

UKSA

UKSA is a registered charity that is committed to changing the lives of everyone it works with through its maritime training and experiences. The charity has enhanced the lives of many young people and undertakes extensive fundraising activities to provide personal development opportunities to all. UKSA is a globally recognised professional training establishment, training in watersports and yachting to the highest level.

As an employer, UKSA was invited to support The Isle of Wight College's application for accreditation for Action for Business College in March 2006. Jon Ely (CEO), who was present for the Action for Business College assessment, asked if the College were in a position to help his organisation to deliver a bespoke marine cookery course. The College's Customer Liaison Officer (CLO) for Hospitality, Leisure & Tourism met with Jon while he was still on the campus and arranged to meet the following week to discuss his ideas.

A range of issues were discussed and proposed at the initial planning meeting; Jon Ely arranged for contact to be made with Gemma Cooper and Emma Baggett at UKSA to move our ideas forward and for the CLO to produce an initial costed proposal and delivery plan for UKSA. A second visit was arranged when the CLO met with Gemma and Emma to ensure he understood the skills and course requirements of the organisation. The CLO worked closely with UKSA to identify human resources to service the course. These were split between the college and UKSA drawing on best resources/trainers for identified sessions.

The CLO designed a 5 day course and produced a draft schedule for UKSA. Following approximately twelve weeks of breakfast meetings, revised schedules, marketing activity and engaging with a range of partners and sponsors, we delivered the first UKSA Essential Marine Cookery (EMC) course from 12th to 17th June 2006 at a cost of £650 per learner for the residential course.

Learners undertook an initial introductory session at UKSA, where they were introduced to the delivery team, given UKSA uniforms, resource packs etc. They also undertook an induction when they arrived at The College, covering health & safety issues and tour of resources.

The course contents were based around:

- Preparation of a seven day menu plan for a Mediterranean charter yacht
- Safe preparation of, cook and serve crew breakfast for 4 people
- Safe preparation of, cook and serve a three course crew dinner for 4 people

- Identification of how to control food safety risks
- Match a range of food and wine.
- The kitchen/galley crew produced a range of simple recipes, plus other hints and tips, which were given to the learners in the form of a UKSA A4 ring binder.

The EMC course culminated with the students, in pairs, cooking 'crew breakfast' on board and then preparing, cooking and serving a three course 'crew dinner' onboard 4 UKSA training yachts at their base in Cowes on the Isle of Wight.

Daily review notes were taken to enable us to review the whole course the following week and adjustments are made at the end of every course from feedback from learners. Each course since has been rigorously reviewed, risk assessed and the schedule revised prior to delivery of the next course. UKSA continue to indicate a high level of satisfaction with the training delivered by The College. Ongoing relations are maintained with the course leader – Emma Baggett by phone, email, text and regular visits by the CLO to UKSA.

The Essential Marine Cookery course is now part of a four module programme of Essential Marine Hospitality, which is run by UKSA. The course has now been extended to run over six days and has recently increased from three to four courses per year due to popular demand.

Additional resource expertise has been brought in to provide added value for the learners and past learners are actively encouraged to input on courses and act as support technicians if they are in the country.

As a result of the success of this course UKSA and The College are working together to develop new courses which have been identified by past learners, LMI and sector employment indicators from crew agents.

www.uksa.org