

THIS IS WHAT PREVIOUS CANDIDATES HAVE THOUGHT:

What advice would you offer Candidates just starting out on the Programme?

Expect long hours, don't sit on your laurels, keep going until it's finished, it's a long a difficult slog. Don't start the course and make your personal life extremely busy like I did... Moved house, got married and had a baby!.. Not recommended unless you like to be extremely busy!

If you want this, you will need to make time for it, put in the effort, and it will not be as daunting as it seems, keeping momentum is important

It is tough and time is a massive thing. With a conscientious mentor and systematic approach, it can be done.

Talk with your employer and secure dedicated time to work on the course at work. dedicate the lion's share of a weekend day to your course. Doing an hour in the evening after a day's work is not beneficial.

In what ways have you found the Programme beneficial to you?

The regulation and legislation side of the role was fairly alien to me as well as a working knowledge of the PMSC. This contributes to my daily work as well as preparing for my PMSC audit.

The programme has shaped the way in which I manage my own team and harbours. I think it should be essential for all Harbour Masters. I've found that most harbour masters have a sea going background as a Deck Officer, and whilst there can be a great many transferable skills and knowledge, the role of a harbour master is unique and requires a particular knowledge and skillset which this course can help with.

My knowledge of port marine safety, legislation, organisation of a MSMS, as well as identifying clear issues with my own ports MSMS and documentation have enabled me to become a more effective member of the team, as well as prepare me for higher positions within marine management of ports when the time comes.

I have been in the ports industry for 15 years, this certificate is a culmination of that time, the experience I have gained and the passion and dedication I try and show towards the cause. The important point about this certificate is it represents the height of the occupation and ideally should be maintained as such.