



BACKGROUNDER

International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS)

With campuses in the heart of historic Newport (R.I.) and a second facility in Bristol (R.I.), the International Yacht Restoration School offers technical training for the marine industry. The school teaches the skills, history, art and science of building, restoring and maintaining wooden and composite-construction boats and their onboard systems through three full-time programs in Boatbuilding & Restoration, Marine Systems, and Composites Technology. Each program employs a proven educational model that teaches problem solving, teamwork, project management and hands-on skills. IYRS graduates are highly regarded for their passion and craftsmanship and work with leading marine manufacturers and modern and restoration boatyards around the world. The school also promotes an understanding of maritime heritage to the public at large through its affiliation with the Museum of Yachting, its lecture series and *Restoration Quarterly* magazine, and by welcoming visitors to visit its student workshops and campus.

Three Industry-Driven Educational Programs Through the use of a traditional educational model based on a carefully designed integration of classroom instruction, documentation, hands-on work/study, and mentoring by industry professionals, IYRS offers three programs of full-time study in Boatbuilding & Restoration, Marine Systems, and Composites Technology. The school is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC), and in 2008 was one of only five schools to receive the ACCSC's School of Excellence designation. Emphasis in the IYRS programs is placed on developing a high degree of technical and craftsmanship skill, leading to highly regarded certifications.

- **The Boatbuilding & Restoration Program** draws an international student body and explores all aspects of restoration—from safety, tool use, surveying and historical documentation, to drafting, lofting, teamwork building, project management, woodworking and seamanship. The school is known in the marine industry—by both modern and restoration yards—for the high level of skill and craftsmanship taught. Graduates enjoy a near-100-percent job placement rate and often multiple job opportunities after graduating from this 20-month program.
- **The Marine Systems Program** was rolled out in fall 2007. In a joint effort with the marine trades of Rhode Island and the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC), IYRS developed a 9-month, in-depth program that includes onboard systems such as electrical, electronic, fuel, propulsion, and steering systems. The curriculum delivery employs traditional educational methods—such as research and hands-on lab work using the state-of-the-art technology associated with the rapidly changing marine systems environment. At the completion of the program, students will be eligible to take relevant ABYC certification testing.
- **The Composites Technology Program** was launched in 2010. A working knowledge of these materials, with their high strength-to-weight ratio, is not only in demand by the marine industry, but also by industries such as aerospace, wind energy, automotive, construction, and others. The IYRS program is focused on the needs of the marine industry and gives students a foundation in the processes, techniques, and technology of composites while advancing students to the leading edge of advanced composites. The program is the first of its kind—due to its depth and its combined focus on teaching hands-on skill along with an overall understanding of the due to its length, in-depth curriculum, and emphasis on teaching both hands-on practical skills and the theory behind the processes and applications of this fast-evolving technology.

Continuing Education & Professional Development IYRS also offers career-oriented continuing education in conjunction with the maritime industry. Courses are targeted to maritime service professionals, boat yard employees, and serious marine enthusiasts. The skills taught can be used in both modern and restoration boatyards—in restoration work, in building and maintaining classic wooden boats, and in building and maintaining modern fiberglass and composite yachts. The program includes courses in onboard marine systems, woodworking, metalworking, and marine coatings applications.

Strong Synergy with the Marine Industry IYRS' expertise in training craftsmen has proven to have a definite synergy with an industry that has a continual need for skilled employees. IYRS has spent considerable time listening to the needs of marine companies, and the school has collaborated with the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA), RI Economic Development Corporation, and the RI Department of Labor and Training to develop training programs; nonprofits such as the United Way of Rhode Island and The Rhode Island Foundation Newport County Fund have granted monies to help create pilot programs. With these grants, IYRS launched the first Marine Industry Career Day in 2006, where area employers connect with individuals in search of career opportunities; the event has become an annual happening. The first Marine Trades Training Program, a nine-day introductory course that helps individuals gain the skills-training needed to begin marine-industry careers, was run in 2006.

Two Maritime Locations IYRS' two locations in Newport and Bristol are uniquely suited to the programs offered at each locale. The IYRS waterfront campus on Newport's Thames Street, home to the Boatbuilding & Restoration program, is the site of notable classic-boat restorations and includes two historic structures: an 1831 textile mill—which has been newly restored and now includes expansion space for IYRS, a maritime research library, the school's Visitor Center, and lease space for companies that have brought businesses, jobs, and new economic activity to the Lower Thames Street neighborhood—and a 1903 electric generating plant. This latter building, known as Restoration Hall, houses the student workshop, machine workshops, and an upper-story gallery where the public can view student restoration projects. The school's waterfront also includes a stone wharf and floating docks where the public can view a seasonal showing of visiting vessels. The school's Marine Systems and Composites Technology programs are run at the IYRS Bristol campus based at the Franklin Street Marine Corridor—a unique industrial/education complex where students mix with marine-industry companies located at the complex.

Notable Restorations at IYRS The school's Newport campus is the site of notable restoration projects. Each year a fleet of classic boats restored by students emerges from Restoration Hall. Their launching takes place during the school's traditional Launch Day ceremony, an annual event at the end of term that marks IYRS graduation. The 1885 schooner yacht *Coronet* is now being restored on the campus and stands as the largest and most ambitious restoration project to take place at IYRS. The school acquired the 133-foot yacht in 1995 and directed the initial phases of the restoration. In 2006, *Coronet* was conveyed to Coronet Restoration Partners (CRP), an organization whose principals have substantial experience in classic yacht restoration and who share the same values and high standards for historic restoration as IYRS. Jeffery Rutherford of Rutherford Boat Works and Dr. Robert McNeil, an accomplished sailor and boat restorer, are CRP's lead principals. CRP is completing the restoration at IYRS, making positions on the work crew available to the school's graduates.

An Affiliation with the Museum of Yachting Newport's Museum of Yachting and IYRS converged in 2007. Both educate the public about maritime history and its traditions, while working to preserve those traditions. IYRS' main focus is vocational education: training craftsmen in traditional and composite boatbuilding, restoration, and marine systems. The museum educates the public at large through events and exhibitions. In summer, the museum and IYRS coordinate exhibitions and restoration projects, so visitors can watch restorations underway at IYRS and tour the historic campus, then travel across Newport Harbor on a water taxi to learn about maritime heritage in museum exhibitions that are open from mid-May to October.

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