

JOIN US

Start your
journey today.

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP

Application Pack



Who we are.

We're the leading not for profit trade association for locksmiths in the UK, centred around a large community of professionals dedicated to setting and promoting the highest standards of conduct and practice in the industry.

OUR CONNECTIONS. We're recognised by



Home Office



RISC Authority

POLICE



bsi.

What we do.

In the absence of government licensing, The Master Locksmiths Association (MLA) provides its own locksmith licensing scheme. Through vetting, inspections, and qualifications, we ensure consumers can choose trustworthy locksmiths for home security.

OUR QUALIFICATION

We provide the highest level locksmithing qualification in the UK. The MLA Level 4 Certificate in General Locksmithing is nationally recognised and regulated by OFQUAL and accredited by ABBE.

RAISING AWARENESS

In September 2021, with support from our local Conservative MP Mark Pawsley, we raised concerns about the lack of government licensing in the locksmith industry. Despite numerous reports from homeowners who had fallen victim to fraudulent locksmiths, the government deemed licensing unnecessary, citing the effectiveness of the Master Locksmiths Association's accreditation scheme.

We remain active in raising awareness on this issue and recently featured on the BBC One, Sky News and local radio highlighting the problem of false advertisements on search engines.

Benefits of Personal Membership.

MLA membership can help boost your career and grow your business. Stand out, show credibility, and stay informed in a competitive market with our support and resources.



Get connected.

Join our community of over 1000 professionals to connect with like-minded locksmiths at regional meetings or through our exclusive member-only Facebook group and forum



FREE industry journal every other month.

Stay ahead with a complimentary subscription to Keyways, our industry journal delivering the latest advancements to your doorstep every other month



Receive an identity card.

Demonstrate trustworthiness, with an identity card confirming you have been DBS checked



Discounts on MLA training and exam.

Members benefit from discounted rates on training courses, including beginners, MLA exam and advanced courses



Access to exclusive advanced courses.

Enhance skills and grow your business with discounted training exclusively for experienced locksmiths who have either been members for 6 months or have completed our foundation course



Earn a qualification.

Advance your career as a Qualified Master Locksmith (QML) with our nationally recognised MLA Level 4 Certificate in General Locksmithing.



Discounts and offers.

Benefit from discounts on tools, stock and business essentials such as insurance, vehicles and more.

Keeping you connected.



MLA EXPO - Europes largest locksmith exhibition

Connect with other locksmiths and meet with suppliers and manufacturers



Supplier & Manufacturer training.

Exclusive training events from leading industry suppliers and manufacturers keeping you one step ahead.



Regional meetings.

Support your professional development at our regional meetings. These face-to-face events, are great for knowledge sharing and networking. You'll have access to FREE training and latest industry developments.



Keyways Journal & newsletter

We help members stay ahead of the latest industry news through their FREE copy of Keyways magazine and our e-newsletter.

» [Click to for a sneak peak of our Keyways Journal](#)

Personal Membership

We offer a progressive membership. Personal membership is for individual locksmiths, rather than companies. There are two categories of personal membership available.

1.

REGISTERED MEMBER

Individuals who are new to the membership and are working towards passing the MLA exam to become a Qualified Master Locksmith (QML).

[More information on page 6](#)

PASS THE MLA EXAM

[More information on page 7](#)

2.

QUALIFIED MASTER LOCKSMITH (QML)

Locksmiths who have passed the MLA exam Level 4 certificate in general locksmithing (or auto exam).

[More information on page 8](#)

3.

Approved Company Membership

Once you or a member your staff become a Qualified Master Locksmith (QML), you can apply to be an Approved Company and get listed on our website www.locksmiths.co.uk.

» [Click to for more information on the benefits and requirements of Approved Company Membership](#)

Registered Membership

Individuals who are new to the membership and are working towards passing the MLA exam to become a Qualified Master Locksmith (QML). Whilst you can't use our logo/claim membership in your marketing, you'll still have access to plenty of other valuable resources to assist you as you progress your career.

BENEFITS

Build your network

- ✓ Access to exclusive member only Facebook group and forum.
- ✓ Join your local regional group for face to face meetings and training

Stay informed

- ✓ Complimentary subscription to Keyways, our industry journal

Grow your business

- ✓ Access to exclusive training courses
- ✓ Member rates and discounts on our training including the MLA exam and training at MLA EXPO

Build customer trust

- ✓ Receive an identification card confirming you've had a DBS check.

! Prices are correct at time of print April 2024 and are subject to change.

COSTS

One off application fee	Standard DBS fee *
£56.40	£31.00

*If you've already had a DBS issued within the last 3 years you may use this for your application.

Annual subscription fee

£117

(Payment Plan options are available for membership subscription fees upon request)

PROGRESSION

Become a Qualified Master Locksmith (QML)

- ✓ All Registered Members are expected to pass the MLA EXAM and progress to QML status within four years of membership.

» [Click to for more information on the MLA Exam](#)

The MLA Exam



Achieve a Level 4 certificate in General Locksmithing Skills and take the next step in your membership journey becoming a Qualified Master Locksmith.

Why take the MLA exam?

Upon passing the exam you will gain a Level 4 certificate in General Locksmithing Skills, which is **the highest level locksmithing qualification you can achieve in the UK.**

MLA personal members will be awarded QML status once they pass exam. To become an MLA Approved Company you must have a QML in place.

Who should take the exam?

The exam is ideal for anyone who is a working locksmith. We recommend at least 2 years working locksmith experience before attempting the exam.

All MLA registered members are required to pass the MLA exam within 4 years of membership.

How can I prepare for the exam?

We have a number of resources and courses available to help you prepare for the exam including our Exam Preparation Day. Our best advise is to have lots of practice.

What's involved?

The exam consists of four timed modules covering fitting, opening, cutting and a written paper; and can be taken with or without coaching.

You can sit one module at a time to make completing a qualification manageable and affordable.



» [Click to for more information on the MLA Exam](#)

Qualified Master Locksmith (QML) Member

Successfully pass the MLA exam to become a QML. It's the crucial step towards becoming an Approved Company and grants limited use of the MLA QML logo.

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Build your network

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- ✓ Join your local regional group for face to face meetings and training

Stay informed

- ✓ Complimentary subscription to Keyways, our industry journal

Grow your business

- ✓ Access to exclusive training courses
- ✓ Member rates and discounts on our training including the MLA exam and training at MLA EXPO.

Build customer trust

- ✓ Receive an identification card confirming you've had a DBS check.
- ✓ Use QML initials after your name
- ✓ QMLs can claim membership, use initials after their name and use the MLA QML logo on workwear and business stationery (but not on advertising).

! Prices are correct at time of print April 2024 and are subject to change.

COSTS

One off application fee	Standard DBS fee *
£56.40	£31.00

*If you've already had a DBS issued within the last 3 years you may use this for your application.

Annual subscription fee

£100.80

(Payment Plan options are available for membership subscription fees upon request)

PROGRESSION

Become an Approved Company

- ✓ QML members who are self employed are encouraged to progress to Approved Company Membership to benefit from promotional opportunities and to feature on locksmiths.co.uk.

» [Click to for more information on Approved Company membership](#)

What you'll need to apply.



Complete the form included in this pack

Send your completed application form along with supporting documents to:



membership@locksmiths.co.uk

Not got an application form?



membership@locksmiths.co.uk



A standard DBS check.

A basic level DBS certificate does not meet our membership criteria, and will not be accepted.

You can apply for a standard DBS through the MLA at a standard DBS Fee of £31 simply:



membership@locksmiths.co.uk

If you already have a standard DBS issued within the last 3 years you may use this for your application - simply email a copy to membership@locksmiths.co.uk



Two Character References

Anyone who has known you personally for two or more years (cannot be family related).



A photo.

We'll need a photo of you for your ID card. Please send this to membership@locksmiths.co.uk along with your application form.

Application Process

All membership applications are submitted to the membership in case of any objections and must be approved by our board of directors.

- 1 Submit your application form and photo to Audra Petherick
✉ membership@locksmiths.co.uk
- 2 We'll check your application and let you know the next steps
- 3 You'll receive a temporary membership number to use for discounted training rates
- 4 We'll invoice you for your enrolment fee and standard DBS (if applicable) *
- 5 Once you've paid we'll request your character references
- 6 All applications are put to the membership through our Keyways magazine or our e-newsletter for member approval

Applications need 21 days from the date of Keyways Magazine / e-newsletter distribution for members approval

- 7 If there are no objections your application will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and then passed to our MD for final sign off
- 8 We'll contact you to ask for your first annual subscription fee
- 9 Upon receipt of payment you'll receive your welcome pack which includes a membership number, ID card, certificate and member benefits

*If you already have a DBS issued within the last 3 years you may use this for your application - simply email a copy to membership@locksmiths.co.uk

Get in touch.

Still got questions?

If you have any queries not answered in this pack please do not hesitate to contact our membership team

 01327 262255

 membership@locksmiths.co.uk

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