

MAYOR OF LONDON



Mayor's Construction Academy Quality Mark

**STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATIONS
FROM CONSTRUCTION SKILLS TRAINING PROVIDERS**

MARCH 2018

COPYRIGHT

**Greater London Authority
March 2018**

Published by
Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

www.london.gov.uk

enquiries 020 7983 4000

minicom 020 7983 4458

ISBN

Photographs ©

Copies of this report are available
from www.london.gov.uk

CONTENTS

1.0	The Mayor's Construction Academy quality mark opportunity	3
1.1	The Mayor's Construction Academy	3
1.2	This opportunity - MCA quality mark	3
1.3	How does the MCA quality mark fit with the wider MCA?	4
1.4	The purpose & benefits of the MCA quality mark	6
1.5	MCA quality mark application rounds and validity	7
2.0	Application process	9
2.1	Application process	9
2.2	Application clarification questions	9
2.3	MCA quality mark application timetable	10
3.0	How the GLA will select successful applicants	11
3.1	Scoring applications	11
3.2	Quality assurance of application scoring	16
3.3	Feedback to unsuccessful applicants	16
3.4	Clarification meetings	16
3.5	Final decision	16



1.0 The Mayor's Construction Academy

quality mark opportunity

1.1 The Mayor's Construction Academy

In his manifesto, Sadiq Khan pledged to “establish a construction academy scheme with the housebuilding industry, to close the gap between our ambitious housing targets and the need for more skilled construction workers in London”. Tackling the housing crisis in London is one of the Mayor's top priorities, and there is a widely shared acceptance that there needs to be an unprecedented increase in housing delivery in London to address the shortage of housing in the capital, in particular, affordable housing.

Under the Mayor's leadership, the new Mayor's Construction Academy (MCA) will:

- identify and accredit high-quality construction skills training provision in London;
- strengthen co-ordination between construction skills training providers and construction sector employers through the creation of revenue-funded MCA hubs across the capital, building on best practice where it exists; and
- provide capital funding for up-to-date training equipment and premises.

The MCA will thereby ensure more trained Londoners can access construction-sector vacancies on the capital's house-building sites.

Refer to the MCA programme on the www.london.gov.uk website for further information on the wider MCA, including planned revenue and Skills for Londoners Capital Fund funding opportunities that will be made available in the future.

1.2 This opportunity - MCA quality mark

This statement of requirements pertains to Stage 1 of the MCA and invites applications from construction skills training providers, both public and privately-funded, to apply to receive the MCA quality mark. This can include provision offered by a further education college, independent training provider as well as an employer/ developer's own in-house skills provision.

The MCA quality mark will only be awarded to construction skills training providers who can provide evidence through the application process of the high standard of their training offer. Providers must demonstrate strong employer links. This should include demonstrable evidence of working with employers who are providing employment, apprenticeship and work experience opportunities. This should also include a proven track record of engagement with construction companies and evidence of the responsiveness of training programmes to employers' needs. Evidence of positive learner journeys and destinations will also be required.

Full details of the eligibility criteria and evidence requirements to receive the MCA quality mark are provided in Section 3 of this statement of requirements.

1.3 How does the MCA quality mark fit with the wider MCA?

The MCA will consist of a three-stage process in which stage 1 will act as a qualifying gateway to stages 2 and 3 (see Figure 1 below). Stage 1 will invite applications for the award of the MCA quality mark to construction skills training providers, offering both public and privately-funded provision. Construction skills training providers that are successful in stage 1 and are awarded a quality mark, will be able to bid through a competitive application process to become MCA hub leads.

Hub leads could also be an employer, developer or borough (where they are creating employment opportunities and/ or commissioning training interventions for the construction industry). A full list of organisations who will be eligible to apply to become hub leads will be specified in the forthcoming programme prospectus.

At stage 3, MCA quality-marked providers will become eligible to apply for grant funded capital investment in construction skills training facilities and equipment, as part of the MCA. Any quality-marked provider can apply for capital funds for construction skills related premises refurbishment or equipment (whether or not they form part of an MCA hub), as long as they meet the capital funds eligibility criteria.

Figure 1. MCA opportunities**STAGE 1 - Applications for MCA quality mark**

Open to: Construction skills training providers, offering both public and privately-funded provision.

GLA Funding: None.

Application process: Detailed in section 3 of this document.

STAGE 2 - REVENUE FUNDING**Applications for MCA hub leads**

Open to: Construction skills training providers, successful at STAGE 1, employers, developers or London boroughs.

GLA Funding: Up to £4m (subject to funding availability).

Application process: A separate statement of requirements will be published in summer 2018.

Only MCA quality-marked construction skills training providers will be eligible to form part of the skills training provision within MCA hubs.

STAGE 3 - CAPITAL FUNDING**Applications for capital funds for premises refurbishment and construction skills training equipment**

Open to: MCA construction skills training providers, successful at STAGE 1.

GLA Funding: £7.2m

Application process: A separate statement of requirements will be published in late summer 2018 for capital funding.

Funds will be available for MCA quality-marked providers as part of the Skills for Londoners Capital Fund, subject to meeting eligibility for funding.

1.4 The purpose & benefits of the MCA quality mark

The MCA quality mark aims to set a high bar for construction skills training provision in London, by recognising those organisations that most strongly demonstrate that they are addressing industry skills needs. It will only be awarded to high quality providers who can meet the stated evidence requirements.

Benefit to providers:

The MCA quality mark will signify excellent construction skills training. Providers will be recognised as part of the MCA and have direct access to the central MCA team at the Greater London Authority (GLA). The central MCA team at the GLA will help to establish strategic links across all MCA quality-marked providers as well as employers, developers and commissioners, to better coordinate construction provision in London. The MCA quality-marked providers will also be promoted as part of a wider campaign to attract Londoners - both young people and adults - into construction careers.

Benefit to employers:

The MCA quality mark will clearly signpost construction sector employers to high-quality providers delivering industry-relevant skills as well as wider employability and work readiness skills. The MCA will be a recognised brand that will be promoted as part of the Mayor's wider campaign to promote construction careers to Londoners.

Benefit to learners:

The MCA quality mark will indicate to Londoners that the provider is a high-quality organisation providing industry-relevant training, with strong employer links in the construction sector. The MCA quality mark will give learners assurance that the training offered by the provider will increase their chances of obtaining employment in the construction sector.

MCA funding opportunities:

Only MCA quality-marked training providers will be eligible and invited to apply for revenue funding to become an MCA hub lead and support coordination activities (Stage 2 of the MCA). Additionally, only MCA quality-marked providers will be eligible to apply for capital funding (Stage 3 of the MCA) on construction-related capital proposals through the wider Skills for Londoners Capital Fund programme.

Other organisations such as developers and London boroughs that wish to apply for GLA revenue funding to become a hub lead will only be able to do so through partnership with MCA quality-marked providers to form a hub. MCA quality-marked providers need not

necessarily go on to apply for revenue or capital funding under stages 2 and 3, but the GLA will encourage them to do so.

1.5 MCA quality mark application rounds and validity

We will be accrediting up to 24 of the highest quality construction skills training providers in the first round of applications for the MCA quality mark. Should a higher number of applications meet the specified criteria, the GLA reserves the right to award a greater number of quality marks to providers.

After the initial application process, future application rounds will take place every 12 months until 2020/21 with a maximum total of 60 providers gaining the quality mark.

The status of successful MCA quality mark holders will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the quality of their provision is maintained.

The GLA reserves the right to revoke the MCA quality mark from the provider, either following the annual review, where an MCA quality mark holder fails to provide evidence to meet the required criteria, or at any time at its discretion.



2.0 Application process

2.1 Application process

The GLA is inviting applications from construction skills training providers to receive the MCA quality mark and the status it will convey.

The MCA quality mark will be awarded via an application process managed and administered by the GLA Skills team.

Applications are to be made by submitting a completed application form and accompanying evidence to **MCA@london.gov.uk** by the closing date of **12.00 noon on Friday 27th April 2018**.

The MCA quality mark application form can be found on the www.london.gov.uk website.

The GLA reserves the right to request references at its discretion.

2.2 Application clarification questions

Any questions from applicants must be submitted to the GLA by email to **MCA@london.gov.uk** by **12:00 noon, Friday 20th April, 2018**. Questions via other means will not be permitted.

Applicants should note that all questions and their answers will be posted on the GLA website on a weekly basis in order to inform all applicants.

2.3 MCA quality mark application timetable

Table 1

Activity	Timeline
Launch of MCA quality mark statement of requirements and application process	Friday 23 rd March, 2018
Deadline for applications	1700hrs on Tuesday 1 st May 2018
Applications assessed	May 2018
Successful applications announced and MCA quality mark awarded	Summer 2018

3.0 How the GLA will select successful applicants

3.1 Scoring applications

Applications received by the deadline will be scored independently by a minimum of two scorers. Scorers will make an assessment on how well the application and evidence submitted addresses the criteria set out in Table 3 below, allocating a score between 0 and 5 as defined in Table 2 below.

Some criteria are essential and will be either pass or fail (rather than being scored) as indicated on the application form. If any of the individual essential criteria are judged as 'fail' the application as a whole will fail the eligibility to receive the MCA quality mark.

Table 2

0	Does not meet requirements, insufficient or no relevant information provided
1	Unsatisfactory response, an attempt has been made to address the evaluation criteria but case insufficiently demonstrated
2	Unsatisfactory response, an attempt to address the evaluation criteria has been made and could be developed with considerable additional time and work
3	Satisfactory response but some additional work required
4	Good response, the proposal meets the evaluation criteria
5	Excellent response, proposal meets evaluation criteria to a very high standard

An aggregate of all scores will be agreed by all scorers following completion of their independent scoring, noting that responses to the questions carry a weighted score as detailed on the application form.

Applicants must provide as much information as possible relating to the eligibility criteria, while observing the word limits for each answer. Additional documentation and evidence must be clearly referenced (using the criteria numbers in table 3 below) in the answers inserted into the completed application form.

Applications will be scored against the criteria specified in table 3 below and applicant organisations must meet these criteria to receive the MCA quality mark:

Table 3

1. General eligibility	
Criteria theme	Criteria
Provider information	<p>Evidence that publicly-funded applicants are on the Register of Training Organisations and / or Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers;</p> <p>and</p> <p>Evidence that the applicant is in receipt of funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to deliver education and training in 2017/18 and/or expects to hold a contract in future years.</p> <p>or</p> <p>Privately-funded applicants must be able to provide three years of independently audited accounts.</p>
2. Employer links	
Criteria theme	Criteria
Strength of employer relationships	<p>2.1 Written support from a minimum of 5 construction employers (including a mixture of larger and smaller employers) confirming;</p> <p>a) the quality of provision received by learners</p>

	<p>b) the depth of the relationship with the provider demonstrated through the number of opportunities offered to learners to move into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment • apprenticeship • work experience <p>c) support for the MCA application</p> <p>d) any in-kind support being offered to aid delivery of MCA provision.</p>
Employer and stakeholder engagement	2.2 Evidence of established and quality employer engagement activity, such as skills shows, trade shows, outreach teams
	2.3 Evidence of a long-term approach to construction skills curriculum planning (minimum of 2 years) and use of industry intelligence to inform offer
	2.4 Evidence of employers' commitment to support providers' mentoring and pastoral care for learners
3. Illustrations of positive learner journey and destinations	
Criteria theme	Criteria
Track record	3.1 Learner journey chart including identification of learners, initial assessment, induction, training and progression into further/ higher learning, employment or an apprenticeship for construction skills courses
	3.2 Confirmation of current learner progression volumes into employment in the construction sector or an apprenticeship in construction-related occupations, over the past twelve months
	3.3 Confirmation of current learner progression volumes into six months sustained employment in the construction sector, over at least the past 12 months
4. Standards – relevance of training – capacity to meet industry standards	
Criteria theme	Criteria
Track record	4.1 Confirmation by publicly funded providers of minimum achievement rates as set out in the funding

	regulations, in construction qualifications, over at least the past 12 months.
Facilities	<p>4.2 Confirmation of access to premises/ facilities for learning and teaching purposes for quality, relevant training which meets with the needs of students for an effective learning environment, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good quality, industry-relevant training equipment; and • meets diversity and accessibility requirements for learners from all backgrounds and with different needs.
Training offer	<p>4.3 Evidence that training offered meets industry standards.</p> <p>Providers are encouraged to demonstrate that they meet the minimum standards being developed by CITB in partnership with industry: https://www.citb.co.uk/qualifications-standards/training-standards.</p> <p>However, should providers offer alternative standards not within CITB's scope and deemed to be appropriate they should provide details and a rationale.</p> <p>Provision should take account of innovation and industry's changing needs. See:</p> <p>CITB Report - Faster, Smarter, More Efficient: Building Skills for Offsite Construction, Personas: https://www.citb.co.uk/documents/research/offsite_construction/offsite_construction_report_personas_20170412.pdf</p> <p>and</p> <p>CITB Report – A New Reality: Immersive Learning in Construction: https://www.citb.co.uk/documents/research/t1438-rr-citb-a_new_reality_report.pdf</p>
	<p>4.4 Evidence that a variety of teaching, learning, assessment and feedback methods are used, including the use of technology, to enrich the study experience</p>
Governance	<p>4.5 Governance chart for construction skills related training provision</p>

5. Quality	
Criteria theme	Criteria
OFSTED grades & quality marks	<p>5.1 Confirmation of OFSTED grading.</p> <p>OFSTED grading outstanding (1) or good (2) is preferred. However, there may be exceptions where a satisfactory grading may be accepted if a provider has a clear action plan for working towards an improved grade.</p> <p>Private training providers whose training offer is not publicly funded and who <u>do not have OFSTED grading</u> will need to provide alternative quality indicators, e.g. federation support.</p>
Staff capacity	5.2 Staff profiles to demonstrate relevant knowledge and experience to teach the industry requirements for their courses
Quality of teaching and learning	5.3 Confirmation that procedures are in place to monitor, review and provide feedback on tutors' performance
Quality management	5.4 Confirmation that a quality management system is in place that allows the provider to monitor and report performance and quality.
	5.5 Confirmation that the organisation will notify the central MCA team immediately of any allegation of fraud, malpractice or maladministration
Continuous development	5.6 Copy of most recent self-assessment report, or other quality assurance mechanism, covering all construction skills training provision delivered

3.2 Quality assurance of application scoring

If scores by independent scorers differ significantly for the same area of an application, the scorers will come together to discuss and review the reasons for the scores that they have applied, and agree upon the appropriate moderated score for that section.

If an aggregate score cannot be agreed between scorers following their independent review and subsequent discussion, they will call upon an officer not involved in the marking to that point, who will be engaged as a third-party reviewer.

3.3 Feedback to unsuccessful applicants

Feedback on unsuccessful applications will be made available upon request.

3.4 Clarification meetings

Following any in principle offer of the award of the MCA quality mark, the GLA may require that successful applicants attend a clarification meeting before the actual award is confirmed. This meeting will verify the GLA's evidence requirements.

You must not place any reliance whatsoever on receiving the quality mark until formally notified in writing and your authorised signatories have executed and returned an agreement which the GLA will provide should your application prove successful.

Accordingly, any expenditure that you incur and/or to which you commit (including that which you have incurred or committed to in relation to the preparation of your application) prior to formal notification and execution and return of the MCA quality mark agreement is incurred and/or committed entirely at your own risk.

3.5 Final decision

Following the scoring process, preferred applications will be presented to the Mayor's Construction Skills Advisory Group for consideration, ahead of final approval by the Mayor.

Other formats and languages

For a large print, Braille, disc, sign language video or audio-tape version of this document, please contact us at the address below:

Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Telephone **020 7983 4000**
www.london.gov.uk

You will need to supply your name, your postal address and state the format and title of the publication you require.

If you would like a summary of this document in your language, please phone the number or contact us at the address above.