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First CPD programme for river workforce launched by Thames partnership

The country's first inland waterway continuing professional development (CPD) programme has been launched by the **Thames Skills Academy (TSA)**, the **Company of Watermen & Lightermen (CWL)** and the **Port of London Authority (PLA)**. The programme has been designed to help crews employed on the capital's river build long-term careers.

Thames CPD focuses on mandatory safety courses, accredited formal training and "on the job" learning. Initially focused on those with a Boatmaster's Licence (BML), it will be rolled out to include everyone working afloat.

Richard Everitt, TSA chairman, said: "Thames CPD is the result of detailed consultation with companies operating on the tidal Thames and their crews, as well as leisure users of the river.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped us with its development. I am delighted that Cory Riverside Energy, GPS Marine, Livett's Group, Transport for London (TfL), PLA and Uber Boat by Thames Clippers have already joined the programme. As more companies and workers sign up, I look forward to it going from strength to strength in the years ahead. It's a vital building block in ensuring the river's continued prosperity."

Derek Mann, master of CWL, who has worked on the river for over 50 years, said: "Whether you are 17 or 70, Thames CPD is a major step forward for everyone who makes their living on the river.

I encourage all my river colleagues to sign up to the Thames CPD programme. The world is changing fast, making it essential that river workers' skills are up-to-date and fit for the challenges that lie ahead."

Christopher Rodrigues, PLA chairman, said: "A well-trained, well-qualified workforce is central to maximising the river's social, economic and environmental potential and achieving our Thames Vision 2050 goals.

Thames CPD, designed for and by river workers, will help maintain the Thames. the beating heart of London, as one of the world's premier waterways."

Jeremie Dousellin, who secured his BML in 2020 and recently joined the PLA from City Cruises, said: "Thames CPD is a chance for me to keep my skills and knowledge up to date."

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IN OTHER NEWS

=> [Autumn dates for TSA featured training](#)

The Personal Riverside Safety, Barge loading and Mooring courses

=> Join our next [WOTW event](#)

=> Reminder: [Support for apprentices extended to 30th September 2021](#)

As always, we are looking forward to your feedback and busy Summer and Autumn when we Build Back Better together.

Katherine Riggs

CEO of the Thames Skills Academy



Hear why the CPD is a win-win for employees and employers.

Find out more and join the Thames CPD programme. [Click here for the Thames CPD training and development that the TSA offers.](#)

IN OTHER NEWS



(c) PLA photo archive, a jump into the Thames - training for policemen, 1920 (London)

We are back in the swimming pool!

With our Autumn courses, the **Personal Riverside Safety Course** will be back to a full-time course including practical training in the pool. However, this H&S training for workers on and along the Thames doesn't look anything like this photo!

This hands-on course provides an overview of the potential dangers of working on or near water and offers practical tips to help you to stay safe should you or a colleague fall into the water.

Autumn dates:

13th September 2021 / 11th October 2021 / 8th November 2021 / 1st December 2021

[Find out more and join our next course now](#)



Vessel Mooring & Securing Operations

This one-day course provides an overview and knowledge of safely securing vessels to a quay, including line-person duties, safe access, and communications.



Barge Loading Course

This one-day course focuses on how to moor different types of vessel and how to safely load and unload them.

Find all TSA featured courses here



This year's International Women's Day was asking the question of how we choose to challenge. We hope that our Women on the Water networking events and the LinkedIn group helps to share experience and support on how to help forge a gender-equal world and celebrate women's achievements. Join us on [Linkedin #WomenOnTheWater](#) and at our [next meeting](#).

What "Women on the Water" aspires to:

- Encourage more diversity in the inland waterways sector, including the tidal Thames, by providing networking opportunities for women in operational roles.
- Support all women in the sector through knowledge sharing and mentoring.
- Position the industry as an attractive career choice for women.

[Find out more about the next Women on the Water Networking events](#)

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Doubling apprentice payments to £3,000 for all new hires, of any age.

New Skills

93% of apprentices remained in employment or went onto further training in 2018/19 after completing their apprenticeship. More than 40,000 extra young people in England will be able to benefit from the new £126m investment in traineeships too.

New Flexibility

A new innovative flexi-apprenticeship programme will allow people to work for a number of different employers in the same sector, a boost for industries with more flexible working patterns, such as the TV and film industry.

Over the course of this year, as the economy begins to recover, we are shifting our resources and focus towards getting people into decent, well-paid jobs.

Budget 2021

Rishi Sunak
CHANCELLOR

Reminder - Financial support extended to September 2021

Does this look familiar? This tweet was part of the government's budget announcement back in Spring 2021 announcing to double the apprentice payment to £ 3,000!

There is still time to take advantage of the doubling of the apprenticeship payment the government is offering until 30th September.

[Find out more about financial support for hiring an apprentice.](#)

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