

AMERICAN INTERCONTINENTAL UNIVERSITY
GRADING AT THE LONDON CAMPUS

AIU's London campus enjoys dual accreditation. For degree-seeking students one of the advantages of studying at AIU-London is that, provided they're enrolled in an appropriate Bachelor's program, they have the opportunity to obtain a fully accredited British degree as well as an American degree. The American degree will be awarded of course by American Intercontinental University, which is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [www.sacs.org], one of the regional accrediting commissions recognised by the Department of Education of the United States of America. In 2002 the SACS reaffirmed its accreditation of AIU for the maximum period of ten years.

The British degree will be awarded by London South Bank University [www.lsbu.ac.uk], a fully licensed British university that is a leading provider of higher education in the United Kingdom. London South Bank University is in the process of approving our Bachelor's programs {other than the Bachelor's in Information Technology} as programs leading to the award of London South Bank degrees.

In 2002 AIU-London successfully applied for membership of the UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) [www.qaa.ac.uk]. The QAA operates a program of "Institutional Audits" to assure the quality and standards of British university programs. AIU-London is the first American institution of higher education to be admitted to QAA membership. Whereas British taxpayer-funded universities have to be in membership of the QAA, for AIU-London this membership is entirely voluntary. All universities in membership of the QAA are expected to follow the QAA's "Code of Practice" (available at its Website). AIU-London's Institutional Audit took place in the summer of 2005.

So although AIU-London is a campus of an American university, it operates extra systems of quality assurance in line with all British universities, and as required both by the Open University and by QAA. These systems include:

- The appointment of one or more "External Examiners" - experts from other British universities and industry - who oversee the assessment process for all 300- and 400-level courses and for selected lower-level courses.
- Scrutiny of all project assignments and Final question papers at 300- and 400-levels by the External Examiners.
- Double Internal Marking (or Grading) of all Final course assessments at 300- and 400-levels.
- Sample scrutiny of all 300- and 400-level course assessments by the appropriate External Examiners.

Additionally, all assessments are benchmarked against a set of campus-wide generic assessment criteria, which tabulate grade-bands at Levels 100 through 400 in terms of Intellectual Skills and Attributes, Processes and Behaviors. Percentage and/or letter grades are awarded in accordance with these criteria, as follows:

Grade A – work assessed between 100% and 70%

Grade B – work assessed between 60% and 69%

Grade C – work assessed between 50% and 59%

Grade D – work assessed between 40% and 49%

Grade F – work assessed below 40% [Fail]

For each course taken at the London campus, students will receive on their transcript the appropriate letter grade that reflects, in accordance with the generic and course-specific assessment criteria, the quality of the work submitted.

The instruction given at AIU-London can best be characterized as "Anglo-American". Instructors teach wholly within the AIU curriculum, but their pedagogic approach will often assume - and encourage - more student autonomy than is the case in many American universities. That is to say, students are expected to undertake a certain amount of guided self-learning on their own. At AIU-London, students are regarded as partners in the learning process.

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