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working together for UK maritime skills development

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## MSA Qualifications

We work with SQA, the Scottish Qualifications Authority, for all our qualifications *throughout the UK*.

You can find comprehensive information on all the Maritime Studies Qualifications [here](#).



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## MSA Members

Border Force

British Marine

British Tugowners  
Association

Company of Watermen  
and Lightermen



## Maritime Skills Alliance Newsletter

December 2017

### Greetings!

We end the year with a cheering photo of the launch of the Clyde-built ferry, Glen Sannox.

And bring you news of two potentially very valuable developments with apprenticeships, to create a new route to train Officers Of the Watch for smaller vessels, and potentially for surveyors.

Happy Christmas!

Iain

Iain Mackinnon  
Secretary  
0208 99 88 77 2  
[iain@maritimeskills.org](mailto:iain@maritimeskills.org)



photo courtesy of Inverclyde Now

**Welcome to the Glen Sannox – built on  
the Clyde for Caledonian MacBrayne**

International Jack Up  
Barge Operators'  
Association

International Association of  
Maritime Institutions

Maritime and Coastguard  
Agency

Marine Society and Sea  
Cadets

Merchant Navy Training  
Board

MYBA The Worldwide  
Yachting Association

National Workboat  
Association

Port Skills and Safety

Royal National Lifeboat  
Institution

Royal Navy

Royal Yachting  
Association

Seafarers UK

Sea Fish Industry  
Authority

Thames Skills Academy

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What a great sight to see a shipyard on the Clyde launching an innovative new ship for a British customer!

This is the Glen Sannox, the UK's first liquefied natural gas passenger ferry, built by Ferguson Marine at their Port Glasgow yard, for Caledonian MacBrayne's Ardrossan to Arran route. It was launched by Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, on 21 November.

[Inverclyde Now](#) has more on the story.

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### **New group to develop an OOW apprenticeship**

The MSA has convened a working group to develop a new apprenticeship leading to Officer Of the Watch.

It follows strong interest from companies in the tug sector, and the Royal Navy, which both want to see an apprenticeship leading to OOW <500GT Near Coastal certification – and the superyacht sector, which is after an OOW <3000GT Unlimited apprenticeship. ie this is primarily for the small vessel sector (and does not affect the cadet programme in any way).

Our plan is to create new apprenticeships in both England and Scotland, given the spread of demand.

Chris Guthrie of Serco will chair the group, with Iain Mackinnon of the MSA and Robert Merrylees of the British Tugowners Association providing the Secretariat. Contact [Iain Mackinnon](#) for more.

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**Possible apprenticeship for surveyors**

IMarEST has kindly agreed to host a meeting in January to explore the possibility of using the apprenticeship route to train more ship and boat surveyors. Industry can use apprenticeships (and the subsidy available from the Government) to do far more than train school-leavers for entry-level jobs.

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### **Apprentices' Minimum Wage to rise in April 2018**

Published alongside the Budget was the news that the Minimum Wage for apprentices is going up from April 2018 from £3.50ph to £3.70ph. (Government research shows that most companies in the economy pay at least twice the legal minimum). Details [here](#).

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For more information on the current range of apprenticeships available, see the [Apprenticeships page](#) of the MSA website.

And see our [Briefings](#) for more on how the Apprenticeship Levy works.

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To keep up-to-date with what we're doing, please sign up for our newsletter - and please mail this on to others who might be interested.

Iain Mackinnon

Secretary

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