

City & Guilds

Our history and patronage



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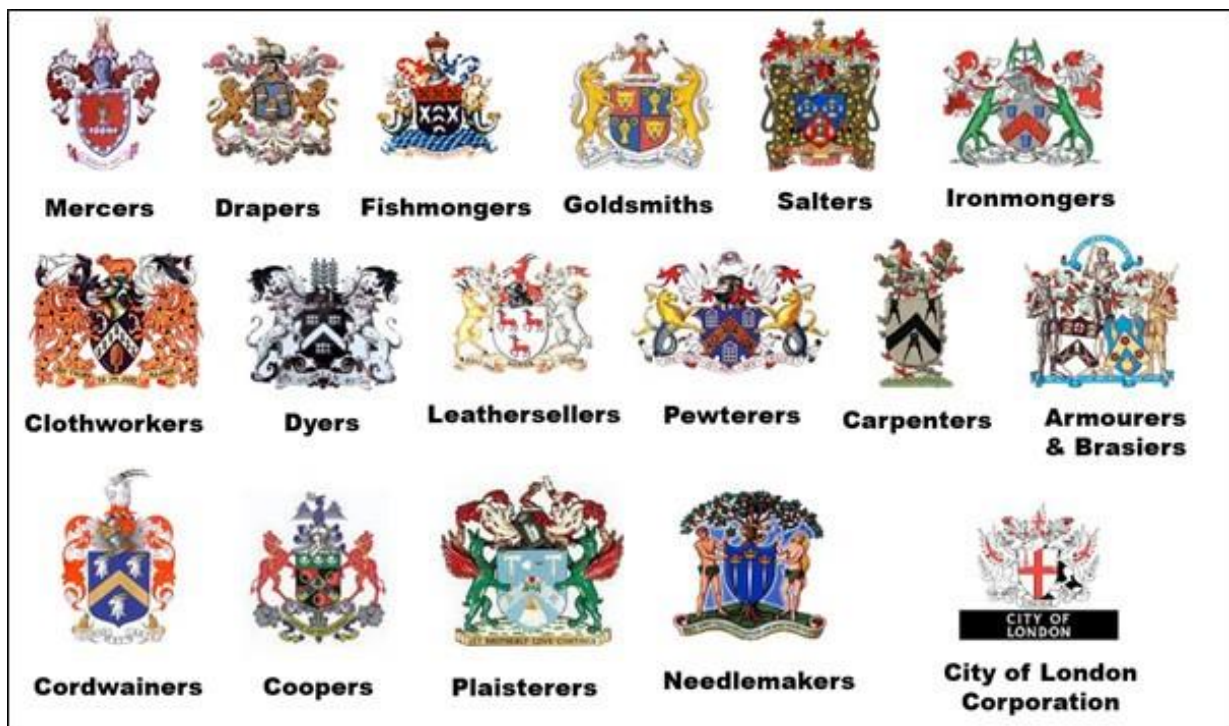
Our history dates back to 1878, when the City of London Corporation and 16 Livery Companies, the trade guilds, established The City and Guilds of London Institute (CGLI). Our founders recognised the need for quality training following the boom in industry after the industrial revolution, their objective was to support individuals and businesses by improving professional training under a national system of technical education.

Shortly after CGLI was founded our links with the Royal Family began, when King Edward VII became the first president of The City of Guilds London Institute in 1881, whilst he was still the Prince of Wales. The Institute was then granted a Royal Charter by Queen Victoria in 1900.

We have enjoyed our Royal patronage ever since with our current President being Her Royal Highness Princess Royal <https://www.royal.uk/the-princess-royal>

110 Livery Companies are classed as Founder Members for the CGLI. Many of these guilds date back hundreds of years to the early Middle Ages and the Livery Companies of the City of London were formed as trade guilds to regulate competition and maintain high professional standards, they were able to control prices, control wages, determine who could trade and ensure a high quality of work.

Today, the Livery Companies still champion their industries and play an integral role in their respective trades or crafts. Some still have powers of regulation and inspection, and some are awarding bodies for professional qualifications. They support education training and the charitable sector by donating on average £40million annually. They also continue to focus strongly on teaching the practice and theory of their crafts and trades. City & Guilds continues to have a close relationship with the Livery Companies today.



The coats of arms of the sixteen founder Livery Companies and the City of London

The City of London Corporation pre-dates parliament as the oldest continuous municipal democracy in the world, its constitution is rooted in the ancient rights and privileges pre-dating the Norman Conquest in 1066.

The Corporation's unique form of government led to a system of parliamentary government at local and national levels. London's importance as a centre of trade, population and wealth won concessions from the Crown to independently govern its own affairs.

As London grew, the City of London Corporation began to specialise in trade. Today, the Corporation:

- Supports and promotes London as the world's leading international and financial centre of business and trade
- Partners with local communities and businesses to increase skills, employment and opportunities for Londoners
- Enhances and promotes the City as a place for Londoners to value and enjoy

City & Guilds continues to have a connection with the City of London Corporation.

The vision of our founders has evolved into our legacy and a purpose that remains stronger than ever, to help people, organisations and economies develop their skills for growth

Contact us

The City & Guilds of London Institute. Registered charity in England and Wales 312832 and in Scotland SC039576.

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About City & Guilds

Since 1878 we have worked with people, organisations and economies to help them identify and develop the skills they need to thrive. We understand the life changing link between skills development, social mobility, prosperity and success. Everything we do is focused on developing and delivering high-quality training, qualifications, assessments and credentials that lead to jobs and meet the changing needs of industry.

We work with governments, organisations and industry stakeholders to help shape future skills needs across industries. We are known for setting industry-wide standards for technical, behavioural and commercial skills to improve performance and productivity. We train teams, assure learning, assess cohorts and certify with digital credentials. Our solutions help to build skilled and compliant workforces.

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