team and explain the situation. Do not discuss the situation with the student present or on the phone so the student can overhear. The manager involved will then make a judgement as to whether to see the student immediately (ideal) or make an appointment to see the student with minimal delay involved.

It is recommended best practice that the manager has another member of staff present during the meeting. The manager will listen to the complaint without prejudice and ask any further questions to try and establish the full set of circumstances surrounding the incident and what response/further action the student would like to see. The manager will then arrange for a further meeting on an agreed day and time to allow for a full and thorough investigation.

The student will be given the opportunity to have a witness present at the second meeting. The student will be given the opportunity to put the complaint in writing to the manager.

A full and thorough investigation will then take place, which may involve speaking to other members of staff and/or students and gathering witness statements to support the case.

The conclusion of the investigation will be relayed to the student at the arranged meeting, not usually more than five days after the initial complaint. Where a student has put a complaint in writing the response will be put in writing as well. The response to a written complaint will only be given after consultation with Head Office. The student will be asked if they are happy with the outcome. If they are not the student should be reminded of the College's complaints procedure and the next stages available to them.

If you are still unhappy you can contact the British Council via email at general.enquiries@britishcouncil.org, by phone on 0161 957 7755, by fax on 0161 957 7762 or you can write to them at 10 Spring Gardens, London, SW1A 2BN. You can also contact English UK via email at info@englishuk.com, by phone on 0207 802 9200, by fax on 0207 802 9201 or you can write to them at 56 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AG.

Any complaints received only in writing should be passed on to management immediately. The manager involved will contact the student after liaison with Head Office and try to arrange a meeting, following the procedures outlined above.

All complaints in writing, including email, will be filed with the response and outcome in a separate Complaints folder, located in each centre. Any complaint against a member of staff relating to their capability is covered in the Employee Handbook under Capability Procedures. We recommend and expect that all staff are familiar with this. Any complaint against a member of staff relating to misconduct is covered in the Employee Handbook under Disciplinary Procedures. We recommend all staff are familiar with this. Any complaint which involves an allegation of a criminal offence will be

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reported to the Police. The alleged perpetrator (student or staff member) may be suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

General:

1. The course fees and deposit are valid only for the person, course[s] and dates specified on the Enrolment Form.
2. The Registration fee is non-refundable.
3. If you cancel your course before arrival due to visa refusal or you are refused entry to the UK, we shall refund your tuition fees in full minus a £60 cancellation charge and the £50 Registration fee. We need to see the original refusal letter in order to give you a refund. You must apply for refund within six months of refusal date.
If you cancel your course before arrival for any other reason, no refund or credit will be given. (Note: special cancellation terms apply to Comenius/Grundtvig grant applicants).
If you cancel your course after arrival, leave it early, or miss any lessons, no refund or credit will be given, including in case of sickness.
4. The minimum age for General English courses is 16 (except for Junior Summer Course and school group courses in Stratford-upon-Avon, when it is 11). There is no upper age limit.
5. All 3 hours classes include a 15 minute break.
6. All two hour classes include a 10 minute break.
7. General Student Visa (GSV) students are required to attend an additional 1¼ hour Skills Class, at a cost of £10 per week.
The days and times are to be confirmed on arrival.
8. One-to-One lessons include a 10-minute break if more than one hour is taken at a time.
9. When necessary, the College reserves the right to alter the teacher/timetable and/or transfer students from one class or course to another, from one time of study to another, and to merge small classes or cancel classes and courses. Fees may also be subject to change.
10. If you are a complete Beginner in English we may not have a suitable class.
11. Books are not included in the course fees. Students are required to buy their own books at the College at the start of their course (Cost approximately £30 each).
12. There is no reduction in fees where there is a UK public holiday.
13. You are strongly advised to organize medical and cancellation / curtailment insurance before travel.
14. Holidays can be taken by arrangement but we require at least 2 weeks' notice.
15. You cannot change from a full-time course to a part-time course or One-to-One class.
16. Students whose behaviour prejudices the best interests of the College will be asked to leave before the end of their course and no refund on the course fees will be payable by the College.
17. Oxford House College may use additional classrooms in other buildings located near the College, including local colleges / universities.
18. Junior Summer Course excursions are subject to change at short notice in the event of adverse weather conditions.
19. Centre Open and Closure Dates: Please refer to your OHC staff member, or the website for regular and update student timetables and information.

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