

## Education Report June 2020

### Professional Qualifications:

When Covid-19 struck, it meant many companies and self-employed surveyors were out of work. The concern for IIMS was how the inevitable effect on the economy, would affect the course intake numbers going forward.

However, quite the opposite happened. The April intake is the strongest IIMS has seen with 35 new students enrolled, spanning 20 different countries. It seems with more time on their hands, students used this opportunity to study. It's great to know our course is becoming more recognised and recommended worldwide.

Since the April intake, I have had a constant flow of enquiry emails from potential students. The expressions of interest form is frequently being filled in on the website, with a handful of people a day being sent course information. I can report we already have 21 who have been sent a proforma invoice for the July intake, as well as 5 for October.

After Unit 1 was updated by Mike, we began working on Unit 2 which had several broken links. This is currently being updated, and Unit 3 has been reviewed and is with Craig for updating. Reviewing the modules needs to be an ongoing process in order to maintain currency. We were hoping to add a further module 'Surveying Superyachts', however due to personal reasons, Phil Duffy has, for now, taken a step back.

There has been concern raised recently by a student over the potential outcome from our diploma course. It appears he was under the impression that upon completion, he would be a qualified surveyor. This is not something new to us. We have been very transparent on the course information about how gaining hands on practical experience is invaluable to a student's training and will only serve to further enhance his/her career.

However, what is sad to report is the apparent lack of support some of our students have come across when reaching out to other more experienced surveyors for help with mentoring.

In a previous report I referred to our new practical unit as part of the Large Yacht and Small Craft Diploma. There are only 10 places available, so far 3 students have paid their deposit. However, due to the current pandemic, we are in discussions with the course provider, as we need to make sure if the course goes ahead all necessary precautions are in place.

We have been scoping out a new student portal with the help of eDot Solutions, who have put together a comprehensive package which will benefit the students and make our processes smarter. The new portal is very interactive with more opportunities for us to automate some of our systems, however we understand the importance of the human touch so have kept certain elements of the process manual.

### Webinars:

During the recent lockdown we increased our usual number of online webinars. What we saw was hugely encouraging. Delegates who attended came from various areas of the globe and not all were members of the IIMS. It seemed some surveyors have used their time to increase and enhance their surveying knowledge. Given the different time zones of some of our delegates, we made recordings

of all the presentations which gave those not able to attend in person a chance to watch them at their own convenience.

We have been offering our Report Writing webinar free to all students, which has seen an encouraging number make use of this. Furthermore there has been some discussion on making this compulsory as part of the study material for unit 4.

Education Committee:

The last committee meeting consisted of myself (Lorna), Mike, Cam, Carey Golesworthy and John Noble in person, with David Pestridge joining us online. It was great to have David's input and he has agreed to join us again at the next meeting, which will be scheduled for later in the year.

Lorna Robinson – June 2020