



**WITH  
PLYMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY**

A proposal for ABMA-registered learners

Prepared by: Dr Richard Thain, MLA, 21 July 2016

<b>Table of Contents</b>	
<b>Background</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MLA degree pathways</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Options for ABMA-registered learners</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Appendix 1. Useful links</b>	<b>5</b>

## Background

Founded in 2011 within Plymouth University, the Marine Learning Alliance (MLA) is a specialist provider of maritime-based degrees by distance learning. Since 2014, MLA has worked under the auspices of the Institute for Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST), the qualifying and professional body for marine engineers, marine scientists and marine technologists, whether seafaring or shore-based.

The IMarEST is the largest marine organisation of its kind with a worldwide membership based in over 120 countries, it is a registered charity and provides grades of membership for everyone, from those seeking to become Chartered or gain other Professional Recognition, to those just starting out in their careers or studying in education.

MLA is a full Academic Partner College of Plymouth University, and is its specialist provider of distance learning. Providing distance or blended learning with full tutor support to each student, the MLA has a commitment to all its learners of:

**“An outstanding student experience”**

MLA has won numerous awards, including the Times Higher Education Award for Outstanding Employer Engagement in 2014. Please click on the links to view the MLA videos, which provide a brief introduction to our [programmes](#) and our students' [feedback](#).

## MLA degree pathways

MLA provides, at present, degree pathways in two principal subject areas; Hydrography, and Sustainable Maritime Operations (SMO).

The SMO programmes, at BSc (Hons) and MSc levels, are aimed directly at those who are seeking to enter, or advance within the shipping industry. Syllabus content is based on extensive research using the IMarEST industry and academic network, and is linked to explicit industry requirements (thus improving employability prospects) as well as to national and international Higher Education guidelines.

Following an extensive programme of work between MLA and ABMA, we are now in a position to recognise successful completion of the ABMA Diploma in Shipping and Logistics as meeting the entry criteria for either the BSc or MSc Sustainable Maritime Operations programme. The level of entry will be decided by the MLA Admissions Tutor, based on the individual student's educational achievement, background, and work experience if relevant.

## Options for ABMA-registered students based in South Africa

1. Students who have completed successfully the ABMA Shipping and Logistics Professional Qualification are deemed to meet the entry criteria for MLA's Plymouth University accredited BSc (hons) or MSc Sustainable Maritime Operations programmes, i.e. successful completion of the Shipping and Logistics diploma facilitates automatic entry to the SMO programme
2. Students who have completed successfully the ABMA Human Resource Management, or Business Management Professional Qualifications are also eligible to apply for the SMO programmes, and entry will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the MLA Admissions Tutor.
3. For students applying from the ABMA centres, MLA and the IMarEST are delighted to make available a selection of bursaries/grants to facilitate engagement with our BSc, BSc (hons) and MSc programmes:
  - All prospective students are eligible to apply for a bursary/grant, whether sponsored by an employer, or self-funded
  - Bursaries/grants can be awarded for up to 75% of the course fees
  - They are awarded based on information provided on the comprehensive application form (available on request from [info@mla-uk.com](mailto:info@mla-uk.com) )
  - Each bursary/grant applies to a particular academic level, for example, a student wishing to enter the MSc programme would apply for a bursary for the PGCert level covering the first three modules. They would then have to reapply should they require a bursary for the PGDip level (covering the next two modules)
  - There is a limited pot available for bursaries for our next academic year (Sept 2016 to August 2017), and they will be awarded on a 'first come first served' basis

4. In addition, the IMarEST is prepared to offer all ABMA-registered learners free student membership of the IMarEST. This enables students the opportunity to access the wide range of IMarEST membership [benefits](#), including:

- Annual digital subscription to 'The Marine Professional' membership magazine
- Access to the IMarEST online 'virtual library' (includes thousands of technical journals & materials and an eBook collection)
- Access to IMarEST TV – a library of recorded technical lectures from local branches and global conferences

## Appendix 1. Useful links

MLA SMO programme information:

<https://www.mla-uk.com/index.php/online-and-distance-learning-courses/bsc-msc-in-sustainable-maritime-operations>

MLA student feedback:

<https://www.mla-uk.com/what-students-say>

IMarEST membership benefits:

<http://www.imarest.org/benefits>