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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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Maritime Skills Alliance Newsletter

March 2018

Greetings!

The big news this month is that work to develop new maritime schools qualifications for England has finally come to fruition. There are two, at Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) and Level 3 (A level equivalent) and they are available for use now. That's a big step forward, which we hope will help to encourage more talented young people to explore what the maritime sector has to offer.

Iain

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openawards

School Qualifications are here at last!

Schools and colleges across England now have two new qualifications they can offer, provided by Open Awards:

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

- [LEVEL 2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN MARITIME STUDIES](#)
- [LEVEL 3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN MARITIME STUDIES](#)

These qualifications are designed to encourage students to take an interest in the maritime sector, with progression to university, to apprenticeships, to Merchant Navy cadetships, or to careers in the Royal Navy.

For the Level 3 qualification in particular, the Steering Group plans to add other options: the current range is very much a first offer. Suggestions please!



This work has long been championed by [Jamie Bullar](#), Head of the Nautical Studies department at London Nautical School; we would certainly not have these qualifications were it not for Jamie's vision, energy and dogged commitment to seeing the project through to completion.

Many others have played important roles, not least [London Nautical School](#) in allowing Jamie time to work on these qualifications, the [Conway Merchant Navy Trust](#) and [Trinity House](#) with financial support, [Open Awards](#) with their expertise in shaping the qualifications to meet the requirements of the Regulated Qualifications Framework, and [a large group of volunteers](#) who have done the detailed work of writing Units.

The remaining step is to get the qualifications accepted by the Department for Education so they count in school league tables. In the meantime they will be piloted from this September, by London Nautical School, Hull Trinity House Academy, and Dart Marine School at South Devon College.



Surveyor apprenticeship group is in business

IMarEST hosted a second meeting this week, under the interim chairmanship of Alan Cartwright, and agreed to submit its formal Expression of Interest to the Institute for Apprenticeships for the May

deadline. Di Fitch of the Liverpool John Moores University's Maritime SuperSkills project will be supporting the group.

The group would welcome interest from other employers. (Please [contact Iain Mackinnon](#) initially).

Officer Of the Watch apprenticeship

There have been two meetings so far, under the chairmanship of Chris Guthrie of Serco, of a group exploring the scope for using the apprenticeship route to OOW certification. With interest from fishing, superyachts, tugs, workboats, and the Royal Navy, the group is looking at an apprenticeship which would cover:

- fishing OOW
- OOW 500 GT Near Coastal
- OOW 3000 GT Unlimited

Contact [Iain Mackinnon](#) if you want to know more.

Marina and Boatyard Standard submitted

The employer-led group reviewing the Marina and Boatyard apprenticeship has submitted its draft Standard for approval by the Institute for Apprenticeships.

Companies do not need to wait, however: you can use the existing apprenticeship today. Details [here](#).

NI exemption for apprentices

Did you know that if you employ an apprentice aged under 25 you do not pay National Insurance for

them? Full details [here](#).

Also in the news ...

Work is to begin this summer on the £25m [Maritime Knowledge Hub](#) in Wirral Waters - a joint project from Mersey Maritime, Liverpool John Moores University, Wirral Council and Peel Group.

The Government's Chief Scientific Adviser has published its [Foresight report "Future of the Sea"](#), packed with interesting information, and big ambitions about the scope for businesses in the UK to make much more of the marine economy - across the globe.

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
