

# STGA Blue Badge Training

## Key Dates and Fees for the 2021-23 course

### Recruitment Process – Key Dates

Stage 1            8-11 October 2020

Information **webinars** for those interested in the course

**Application** forms will be available on our website following these webinars.

The deadline for the submission of applications is the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

You will be informed before Christmas if your application has been successful. If so, you will be invited to one of two Recruitment Days.

Stage 2            6 and 7 February 2021 (you will be able to choose which day)

**Recruitment Days** – Each applicant will deliver a presentation he/she has prepared beforehand; complete some written tasks; and take part in small-group discussions on different aspects of being a tourist guide.

The recruitment team, all experienced guides, will observe how you interact with others and demonstrate your interest in and knowledge of guiding, and will score the presentation and written tasks.

You will be notified within a few days if you are being invited to an interview.

Stage 3            22 February – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Online interviews** – You will be able to choose a day and time slot for an online interview. The interviewers will want to find out more about your motivation for becoming a Blue Badge guide. You may also be asked questions about your ability to manage the course, language skills, ability to travel for lectures/field trips, any previous guiding experience you have, and any special arrangements you may require.

Stage 4            mid-end of March 2021

**Offers of places** – if you are offered a place on the course, you will have one week in which to accept it before it is offered to someone else. The class of 2021-2023 should be confirmed by the end of March.

### Course Dates

August 2021- March 2023

**Mid–August** - Registration at City of Glasgow College and Course induction

Core Knowledge lectures will be streamed from 6pm on **Wednesday evenings** between September 2021 and June 2022. The lectures will remain on-line for some time after the initial streaming, but the Wednesday evenings are the only opportunity to interact with the lecturer to seek clarification, pose questions, and contribute to discussion.

Regional Studies and Professional Skills tuition will be delivered through classroom sessions, field visits and coach tours between September 2021 and March 2023. These sessions and related assessments will take place on **Saturdays and Sundays**, 1 or 2 weekends per month, possibly more towards the end of the course.

**Weekday** attendance is required during one week in October 2021 and one week (with overnight stays) in July 2022, when course activities will take place in different parts of the country.

Preparation for the Blue Badge exam will take place on Saturdays and Sundays in February and early March 2022.

Progress interviews will be held at least twice during the Course, usually over a weekend, appointment times available Friday-Sunday.

Most of the sessions that require attendance will take place in Glasgow, Edinburgh, or Linlithgow, although other locations may be used from time to time.

The provisional calendar for the 2021-23 course will be available for the Information Webinars in October 2020 and will be updated on this sheet.

## **Course Fees**

### **Course and other costs**

The fee for the 2021-23 Blue Badge Course is likely to be in the region of £7,500. This will be confirmed in time for the October Information Webinars.

A deposit of £500 is required on accepting a place and the balance must be paid **in full** by mid-July 2021.

As the course is completely self-funding and the cost is kept as low as possible, we regret there can be no refunds if a student withdraws from the course or part of it, or for non-use of services provided.

The STGA reserves the right to cancel the course and refund all fees paid, or to offer the course at a higher fee, if there are insufficient enrolments. If a student requires to leave the course, s/he must inform the Course Director in writing. Each case will be considered on merit and if work to date has been satisfactory a place on the next course, or deferment of the examination for a year, may be offered.

The course fee includes teaching and training on all timetabled dates; overnight accommodation for the summer school (on a shared room basis); training materials, assessments access to the Student Online Forum and to the City of Glasgow College streamed lectures and online library.

Additional costs include books, travel to/from venues, optional overnight stays, meals and snacks, single-room supplements.

There is a separate fee for the STGA Accreditation exam and for any additional exams in languages other than English.

There is a fee for Student Membership of the STGA, payable at the start of the course and again 1 year later. This annual fee will be confirmed before the course starts but usually equates to half the STGA Membership fee. In 2020 students paid £160 per year.