

Education and Distance learning Professional Qualification Report

Prepared for the IIMS 2021 Annual General Meeting

By Vicki Loizides, Education Co-ordinator

Thank you for the warm welcome to the IIMS since my arrival in March. I am enjoying my new role and look forward to meeting more people face to face when life starts to return to normal.

Professional Qualifications

Our student intake remains consistently strong. Covid restrictions have allowed people time to study and consider career changes, which is drawing in students with real enthusiasm. There has been excellent student interaction so far in 2021. The emphasis on connecting personally with students is important, and the assessors agree this results in more successful course completions and better quality of work. Using LinkedIn and WhatsApp in addition to more traditional methods of communication means students feel part of a larger community and allows them to talk to one another as well as Head Office.

We are getting a steady stream of expressions of interests and increasing numbers of direct enquiries through the website, with existing surveyors wanting to add our Diploma to their list of credentials. We are also working on inviting those students who did not complete to re-enrol and return to their studies with support with some success.

Work continues to keep our course material up-to-date. Unit 26: Surveying Steel and Alloy Small Craft was successfully reviewed and returned to the course program this year. Unit 14: Surveying General Cargo is still under review, and Unit 12: Heavy Lift & Project Cargos is also undergoing a much-needed update. There are two units in the pipeline, one on MCA Coding and another on Superyachts, which will be excellent additions to our specialist unit programs.

Practical Course

Arrangements for our second Yacht & Small Craft practical module are underway, in conjunction with Lyme Regis Boat Building Academy. It was extremely successful in December 2020 with 6 students attending, who gave us excellent feedback. We hope to expand to 12 students in December 2021, keeping an almost identical program.

Student Portal

We have renewed our dialogue with eDot to create a new student portal, with a soft launch scoped for December 2021. An exciting, fully interactive student website, streamlining administrative processes whilst maintaining our all-important personal approach to the student community.

Webinars

Webinars have been well attended, with sessions including Unit 18: Marine Incident Investigation and a Rigs & Masts tutorial. Report Writing webinar runs quarterly, in line with student intakes. It is very popular and considered a fundamental part of student education. Delegates in our May session were extremely receptive and well-prepared.

Vicki Loizides

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