



Boat Building Academy  
Lyme Regis, UK

# Prospectus



# A few words about the BBA...



**'My aim in setting up the Boat Building Academy was to provide training for men and women of all ages** that would carry forward the best traditions of British boat building and enable each of them to develop his or her potential using the best modern techniques in boat construction. I am particularly proud of the excellent standard that our students achieve and of the success that so many have made in their careers in the marine industry'.

*Commander Tim Gedge AFC Royal Navy. Director, Boat Building Academy*



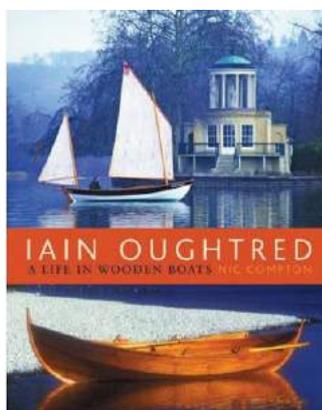
**'My visit to the Academy was truly inspirational.** I found the energy and commitment of the staff to be second to none. Their dedication to their craft and the students, and their passion for excellence in design and technical skills, clearly explains the success rates that the Academy has, and the very high level of results achieved by the students. You truly are a centre for excellence in your field!'

*Chris Humphries, Former Director General, City & Guilds*



**'Your college has set the bench mark for the future of training craftsmen** which has long been the biggest worry of traditional boat builders and repairers. Your college deserves to go from strength to strength and I for one will recommend it to anyone looking for a career in our industry.'

*Tom Richardson, Owner, Elephant Boatyard, Hampshire*



**Just one wee complaint about the Boat Building Academy: it wasn't there when I needed it! .**

*Iain Oughtred, Boat Designer*

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# Boat Building Academy

## Introduction

Tim Gedge founded the business in 1997. Boat building as an industry in the United Kingdom had declined and in some places had almost entirely disappeared. Where it did exist the end product was often mass-produced. Boat building skills still existed among those with a lifetime of experience, but with the demise of the traditional apprenticeship there were few ways of ensuring that entrenched skills, learned over generations, were passed on.



All of the boat building and woodworking courses at the Academy are intensive and highly practical. At least 90% of students' time is spent in practical activity in the workshop. Academy students do not work on commercial projects: people learn a wider, deeper range of skills without the conflicts of interest that arise from the requirements of commercial work. A wider range of boats are built by courses than are found in most boatyards, enabling students to gain practical experience of many different construction methods and techniques. Commercial work we are offered is passed on to our graduates.

In addition to gaining expertise in the practice and underpinning theory of boat building and allied fields some students also have the opportunity to build or restore their own boats as part of the 40 week, or 'long' course. Few places in the world offer this as part of an internationally recognised qualification. The value to all students is immense, the Academy offers an unparalleled depth and breadth of practical experience.

Some students use their time here and the advice of the instructors to develop an idea for starting a business. Prototype and developmental craft are often built on the course in addition to 'standard' boats. The use of these boats as training aids encourages analytical thinking and problem-solving skills beyond the usual boat building training norm. The flexibility and experience of the Instructors and the high instructor to student ratio means that students progress far beyond the level of a basic apprenticeship. We aim for an instructor/student contact time of 40 hours per week.

# Courses

The Boat Building Academy offers three different types of training:

- 40 week **Boat Building, Maintenance and Support**, the internationally recognised boat building course incorporating **City & Guilds 2463 Level 3 Diploma in Marine Construction, Systems Engineering and Maintenance**
- 12 week **Fine Woodworking incorporating Furniture Design** with a **Level 3 Boat Building Academy Diploma** (which is mapped and quality assured to the Regulated Qualifications Framework by PIABC). The course includes design and construction of a personal project piece, usually furniture
- Two to five day **Short Courses** covering specific skill areas from Introduction to Boat Building, Build a Boat - Initial Set-Up, Wooden Boat Restoration, Traditional Wooden Boat Building and Modern Wooden Boat Building, to Basic Woodworking and Furniture Making.

Students on all of our courses spend a minimum amount of time in the classroom. We feel it is vital to 'do', not talk about doing. Most courses operate on a greater than 90% practical, less than 10% theory split. .

All of the courses are full-time and run from 0830 to 1730 five days a week. The workshops are also open in the evening and at weekends (subject to Health and Safety requirements being satisfied).



# City & Guilds Level 3 2463 Boat Building, Maintenance and Support

## 40 week 'long' course

The flagship course that built our international reputation as a world-leading boat building training school. As part of the course some students have the opportunity to build a boat to take away at the end of the course.

There are two start dates per year: February and August. The end of each course, in December and June respectively, is celebrated with the launch of course boats in to Lyme Regis harbour.

We award a Boat Building Academy certificate in addition to City and Guilds certificates. The BBA Certificate is awarded to those on the course who have demonstrated a required level of commitment and achieved commensurate levels of capability and performance. The BBA Certificate is effectively a recommendation for employment



*Splay head door  
completed in week 4*

### Foundation - Woodworking Skills

We assume that everyone starts the course with no woodworking skills or experience. During this intensive six-week phase you learn about woodworking tools and how to sharpen them, becoming familiar with their setting and use through practical experience. The Academy lends each student a full set of tools and these remain with you throughout the course.



*Clinker section  
completed in week 5*

You are introduced to the vast range of timber types used in boat construction, including manufactured boards, learning about selection and preparation, common faults and defects. You will produce scarf, dovetail, widening and mortise and tenon joints, making practical pieces like a dovetailed box and a splay-head door. Toward the end of this phase you have the opportunity to construct your own toolbox, an ideal place to store your own personal tool kit and a great way to demonstrate your skills.

### Lofting

Lofting gives an understanding of the design process and a grasp of boat building fundamentals. Knowing how to loft from offsets (boat dimensions taken from fixed baselines) massively extends the range of boats a builder can choose from. Students complete 'teaching aid' lofts and also loft the boats their group will build later in the course. If you can loft you can fair a hull and make adjustments for changing the type of hull construction from the original design (e.g. strip planking instead of clinker). You will also learn how to take the lines from an existing hull in order to replicate boats for which no plans exist.

### Template Making

Students produce the moulds and templates that will be used in the construction of the course boats. Using a variety of techniques for transferring shapes from lofting to pattern material, you will learn how to judge which mould materials are best suited to particular hull construction types, and how to make efficient use of materials. You will also look at the difference between temporary moulds and permanent frames. Some of the moulds, via CAD, may be cut by CNC (computer numerical control) at Hooke Park, which acts as an introduction to the technology applied by the Architectural Association (AA).



## Stitch and Glue Dinghy Build

A fast and furious week learning the basics of stitch and glue construction (also known as stitch and tape). Each group builds a small dinghy from sheets of plywood and fits them out. It is not a race (although groups often have other ideas) The builds introduce some common boat building techniques like scribing, sheathing and the use of epoxy. For a nominal cost students can buy the dinghies they have built.

## Jig Planking

Before being let loose on the 'real thing' you learn the basics of clinker, cold-moulded, strip and carvel planking on the boat building training jigs.



## Laminated Stem



This is the first of two City and Guilds assessment pieces. You will loft the forward section of a small sailing dinghy, then take a template of the boat's stem from the lofting, using that template to set up a laminating jig to produce a laminated dinghy stem. The assessment includes a short written test.

## Fitting Out

Having completed the planking of one or more jig boats, they are now fitted out. During this phase you undertake a series of tasks from fitting rubbing strips, making centreboards, to making floors or installing foredecks.



## Oar and Spar

One week learning the art of oar making and the theory of spar making, discussing the variety of methods available to produce timber oars and spars, be they hollow or of stave construction. Make your own 'bollow' plane (a plane with a convex curve on two planes) to produce a spoon oar or alternatively make a canoe or kayak paddle or a set of flat bladed oars for your own boat. Later in the course masts and spars are produced for the course boats.



## Sail Making

Design, cut shapes, machine and hand sew sails for anything from a small dinghy to a round the world yacht. Modern sail techniques are taught using a Sailrite sewing machine, hand stitching for emergency repairs and final finishing. The group will probably make a sail for one of the course boats (we draw straws).



## Fibre Reinforced Plastics

Covering basic and more advanced (e.g. resin infusion) composite construction techniques. Practise basic lay-up techniques for polyester resin. Discover the range of techniques available for producing simple plugs and moulds and learn the basics of plastic repairs, grinding angles and colour matching. At the end of the phase you will produce a 95cm model yacht, the second City & Guilds assignment.



## Painting and Finishing

Different paint and varnishing systems; single and two-pack, traditional and modern. Students learn how to prepare different surfaces for paint and varnish application and techniques i.e. tipping off to produce a good quality finish, practising on a variety of items, from bright finishing rudders and tillers to painting the dinghies made earlier on the course. All of these techniques are used on course boats later in the training.

## Wooden Boat Repairs & Restoration

We have a number of boats available for restoration work. Some students may also bring, by prior arrangement with the principal, a restoration project as an 'own boat'. Students survey a boat, producing a schedule of works. They then learn how to maintain or restore the shape of a vessel, practise techniques for replacing planks, knees, deck beams and other items and get an overview of the problems that can occur on older boats. We also cover repairs to hulls constructed using glued techniques such as cold moulding and glued clinker.

## Stern Tubes and Prop Shaft Boring

The techniques used for setting up engines and aligning and boring shafts. Learn how to install engine bearers on a variety of traditional and modern hulls and look at the variety of propulsion systems and stern gear options available.

## Decks and Above Deck Structures and Fittings

Methods of laying decks, traditional and modern, be they solid teak decks over traditional beams or a modern plywood sub deck with thinner planking glued or screwed down. Sessions on fitting deck beams, carlins and associated structures. Look at the variety of above deck structures; dog houses, wheel houses, coach houses and the types of fittings available, the methods for fitting them and appropriate reinforcements according to the deck construction.



## Marine Systems

A week partly-run off-site at Rob Perry Marine, a marine engineering company ten minutes up the hill from the Academy. Hands-on experience of different engine types and principles, fuels and lubricants, exhaust systems, rigging and installation, electrics and corrosion. The week includes the RYA Diesel Engine certificated course.

## Rope Work

Rope work techniques including three strand, double and single braids, making grommets, back, eye and other splices.





## Build Your Own Boat

Building boats as part of the course is integral to our training philosophy. Students learn by hands-on, practical, 'start to finish' experience of the boat building process without the limitations imposed by commercial projects or the repetitive work needed on larger boats.

The skills learned through this process can be taken into building, renovation, restoration and maintenance work. See the 'Boats' pages on our website for photographic diaries of boats built since 2007.

The number of boats we build is never more than half the number of students on a course.. *We do not guarantee that everyone who wants to can build their own boat.* Which boats are built is decided during the first three weeks of the course through discussion between students, instructors and the Principal.

Boats built must satisfy the Boat Building Academy's overall training criteria in that:

- ◆ They should be normally be no longer than 16 feet.
- ◆ They are of a construction type appropriate for the course, generally glued and traditional clinker, carvel, strip planked, cold moulded, composite, resin infused and stitch and tape. Students can also choose to restore a boat
- ◆ The aim is to finish the boat by the end of the course (although there are very rare exceptions to this depending on the student's objective in building that particular boat).



## Student Boat Launches

At the end of each course, December for the February courses and June for the August groups, the boats built by the course are walked in procession down to the sea and launched with due ceremony into Lyme Regis harbour.

If you would like to join us for a launch in June or December to see the boats and meet the students, then please do come along. The dates and times are announced on our website [www.boatbuildingacademy.com](http://www.boatbuildingacademy.com)

## Outings

### Southampton Boat Show

The Academy takes a day trip to the Southampton Boat Show each September. Entry to the exhibition and transport there and back are free to Academy students.

The show gives a good idea of the range of boats produced in the UK and abroad, from small traditional wooden boats to high-end, state-of-the-art timber composite boats, and from low-cost mass-produced plastic daysailers to multi-storey super-yachts.

### Exhibitions

The Academy exhibits at several trade and craft shows throughout the year: these have recently included an annual stand at the Southampton Boat Show, Countryfile Live and The Contemporary Craft Festival.



# 12 Week Fine Woodworking incorporating Furniture Design

## Level 3 Diploma

Intensive and highly practical, the 12 week Fine Woodworking course is based on the boat building training philosophy that gained us our international reputation. The course is run entirely independently of boat building courses, with its own dedicated instructor. The course aims to equip students with the confidence and practical skills to start work in the woodworking industry or take a hobby to a higher level. In addition to learning hand skills, students design and make a personal project piece under expert supervision. Students have 40 hours per week contact time with their dedicated instructor.

The course carries an optional Level 3 Diploma, developed by the Academy with awarding body PIABC and which is exclusive to the Boat Building Academy. The Academy and the course are therefore subject to outside scrutiny of administration, course content, teaching and quality by PIABC.

The course is flexible and designed for people ranging from complete beginners to the more experienced. In the latter part of the course you can opt to complete the personal project piece and our PIABC quality assured qualification (mapped and certified to the Qualifications and Credit Framework) or concentrate on the personal project piece. We take a maximum of eight people on each course.

## Course Content

In broad outline the course timetable consists of:

- Timber types - (including sheet materials) and preparation and technology
- Cutting joints - halving/housing/mortice and tenon/dovetails (hand and machine cut)
- Woodworking adhesives - from PVA to epoxy
- Fixings and fastenings
- Laminating and bending timber - (including steaming)
- Use of power tools and small woodworking machinery
- Introduction to and use of large woodworking machinery
- Technical drawing and rod making (full size plan)
- Marquetry
- Finishing timber – surface preparation and use of oil, wax and varnish
- Design and make of personal project piece

**In addition to your personal project piece and a range of joints, you will also make a number of items to take home which include:**

A bread board

A hardwood, lidded, veneered box with a lock

A small table (Level 3 assessment piece)

A small cabinet with doors and drawer

(Level 3 assessment piece)





## Fine Woodworking Personal Project Piece

Students research, design and make a personal project piece as part of the course. Due to the small size of the classes there is great flexibility in what students choose to produce. It could be a toolbox based on a classic apprenticeship piece or, at the other extreme, something a student would like to make for their home. Whatever the student chooses it must be a piece of work that demonstrates the skills learnt on the course.

Should you wish to enter the construction or woodworking industry the project piece is an excellent practical representation of your work. We will initially discuss the personal project piece during your interview. With assistance from the instructor you will decide during the first week of the course what personal project you will design and make. The cost of all materials is included in the course fee except for the personal project piece.



# Short Courses

Short courses run from 2 to 5 days. You do not need any prior knowledge of woodworking or boat building unless the individual course description states otherwise. People join short courses for a variety of reasons:

We are happy to discuss and plan a programme of short courses for you should you have a specific project in mind. If you book two or more courses there is a discount of 5%. Use of tools and materials are included in the fee.

## Boat Building Short Courses

- Introduction to Boat Building
- Wooden Boat Restoration
- Build a Boat - Initial Set-up
- Traditional Wooden Boat Building
- Modern Wooden Boat Building
- GRP Repairs
- Renovation and Finishing
- Rope Work

## Woodworking Short Courses

- Introduction to Woodworking
- Basic Woodworking 1, 2 and 3
- Furniture Making
- Marquetry
- Antique Furniture Restoration

Further information and costs on the short courses can be found on the website:

**[www.boatbuildingacademy.com](http://www.boatbuildingacademy.com)**

# Accommodation

## Lyme Regis Marine Centre

The Marine Centre not only houses the Boat Building Academy, but also living accommodation for students. There are twelve single study bedrooms, a large fully equipped kitchen, dining room/sitting room with woodburning stove and shower rooms, and a further sitting room.

Accommodation, subject to availability, is offered to all students on courses at the Boat Building Academy. Should the accommodation be full, we will, within reason, help people joining longer courses to find a suitable place to stay in Lyme Regis or the surrounding area through our network of local people.

Our housekeeper looks after the communal areas of the accommodation. Residents are responsible for cleaning their own rooms (clean bed linen is provided) and for cooking and washing up, although home-cooked breakfast and lunch are usually available at a minimal cost on most weekdays. There are coin-operated washing machines, a tumble drier, iron and ironing board and each resident is given fridge, freezer and larder space. There is wireless broadband access in most parts of the building, including the bedrooms.

Hot water is heated by solar panel.

Rooms are reserved on a 'first come, first served' basis as people book their places on a course, although we do try to give priority to students on the 40 week Boat Building course.



# How to apply

## Interview

We do not believe that a requirement for formal qualifications or any form of test are helpful in assessing whether candidates will complete a course successfully. We look for a mature attitude, motivation and a clear enthusiasm and willingness to pursue the highest standards. Application and dedication to the course are key.

All potential 'Long Course' and 'Fine Woodworking' students are asked to attend for interview and bring a simple CV. You will be taken on a tour of the Academy, giving you the opportunity to visit the workshops, see what work is being produced and what boats built, in addition to meeting students on the courses and seeing the accommodation. You will then discuss with the Principal why you want to join the course, what you hope to achieve on it, and what you hope to do with your skills at the end of the course. Finally you will discuss with the Principal any further questions that your visit may have raised.

The interview process is constructed to give you a feel for the work and life of the Academy, so that you can make a decision about whether this form of intensive and highly practical training is appropriate for you. If you are a suitable candidate for the training you will be offered a place.

## If you cannot attend for interview

If for any reason you cannot attend for interview we ask you to send us your CV. If we feel you are a suitable candidate we will contact you and ask you to make an appointment for a telephone interview. On the prearranged date either the Principal or the Training manager will, when you telephone, conduct an interview. If, on the basis of that interview, we feel the course is appropriate for you we will offer you a place on the course and send you a booking form.

## Taking your place

Once you have been offered a place you are free to join any future course as long as there are places available.



# The costs

The course fees for the 40 week Boat Building, Maintenance and Support course and the 12 week Woodworking Skills course include:

- All City and Guilds and PIABC registrations
- Use of tools
- Materials - (excluding boat/furniture projects)
- Tea, coffee and biscuits a.m. and p.m.
- Personal Protective equipment
- Visit to Southampton Boat Show (boat builders).
- Stationery

## 40 week Boat Building, Maintenance and Support incorporating City & Guilds 2463 Level 3 Diploma in Marine Construction, Systems Engineering and Maintenance

The fee for the 2020 courses is £15,850. Included in the fee are materials, including those for a glass-reinforced plastic boat, clinker section, laminated stem, bollow plane, joints and a 7ft oar that you make during the foundation phase of the course. These are yours to take home. The only extras are for the materials of items you *choose* to take away with you; a toolbox, another oar and (last but not least) a boat. We receive good discounts from our suppliers and discounts are given to you.

## 12 week Fine Woodworking

The fee for the May and September 2019 courses is £5,175, for the 2020 courses the fee is £5,850, plus the cost of the materials for your personal project piece. Again, students benefit from the good discounts we receive from our suppliers. All pieces you produce other than the personal project piece are included in the fee.

## Payment

If you are offered a place on a longer course we ask for a 10% deposit to reserve a place on a specific course, with the balance paid one month prior to the start of your course. Please do not give us a deposit until you are ready to commit to a course. Short course fees are paid in full when reserving a place.

***Should you need advice on access to funding please contact the Administration Office. We will be happy to supply you with information.***

## Accommodation

The cost of the accommodation varies depending on how long your stay will be:

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Long course students intending to stay for 40 weeks      | £100.00 per week |
| Fine Woodworking students intending to stay for 12 weeks | £100.00 per week |
| Those on short courses                                   | £35.00 per night |

Students on the 40 week Boat Building, Maintenance and Support and 12 week Woodworking Skills courses are invoiced for accommodation one month in arrears.

# Contact us

The Boat Building Academy is a small organisation with great expertise, always happy to talk to people about their ambitions or training needs. Because of our size we can often create programmes or adapt courses to individual requirements. All you need to do is contact us.

**Write:** Boat Building Academy Ltd  
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**Email:** [office@boatbuildingacademy.com](mailto:office@boatbuildingacademy.com)

**Website:** Our website contains much information that cannot be included in this prospectus. If you would like to see more about the students and the boats they build, links to articles written about the Academy and a constantly changing snapshot of Academy life please visit

[www.boatbuildingacademy.com](http://www.boatbuildingacademy.com)

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