

# SKA Rating for Higher Education – Assessor Course

Language: **English**

Level: **Intermediate**

Price members: **£485 + VAT**

Price non-members: **£645 + VAT**

Formal CPD: **6 hours**

## Course summary

The SKA for Higher Education course is the next step in your journey after completing the foundation exam or adding an additional scheme to your existing Offices and/or Retail accreditation.

The series of interactive online classes have been designed to provide a detailed look at all the good practice measures and enable you to become accredited as a SKA Rating Assessor for the Higher Education scheme.

This interactive, multi-levelled course will look at the key sustainability issues involved in a fit-out for higher education and will be presented by the chair of the SKA Rating Technical Committee, giving you the opportunity to learn from industry's leading expert.

Whether you are currently working in an HE institution, as a consultant or looking to enter into this thriving arena, this course is a perfect opportunity to gain a strong knowledge basis and skill set.

### Why attend?

- Gain the knowledge and skills needed to become an accredited Assessor
- Be a part of a unique cohort of like-minded assessors that will share their experience through an online forum
- Carry out a hypothetical assessment of a fit-out through a case study activity
- Be eligible to undertake the SKA Assessor for Higher Education exam
- Own a copy of the SKA Handbook to guide you through carrying out future SKA Assessments
- Join our other SKA HE assessors, all of whom passed the exam on the first attempt, with an average score of 86%

### Testimonials:

- 'Elina was very good at explaining all issues and covering a very broad range of topics. The class itself is very well designed and prepares you for the assessor's role.'

- ‘I enjoyed how interactive it was. Trainer was great, clearly knowledgeable and ran the class well’
- ‘The web classes were very detailed and thorough - Elina knows the topics extremely well and is very personable when explaining ideas and theories’
- ‘Just wanted to congratulate [RICS Training] on a well-designed and delivered course and certification process’

## Why did we develop this course?

The Government and Construction industry have committed to reducing carbon and environmental impacts. By 2050, through the Climate Change Act, greenhouse gas emissions must reduce by 80%. And 50% of these must be reduced by 2025.

HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) requires HEIs to have a long-term carbon management plan. AUDE (Association of University Directors of Estates) has identified SKA rating as one of the tools that can stimulate, drive and support on-going efforts to reduce environmental impacts.

The public nature of the institutions and their buildings gives high visibility and receives pressure from student groups. Student criteria on selecting their preferred university increasingly include sustainability credentials, environmental and wellbeing, and actions towards these become drivers for attracting them.

The new scheme pushes the bar higher in terms of sustainability. The updated waste strategy incentivises the reuse of materials and informs a circular economy. Improvements such as the clarification of scoping and criteria have been included.

The inclusion of specialist HE areas make the scheme highly reflective of the sector and the use of spaces, and recognises the unique issues around the presence of laboratory areas or other workshop and studio spaces typically found in teaching institutions with high carbon footprint and waste.

## Course structure

### Pre course preparation

A welcome pack and pre-reading list will be sent out to you so you can familiarise yourself with the topic. You will also have the chance to participate in an online forum, which will allow you to interact with your fellow delegates, post any queries to your RICS course host and contact your trainer with exam queries.

### Part one

- 2.5 hour web class (two halves of 1 hour 15 minutes, with a break in between)
- Overview of the Higher Education scheme
- Typical team structure, involvement and effect on the assessment

- Scoping of projects
- Specialised areas

### **Self-directed Homework**

#### Assignment one:

- You will watch a recorded presentation from your expert trainer, gaining insight into an example of a SKA for Higher Education project and the sorts of actions you would need to take as an assessor. Once you have watched this, you will need to complete;

#### Assignment two:

- You will be provided with a real-life scenario project, written by your facilitator and a number of assessment tasks, which will allow you to put the class' theory into practice
- A written description of your assessment methodology and outcome will be required to be returned before Part two – 10 days after the first web class and will take no more than one to two hours to complete. You will receive personalised individual feedback for this

### **Part two**

- 2.5 hour web class (two halves of 1 hour 15 minutes, with a break in between)
- Discussion of the case studies led by your facilitator, with full participant input and interaction
- Detailed review of the good practice measures
- Examples of acceptable and not acceptable evidence
- Free-format Q&A session with your trainer to ensure you are prepared for the exam

### **Exam**

- Multi-choice questions covering all issues involved in an assessment but mostly focusing on the assessment of HE specific measures
- This is to be completed after your second web class
- You will have two attempts at the exam. Any additional attempt thereafter will be charged at £80.00 + VAT.

### **Who is this course for?**

The course is aimed at Architects, Interior Designers, M&E Engineers, Contractors, Project Managers, Portfolio Managers, Quantity Surveyors and Environmental Assessors who are qualified under other assessment schemes such as BREEAM or LEED.

If you're a client and design team member with existing experience of delivering SKA Rating projects, you will find the course content relevant as it will support you with understanding of the scheme's application. In this case, the final exam will not be mandatory.

### **Meet your trainer**



Elina Grigoriou is an industry expert on sustainability, wellbeing and design for interior spaces. She set up Grigoriou Interiors with her sister and business partner in 2010, based in London UK and working nationally and globally. Her interior design career began at PDP Interior Design, which included a six year project for the Virgin Atlantic Airways Training Base facility.

Later, at Careyjones interiors, Elina immersed herself in sustainability issues and joined the SKA Rating Technical Committee in 2006. She is now the RICS SKA Rating Technical Editor and chairs the SKA Rating Technical Committee, which guides the tool's development.

A frequent contributor to articles on design, wellbeing and sustainability, she is regularly invited by industry bodies to participate in steering meetings, speak at public events, participate in sector debates, contribute in research work, and judge awards and project competitions. Elina was voted by Building magazine as one of the 'Top 50 Rising Sustainability Stars'.