

The Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers



# Livery Apprenticeship Programme

With your potential and our financial support  
and expert guidance you can fly

[wcsim.co.uk/apprentice](https://wcsim.co.uk/apprentice)



# What is a Livery Company?

The Livery Companies, previously known as Guilds, are a City of London tradition going back more than 500 years, and they were the original Trade Associations. Members often wore distinctive clothing, hence the word Livery grew in favour. Their role was to control all aspects of their trade including terms of trade, quality of product or service, pricing in some cases, and most importantly of all, assurance of the continuance of the requisite skills, through strong training and apprenticeship programmes.

Of course the early Liveries were dedicated to the important trades of the day, for example, Grocers, Drapers, Fishmongers and Goldsmiths. Following this tradition, The Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers is a modern Livery which, as the name implies, is dedicated to the development and furtherance of the skills of scientific instrument making.

As a charity, the bulk of our spending is concentrated on education and training for young people, to help us further our aims.



## Apprenticeships with SIM

In medieval times, for young men to learn a trade in the City of London they had to be apprenticed to a Master in the trade of their choosing. The Master was a member of the Guild and apprentices were formally bound to learn their trade from a period of between four and seven years. At the end of the apprenticeship the apprentice, on reaching the age of 21, was released to become a journeyman and was made 'free' of the City of London by servitude and 'free' of his Guild.

In this Company we offer apprenticeships to young people who are studying engineering, instrumentation and related scientific subjects.

This will entail being made an apprentice to a Liveryman of the Company for a minimum period of four years until the apprentice reaches the age of 21. We do not offer training in the traditional sense

but aim to mentor the apprentices through their 'Master' during their sixth form and university years of study which we hope that they will find beneficial to their future careers. This can take the form of assistance with finding work placements, attendance at technical lectures and some financial help during their time at university.

The Master may not be able to answer all of a student's questions personally but can act as a conduit to the total expertise resident in the members of the Livery: educationalists, industrialists, and institution members.

In addition all apprentices who follow an approved undergraduate course will receive an annual bursary of £500 from the Company for a maximum of four years.

# How do I become an Apprentice?

We have a limited number of places, and initially we are offering apprenticeships to our Arkwright Scholars and Young Engineers' Prize Winners although we would be pleased to hear from any young person who has a serious desire to study engineering, instrumentation and science courses. Eligible students will be in the sixth form or already at university.

*"I must thank the livery for their support; they have had a great influence on me. I would definitely not be here without their help."*

Freeman Teddy Szemberg O'Connor  
Former SIM Apprentice

If you are interested in becoming an Apprentice please provide the following information:

- A letter of consent from one of your parents/guardians.
- A copy of your full birth certificate, the full name of your sponsoring parent/guardian and his/her profession or job.
- A summary of your education to date showing your achievements and aspirations.

Two ceremonies are involved. The first is enrolment in the Chamberlain's Court in Guildhall in the City of London, and the second is the binding in the Livery's Court (we aim to do these on the same day). Apprentices will be sent a Certificate of Indenture. The new Apprentices and their parents/guardians are then invited as guests of the Livery to the function which follows.

On completion of the apprenticeship, Apprentices will be invited to become Freeman of the Company on a reduced rate of membership until the age of 25 and be sponsored by the Company to become Freeman of the City.

## You'll receive financial support and expert guidance

The bursary is offered to all Apprentices who follow an approved undergraduate course. The bursary payment is released subject to their making a short (one side A4) report to their Apprentice Master. In the case of students starting the first year of their undergraduate course, this will be a report of their last 6th form year.

This report should cover a summary of their academic and other related experiences and achievements for the past year, and any notable and relevant targets/plans for the forthcoming year.

If the student continues to do a PhD, the annual bursary of £500 can continue for a further three years.

Apart from the annual report, levels of contact are up to the apprentice, but Apprentice Masters are there to help with:

- Attending enrolment and ensuring proper reception into the Livery.
- Encouraging involvement of Apprentices in Livery activities.
- Encouraging Apprentices to become Free of the Livery.
- Advising or discussing future options with the Apprentice.
- Advising and helping (if possible) on placements or work experience.
- Support of the Apprentice should they continue in the Livery.



# The Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers



The Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers (SIM) is one of the City of London's Livery Companies. Every year these companies, some of which date back to 1100 AD, give over £45M to education charities and awards. SIM is a young company with charitable giving. However we punch above our weight and support the Arkwright Scholarship scheme and the Young Engineers of Britain scheme. We award apprenticeship bursaries, post graduate and post doctoral fellowships.

SIM's objective is to encourage the craft of scientific instrument making - which encompasses a wide range of technologies - to grow and to continue to support the British science and engineering endeavours. Without measurement there will be no science. Without good scientific instruments there is no measurement and without good engineers and scientists none of this is possible.



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