



**MLA
COLLEGE**

205 Plymouth Science Park
1 Davy Road
Derriford
Plymouth
Devon PL6 8BX

Richard Thain
7 August 2019

Hello,

I am writing to share with you an exciting and significant new milestone in MLA College's development and growth: MLA College has a new shareholder in the form of BAU Global Education Network.

The BAU Global Education Network is one of the largest providers of education in Europe, with 6 universities, 3 language schools and 16 liaison offices worldwide. Our new affiliation with BAU will bring significant additional academic resource to MLA College, and provides opportunities for development in new subject areas, and in new countries. For example, BAU's Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul was recognised in July 2019 as one of 16 United Nations CIFAL centres. CIFAL centres exist to develop and provide training programmes addressing a wide range of issues relating the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Through the BAU education network, MLA College has opportunities to develop and enhance its academic offer in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly through applying our proven distance and blended learning model to both maritime and non-maritime subject areas.

As before, MLA College also remains a part of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). The strong links with the IMarEST enable MLA College to inform and be informed by national and international developments and initiatives in the marine sector, and engage directly in UK Government strategies relating to the marine sector, such as "Maritime 2050". The College remains committed to developing marine and maritime professionals worldwide.

I would like to take the opportunity to reassure you that your programme of study, your tutoring, marking, feedback and study process will not change significantly. MLA College has significant growth and expansion plans for new courses, and we may soon move to larger premises within the City of Plymouth to accommodate a growing academic and administrative team.

I'm also very pleased to be able to tell you that the College is now in a position to apply to the Office for Students (the independent regulator of Higher Education in England) for registration as a Registered Higher Education Provider, and then in turn, for our own Degree Awarding Powers. This is a lengthy process, which may take up to two years, but will help us drive forward with a quality and our 'Students First' agenda. One of our core values remains one of Partnerships, and we will continue to work with our validating partners, including the University of Plymouth for the foreseeable future. This means that if you have enrolled on a University of Plymouth validated degree through MLA College, then you will still graduate with a University of Plymouth certificate.

This new partnership with BAU is an outstanding opportunity for your MLA College. It will give us significantly greater resources, a bigger network and wider opportunities for all our students. Rest assured that quality remains at our heart.



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Please don't hesitate to contact your tutor, Student Support Officer, or any member of the academic team if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr Richard Thain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Dr Richard Thain
Provost
MLA College