



ILM
LEVEL
5

MASTER INNHOLDERS ASPIRING LEADERS DIPLOMA 2026 / 2027

COHORT 14



PRINCESS ROYAL
TRAINING AWARD
2024



In partnership with



Congratulations!
You are reading this
because you are
thinking seriously about
further developing
your management and
leadership skills and
building your career within
the Hospitality
Industry

As a manager in the industry, you may already have achieved a formal qualification as a student - but life was very different then. Now may be a perfect time for you to learn more about yourself, your business and the industry to develop yourself even further.

The Master Innholders Aspiring Leaders Diploma is ideal for you if you are currently in a position that involves managing other people and you have responsibility for results in your part of the business. Typically you will be a head of department or first line manager reporting to the General Manager or Senior Manager in your hotel.



If this sounds like you, then you are one of our **Aspiring Leaders** and should consider applying for your place on this award-winning extended development programme. It will support you in improving your management skills, developing your leadership talent and building your career prospects.

At the same time you will gain an internationally and industry recognised Level 5 Award from the Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM). The programme is also endorsed by The Institute of Hospitality.

► FAST FACTS

► Where will it be?

One of the most exciting elements of this programme is that, for each of the 8 modules, you will enjoy a truly memorable guest experience in different properties managed by Master Innholders throughout the UK - so you must be prepared to travel!

► What topics will I cover?

There are 8 key business areas in the programme. Every 6-8 weeks or so, you will enjoy an action and information packed two-day workshop in:

- Personal Development
- Professional Management
- Marketing for Managers
- Finance for Managers
- People Management
- Service Operations Management
- Managing and Motivating Teams
- Leadership Development

► How will I learn?

As well as expanding your knowledge of different hotel operations, you will experience a variety of learning methods, including facilitated group workshops, learning sets with your colleagues, back to work activities, private study, project work, networking and guest speakers who are experienced professionals in their field.

In order to achieve your qualification, you will be required to complete 2 written assignments.

► What additional benefits will I gain?

On joining the programme, you will become a studying member of the Institute of Leadership & Management and an Associate Member of The Institute of Hospitality. This means that you will be able to access all the online resources that support your studies including e-books, e-journals, and over 400 digital learning resources.

► What support will I have?

The programme manager and tutors will be available to help you learn, support you and answer any questions between modules. They will also help you to prepare for each of your assignments. Your Sponsor or nominating manager supports your application and wants you to succeed too.

► Who will be running the programme?

The Master Innholders have partnered with Merlin Consultancy to be our programme managers and providers for the Master Innholders Aspiring Leaders Diploma. As an Approved Centre for the Institute of Leadership & Management, they have an extensive knowledge and experience of the hospitality industry in general - and an enthusiasm for hotels in particular.

► How much will it cost?

The programme is generously subsidised by the Master Innholders and host venues. Please note that by sponsoring a candidate, employers are agreeing to pay the £2,200* + VAT contribution to the Master Innholders at the commencement of the programme. This includes all tuition, meals and accommodation on the specified dates.

We also ask that you support your candidate with necessary travel expenses to and from the venues.

* Cost includes their ticket to the MI Leadership Conference in January 2027.

► Programme dates

Full attendance at all modules is a condition of a place on this programme.

The dates of the 8 modules are:

1. Sun 26th to Tues 28th **APRIL** 2026
2. Mon 8th to Tues 9th **JUNE** 2026
3. Mon 13th to Tues 14th **JULY** 2026
4. Mon 14th to Tues 15th **SEPT** 2026
5. Mon 19th to Tues 20th **OCT** 2026
6. Mon 23rd to Tues 24th **NOV** 2026
7. Mon 8th to Tues 9th **FEB** 2027
8. Sun 7th to Tues 9th **MARCH** 2027

► What is the application process?

You will need to be nominated and successfully complete an application form supported by your General Manager or sponsor. Please discuss with your manager before downloading and completing the application form which can be found at www.masterinnholders.co.uk/aspiring-leaders-diploma/

Once completed, return it **with your CV** to:

Dr. Hilary Cooke, MI FIH
Merlin Consultancy,
37, Kenilworth Road,
London. W5 5PA

Or by e-mail to:
hilary@merlin-consultancy.com

Please ensure that your application is received by **Fri 27th February 2026** and if selected, you must be available for an in-person interview in the City of London on the morning of **Thurs 26th March 2026**.

