

GAI Education Prospectus 2026/27



Your pathway to
professional competence



Guild of
Architectural
Ironmongers



The GAI is the professional association championing the architectural ironmongery sector, representing AIs, distributors and manufacturers in the UK and around the world. By promoting best practice through our educational programmes, community forums and technical advice for members, we help to ensure regulatory compliance and raise standards, keeping people and their property safe and secure.

Our work is built on three core pillars:

Education - We offer a worldwide programme of courses and qualifications, leading to specialist diploma qualifications and ultimately to GAI Registered Professional status, the benchmark for demonstration of professional competence in architectural ironmongery.

Technical - We advise on issues relating to the legislation, regulations and standards governing the use of architectural ironmongery and related hardware.

Community - As a membership organisation we provide the voice of the architectural ironmongery industry, bringing the sector's people and companies together and representing them on UK and international standards committees, drafting panels, industry consultations, and more.

Through its mission of 'advancing architectural ironmongery', the GAI works to ensure and improve the safety, security and accessibility of the worldwide built environment.

GAI Education Prospectus 26/27

Through its courses, qualifications and continuing professional development, the GAI has established an internationally recognised benchmark for expertise, knowledge and professional competence in architectural ironmongery and related disciplines.

Third-party accredited by GQA Qualifications, the GAI education programme combines trusted content with proven learning outcomes, giving professionals the skills to specify and schedule architectural ironmongery, door systems and access control with complete confidence.

Our courses and qualifications are suitable for those working in a wide range of professions including:

- Architectural ironmongers
- Hardware manufacturers
- Door manufacturers
- Locksmiths
- Architectural technicians
- Wholesalers
- Builders' merchants

Fully accessible to everyone, the GAI programme is globally recognised with 43% of our learners outside the UK.

Suitable for all levels and roles within the industry, with programmes on offer from Induction to Diploma and CPD, our courses are flexible, so you can fit your studies around the demands of your work and life.

Visit www.gai.org.uk/learning or call +44 (0)1827 934635 to discuss further.

GAI Education Programme

Whether you're taking your first steps in the industry or advancing into specialised technical roles, the GAI Education Programme provides a structured pathway to professional excellence. Our comprehensive portfolio of online and hybrid qualifications supports every stage of your career. Explore the full journey below:

1. Induction & Foundation courses

Induction in Architectural Ironmongery
Page 8

Foundation in Hardware
Page 9

Foundation in Doors
Page 10

COMING SOON

2. Stage 1 & 2 courses

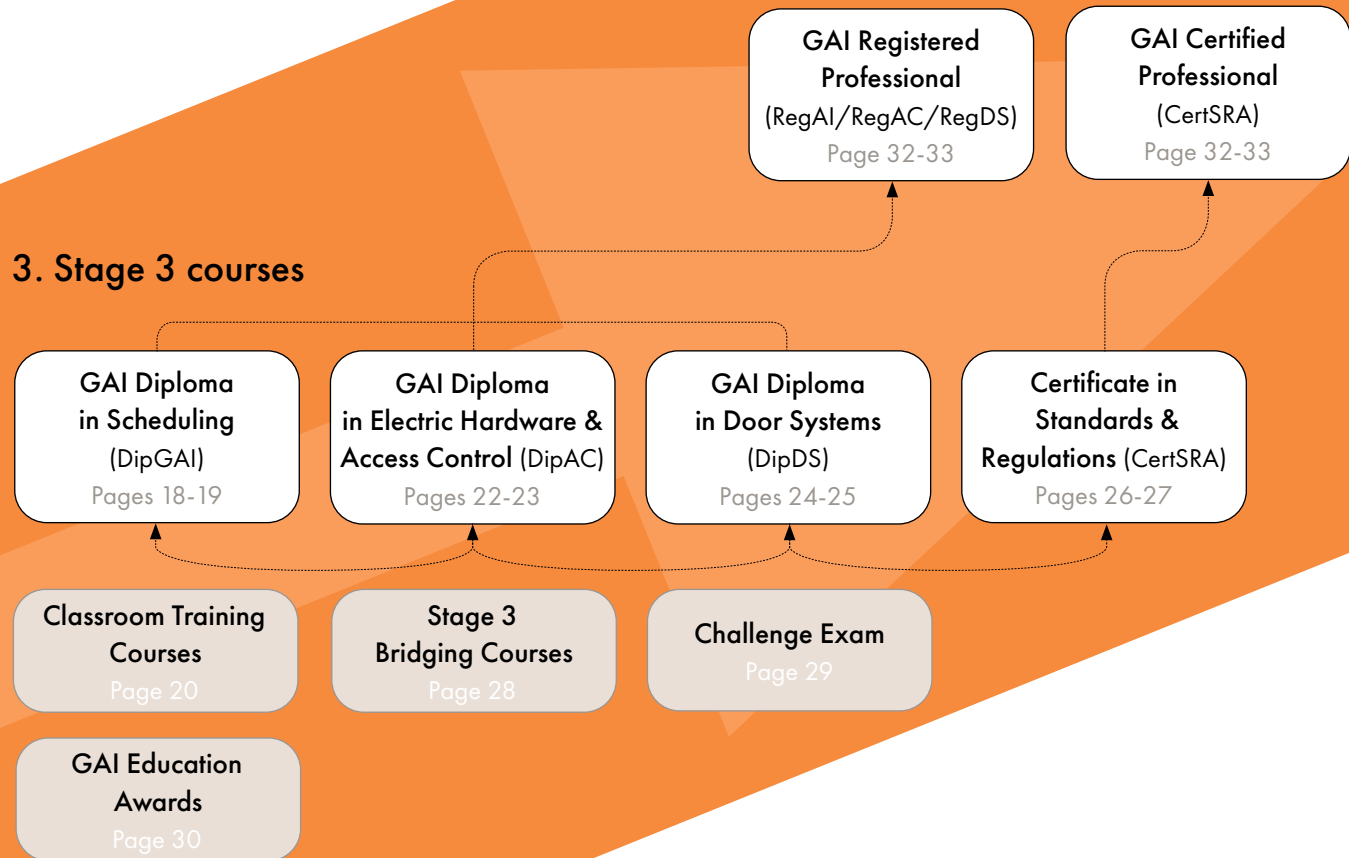
Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) - Stage 1
Pages 12-13

Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) - Stage 2
Pages 14-15

Stage 1 & 2 - Fastrack (CiAH)
Page 16

Please note it is not mandatory to complete Induction and Foundation courses before progression to Stage 1 & 2 courses.

4. Continuous Professional Development



All GAI qualifications are third-party accredited by GQA Qualifications, affirming the content, quality and learning outcomes of the GAI Education Programme.

Student membership and key dates

All learners working towards GAI Stage 1, 2 & 3 qualifications receive complimentary student membership, unlocking exclusive support and benefits.

Benefits

By becoming a student member of the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI), you join a group of highly respected individuals across the world, dedicated to continuing professional development. Benefits include:

- Gain instant recognition and credibility in the industry.
- Invitations to GAI webinars held monthly on an array of subjects to aid with studies and career with continuous professional development.
- Affiliation to your local GAI Community Hub (where available) to give you the chance to broaden your networks, connect with industry peers and learn more about the latest developments in the industry.

Support

You're never alone when you study with the GAI. Our support includes:

- **Learner face-to-face training** - Join online webinars led by industry professionals to explore course content, ask questions, and prepare for your Stage 2 and Diploma exams.
- **Direct helpline** - Direct access to the education team and committee, via education@gai.org.uk, where all module queries will be answered.

KEY DATES - 2026/27

1 September 2026 - Enrolment opens and course materials available on Learning Hub

17 September 2026 - Retake examination day

6 October 2026 - Block assessments/module assessments "Go Live" on the Learning Hub

15 October 2026 - Retake examination day

18 December 2026 - Enrolment closes

22-24 February 2027 - Stage 3 in Scheduling classroom training course in UK

22-26 March 2027 - Stage 3 in Scheduling online training course for international students

30 April 2027 - Block assessments deadline for Stage 1, 2 and 3 courses

May 2027 - Stage 1 and 2 mock examinations

17 June 2027 - Examination day for Stage 1, 2 and 3 courses

27 August 2027 - Examination results

16 September 2027 - Retake examination day

14 October 2027 - Retake examination day

1.

Induction and Foundation courses

The Induction and Foundation courses are designed for those new to the industry and those building their knowledge as their role develops.

They provide flexible learning options, supporting onboarding and progression into day-to-day responsibilities across ironmongery, access control and doors.

**Induction in
Architectural
Ironmongery**

Page 8

**Foundation
in Hardware**

Page 9

**Foundation
in Doors**

Page 10

COMING
SOON



Induction in Architectural Ironmongery

A short, self-led online induction module designed to give newcomers a clear introduction to the terminology, context and purpose of architectural ironmongery.

Study time

2 hours, on average.

Who is the course for?

This induction module is designed for individuals who are new to architectural ironmongery and is ideal for onboarding new starters.

Course content

Architectural ironmongery can feel complex to those encountering it for the first time. Understanding the language and context is often the biggest challenge. Through short, focused sections, this module helps learners understand what architectural ironmongery is, where it is used, and why it matters.

Assessment

- Short online quiz at the end of the induction module (Certificate issued upon successful completion).

FEES

£75 exc vat for GAI Members

£100 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

You can enrol for the Induction in Architectural Ironmongery module at any time by visiting www.gai.org.uk/liAI or scanning the QR code.



T&Cs are available on the GAI website.

Foundation in Hardware

The Foundation in Hardware is a practical course designed to develop knowledge beyond the basics of architectural ironmongery and access control.

Study time

40 hours, on average.

(Once enrolled on the course you have six months to complete).

Who is the course for?

This flexible online course is ideal for those progressing into architectural ironmongery roles and looking to build the knowledge needed to support their day-to-day responsibilities.

Course content

The Foundation in Hardware course provides an introduction to the basics of architectural ironmongery products and features 12 modules as follows:

- An introduction to hardware
- Handing of hardware
- Hinges
- Door closing devices
- Locks and latches
- Door furniture
- Door bolts
- Fire and escape doors
- Escape hardware
- Signage
- Basics of access control
- Standards



Assessment

- Self-test questions at the end of each module to prepare for the final examination.
- Repeat the tests and final exam as many times as you like until you pass with 80%+.

FEES

£245 exc vat for GAI Members

£490 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

You can enrol for the Foundation in Hardware course at any time by visiting www.gai.org.uk/FiH or scanning the QR code.



T&Cs are available on the GAI website.

Foundation in Doors

The GAI Foundation in Doors is a core course designed to build on early understanding of door systems and their components.

Study time

40 hours, on average.

(Once enrolled on the course you have six months to complete).

Who is the course for?

This flexible online course is ideal for those beginning their role in door-related disciplines who need to develop a more structured understanding to support their day-to-day responsibilities.

Course content

The Foundation in Doors course provides an introduction to the basics of door products and features modules as follows:

- An introduction to doors
- Door and frame types
- Door configurations
- Door components
- Door applications
- Door properties
- Third party certification
- Relevant standards

Assessment

- Self-test questions at the end of each module to prepare for the final examination.
- Repeat the tests and final exam as many times as you like until you pass with 80%+.

FEES

£245 exc vat for GAI Members

£490 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

To pre-register your interest in the course, please contact us at education@gai.org.uk.

T&Cs are available on the GAI website.



2.

Stage 1 & 2 courses

The Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) qualification consists of Stages 1 & 2. It is a self-led online course which can be taken across 1 or 2 years.

It provides a logical next step for those completing the Foundation qualification, but is equally suited as a starting

point for those in the industry looking to develop their career. It allows the learner to make informed decisions when working with particular products and materials, as well as have a broader understanding of relevant best practices and industry standards.

Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) - Stage 1

Pages 12-13

Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) - Stage 2

Pages 14-15

Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) - Fastrack

Page 16

Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) - Stage 1

Gain a thorough understanding of the what, how and when of ironmongery with this self-led, online course.

Study time

70+ hours, on average.
(Over a one year period, depending on each individual learner).

Who is the course for?

The CiAH is the perfect next step for learners who have completed the Foundation in Hardware course and want to continue to expand their knowledge.

It is also an ideal starting point for a range of architectural ironmongery and construction sector professionals – either those just starting out in the industry, or those with more experience but looking to expand their knowledge of architectural ironmongery in particular.

Learners who complete the Certificate in Architectural Hardware find that they are fully competent in making informed decisions when working with particular products and materials, as well as having an understanding of best practices and industry standards.

Course content

In the Certificate in Architectural Hardware Stage 1 you will explore 14 modules arranged into 5 learning blocks. Learners are free to choose the order they complete these modules, although they are best followed in sequence. The modules of Stage 1 are as follows:

Block 1

- Handing of hardware
- Hinges
- Metal, metal finishes and plastics

Block 2

- Timber doors and frames
- Seals
- Steel doors and frames

Block 3

- Door closing devices - Part 1
- Locks and latches - Part 1

Block 4

- Fixing and fastenings
- Hardware - Part 1
- Bolts
- Basic scheduling

Block 5

- Electric hardware and access control - Part 1
- Standards and regulations - Part 1

Assessment

- Online course with examination at a local PearsonVue test centre.
- Each learner will answer a set of compulsory coursework questions at the end of each block, the total of which will form 30% of the overall mark.
- Resit the coursework questions up to 10 times before the coursework deadline, with only the final attempt recorded as your achievement.
- Sit a final exam which will make up 70% of your overall mark. To pass the course you must achieve a 60% mark or above.

Mock examinations

Optional CiAH Stage 1 mock examinations are available to book, providing you with a valuable opportunity to assess your knowledge, identify areas for improvement, and build familiarity with the format and timing of the actual assessment.

The cost of a mock examination is **£320 exc vat for GAI Members** and **£640 exc vat for Non Members**. If you wish to book a mock examination please email education@gai.org.uk or book online at www.gai.org.uk/Cert.

FEES

£860 exc vat for GAI Members

£1,720 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment opens
1 September 2026
for academic year
September to June.

Deadline for enrolment
is 18 December 2026.

Please enrol by visiting
www.gai.org.uk/enrol or scanning
the QR code.



T&Cs are available on the GAI website.

Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) - Stage 2

Having successfully completed Stage 1 of the Certificate in Architectural Hardware, learners progress to the second part of the course.

Study time

80+ hours, on average.

(Over a one year period, depending on each individual learner).

Who is the course for?

Stage 2 of the CiAH course is for those who have completed the Certificate in Architectural Hardware Stage 1 course and would like to complete the program.

Learners who complete the Certificate in Architectural Hardware find that they are fully competent in making informed decisions when working with particular products and materials, as well as having an understanding of best practices and industry standards.

Course content

In the Certificate in Architectural Hardware Stage 2 you will explore 14 modules arranged into 5 learning blocks. Learners are free to choose the order they complete these modules, although they are best followed in sequence. The modules of Stage 2 are as follows:

Block 6

- Fire door hardware
- Door closing devices - Part 2
- Escape door hardware

Block 7

- Locks and latches - Part 2
- Hardware - Part 2
- Lettering, nameplates and graphic symbols

Block 8

- Specialist hardware
- Electric hardware and access control - Part 2

Block 9

- Intermediate scheduling
- Manufacturing and sourcing
- Commercial awareness

Block 10

- Standards and regulations - Part 2
- Sliding door systems
- Door systems

Supporting seminars

To aid your learning over the duration of the course, on-demand webinar sessions are available for all of the course subjects.

Assessment

- Online course with examination at a local PearsonVue test centre.
- Each learner will answer a set of compulsory coursework questions at the end of each block, the total of which will form 30% of the overall mark.
- Resit the coursework questions up to 10 times before the coursework deadline, with only the final attempt recorded as your achievement.
- Sit a final exam which will make up 70% of your overall mark. To pass the course you must achieve a 60% mark or above.

Mock examinations

Optional CiAH Stage 2 mock examinations are available to book providing you with a valuable opportunity to assess your knowledge, identify areas for improvement, and build familiarity with the format and timing of the actual assessment.

FEES

£985 exc vat for GAI Members

£1,970 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment opens
1 September 2026
for academic year
September to June.

Deadline for enrolment
is 18 December 2026. Please enrol by
visiting www.gai.org.uk/enrol or scanning
the QR code.



T&Cs are available on the GAI website.

The cost of a mock examination is
£320 exc vat for GAI Members and
£640 exc vat for Non Members.

If you wish to book a mock examination
please email education@gai.org.uk or
book online at www.gai.org.uk/Cert.

Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) - Fastrack

The Fastrack route for the Certificate in Architectural Hardware allows students to complete both Stage 1 and 2 courses within a single year.

Study time

150 hours, on average.

(Over a one year period, depending on each individual learner).

Who is the course for?

The Fastrack course of the Certificate in Architectural Hardware (CiAH) enables learners to complete both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the course in one year.

This course is aimed at students who want to progress their career rapidly, particularly those that require to study a Stage 3 course quicker than the standard time frame.

Course content

In the Certificate in Architectural Hardware - Fastrack you will explore all 28 modules arranged over 10 learning blocks from both Stage 1 (Pages 12-13) and Stage 2 (Pages 14-15). Learners are free to choose the order they complete these modules, although they are best followed in sequence.

Assessment

- Online course with examinations at a local PearsonVue test centre.
- Each learner will answer a set of compulsory coursework questions at the end of each block, the total of which will form 30% of the overall mark.
- Sit final exams which will make up 70% of your overall mark. To pass the course you must achieve a 60% mark or above.

FEES

£1,850 exc vat for GAI Members

£3,670 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment opens
1 September 2026
for academic year
September to June.

Deadline for enrolment
is 18 December 2026. Please enrol
by visiting www.gai.org.uk/enrol or
scanning the QR code.



T&Cs are available on the GAI website.

3.

Stage 3 courses

The GAI's Stage 3 diploma and certificate qualifications are the most widely recognised in the industry, building expertise and a deeper knowledge across all aspects of the architectural ironmongery industry, with pathways in: Scheduling; Door Systems; Electric Hardware &

Access Control; and Standards & Regulations. Completion of the CiAH is a requirement of entry into all Stage 3 courses. Each course is typically completed over 80 hours, with learners able to tackle multiple courses consecutively.

**GAI Diploma
in Scheduling
(DipGAI)**

Pages 18-19

**GAI Diploma
in Electric Hardware &
Access Control (DipAC)**

Pages 22-23

**GAI Diploma
in Door Systems
(DipDS)**

Pages 24-25

**Certificate in
Standards &
Regulations (CertSRA)**

Pages 26-27

**Classroom Training
Course**

Page 20

**Stage 3
Bridging Courses**

Page 28

Challenge Exams

Page 29

**GAI Education
Awards**

Page 30



GAI Diploma in Scheduling (DipGAI)

Recognised worldwide as a 'must have' qualification for professionals involved in architectural ironmongery scheduling, estimating and support.

Study time

80+ hours, on average, plus regular practical scheduling exercises.

(Over a one year period, depending on each individual learner).

Who is the course for?

- Those who have completed the CiAH Stage 1 and 2 courses and want to develop their competence in the practical application of writing specifications.
- Those whose role involves talking to architects or contractors, and scheduling, estimating and providing technical support.
- Employees who have been in the industry for a while and want to progress their skills and prove their competence.

Whether you're talking to an architect, builder, joinery contractor, building manager or a homeowner, the GAI Diploma in Scheduling (DipGAI) will give you the confidence and competence to discuss the ironmongery requirements, including the ability to write accurate hardware specifications.

Course content

In the GAI Diploma in Scheduling you will explore 4 modules that give you an overview of how to write accurate hardware specifications. The 4 modules are as follows:

Module 1

- Appreciating architects drawings

Module 2

- Key control

Module 3

- Basic access control and electric hardware

Module 4

- Scheduling

Having achieved the Diploma, you can use the post nominal DipGAI after your name to present your qualification to the industry.

Completion of the course also enables you to join the CPD Programme to develop demonstrable professional competence with Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAI) status. (See pages 32-33 for further details)

Assessment

- Online course with in-person examination at a local test centre.
- Each learner will answer a set of compulsory coursework questions and two key control exercises and access control exercise, which will form 10% of the overall mark.
- A final written examination will make up 90% of the overall assessment. You must pass both the Master Key Schedule and a Hardware Specification to gain the qualification.

Additional training

We strongly recommend that all learners entering the GAI Diploma in scheduling programme attend a 3-day training course to prepare for their scheduling and master key examinations. (See page 20 for further details).

There will also be on-demand webinar sessions available for the following subjects: Access Control and Electric Hardware.

UK FEES

Course only

£1,065 exc vat for GAI Members

£2,130 exc vat for Non Members

Course and classroom training (Page 30)

£2,005 exc vat for GAI Members

£4,010 exc vat for Non Members

INTERNATIONAL FEES

Course only

£1,250 exc vat for GAI Members

£2,500 exc vat for Non Members

Course and online training (Page 30)

£1,700 exc vat for GAI Members

£3,400 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment opens

1 September 2026 for

academic year

September to June.

Deadline for enrolment

is 18 December 2026. Please enrol by

visiting www.gai.org.uk/enrol or scanning

the QR code. T&Cs are available on the

GAI website.



Classroom training course

The classroom training provides in-depth, practical instruction on advanced hardware scheduling, preparing learners for the GAI Diploma in Scheduling examinations.

Study time

Three day training course.

Who is the course for?

- Anyone studying the Stage 3 GAI Diploma in Scheduling, who want to prepare accordingly for their scheduling and master key examinations

Course content

The classroom training course covers the whole content of the Stage 3 GAI Diploma in Scheduling course, providing additional guidance and insight to the self-learning option.

The itinerary for the classroom training is as follows:

Day 1

- Introduction to Scheduling
- Appreciating architects drawings
- Electric hardware
- Access control

Day 2

- Key control
- Practical scheduling

Day 3

- Mock Examination
- Review of exam papers

We strongly recommend that all learners entering the GAI Diploma in scheduling programme attend a classroom training course to prepare for their examinations.



UK FEES

£940 exc vat for GAI Members

£1,880 exc vat for Non Members

INTERNATIONAL FEES (online only)

£450 exc vat for GAI Members

£900 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

DATES

22-24 February 2027 - Stage 3 in Scheduling classroom course in UK.

22-26 March 2027 - Stage 3 in Scheduling online training course for International students.

ENROLMENT

You can book onto a Classroom Training Course at any time before the course by visiting www.gai.org.uk/enrol or scanning the QR code. T&Cs are available on the GAI website.



“For years I never got to taking the Stage 3 course. I wasn’t the best in the world at taking exams, so I would always shy away after completing the Stage 2 course.

Finally, after 30 years in the trade, I signed up for the classroom training course and this was the best thing I could have done. Held by familiar leaders from the industry with years of experience, they made sense of the exam we were going to take, whilst making it fun in the process. I would recommend the classroom training course to anyone.”

Ken Hodges, DipGAI
Allgood Ltd



GAI Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control (DipAC)

Providing comprehensive education on all aspects of the access control market and its impact on the architectural ironmongery industry.

Study time

80+ hours, on average.

(Over a one year period, depending on each individual learner).

Who is the course for?

- Anyone who has completed the CiAH Stages 1 and 2, or has passed any of the other Stage 3 Diplomas. Learners with existing CiAH or DipGAI qualifications achieved pre-2022 enrolment will need to take a bridging course. (See page 28 for further details)
- Anyone specifying architectural ironmongery, or working with architectural ironmongery specifications, who wants to build and demonstrate the technical expertise and understanding of the key factors of access control and its components.
- Anyone involved in the architectural ironmongery or access control industry that needs the evidence to prove they are knowledgeable and are a competent person in their field of expertise.

Course content

In the GAI Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control you will explore the following subject areas which will provide basic to proficient knowledge of all Electric Hardware components giving a comprehensive understanding of access control systems:

- Securing the door with electrical locking products
- Closing and opening with correct devices
- Activating the door
- Releasing the door
- Powering the components
- Enter/Exit and Escape safely also considering security of Access Control systems
- Resource tools to ensure you have considered all the correct components
- The 'Internet of Things' (IOT)
- Door entry systems
- Hotel solutions

(Cont'd overleaf)

Course content (cont'd)

Having achieved the Diploma, you can use the post nominal DipAC after your name to present your qualification to the industry. Completion of the course also enables you to join the CPD Programme to develop demonstrable professional competence with Registered in Electric Hardware & Access Control (RegAC) status. (See pages 32-33 for further details)

Assessment

- Online course with examination at a local PearsonVue test centre.
- Each learner will answer a set of compulsory questions at the end of each module. In addition, a separate assignment needs to be completed. The combined scores from the modules and the assignment will form 30% of the overall mark.
- Sit a final exam which will make up 70% of your overall mark. To pass the course you must achieve a 60% mark or above.

Supporting seminars

To aid your learning over the duration of the course, on-demand webinar sessions are available for all of the course subjects.

FEES

£1,065 exc vat for GAI Members

£2,130 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment opens
1 September 2026 for
academic year
September to June.

Deadline for enrolment
is 18 December 2026.

Please enrol by visiting
www.gai.org.uk/enrol or scanning the
QR code.

T&Cs are available on the GAI website.



GAI Diploma in Door Systems (DipDS)

The GAI Diploma in Door Systems (DipDS) provides comprehensive education on all aspects of the architectural ironmongery industry with emphasis on the door.

Study time

80+ hours, on average.

(Over a one year period, depending on each individual learner).

Who is the course for?

- Anyone who has completed the CiAH Stages 1 and 2, or has passed any of the other Stage 3 Diplomas. Learners with existing CiAH or DipGAI qualifications achieved pre-2022 enrolment will need to take a bridging course. (See page 28 for further details)
- Anyone specifying architectural ironmongery, or working with architectural ironmongery specifications, who wants to build and demonstrate the technical expertise and understanding of the key factors of door systems and their components.
- Anyone involved in the architectural ironmongery or door industry that needs the evidence to prove they are knowledgeable and are a competent person in their field of expertise.

Course content

In the GAI Diploma in Door Systems you will explore the following subject areas:

- Doorsets and Door Assemblies
- Linear gaps
- Smoke control considerations
- The role of air transfer grilles
- Other door systems; glass and partitioning
- Considerations when writing a door specification
- Example specifications for composite and uPVC
- Doors and the environment
- Third Party Certification Schemes
- Testing of fire doors
- Thermal efficiency of a door
- Composite and uPVC Doors
- Fire Door Closing Systems
- Applications for timber and steel doors
- BIM and doorsets
- Relevant Standards

Course content (cont'd)

Having achieved the Diploma, you can use the post nominal DipDS after your name to present your qualification to the industry. Completion of the course also enables you to join the CPD Programme to develop demonstrable professional competence with Registered in Door Systems (RegDS) status. (See pages 32-33 for further details)

Assessment

- Online course with examination at a local PearsonVue test centre.
- Each learner will answer a set of compulsory questions at the end of each module. In addition, a separate assignment needs to be completed. The combined scores from the modules and the assignment will form 30% of the overall mark.
- Sit a final exam which will make up 70% of your overall mark. To pass the course you must achieve a 60% mark or above.

FEES

£1,065 exc vat for GAI Members

£2,130 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment opens
1 September 2026 for
academic year
September to June.

Deadline for enrolment
is 18 December 2026.

Please enrol by visiting
www.gai.org.uk/enrol or scanning the
QR code.

T&Cs are available on the GAI website.



Supporting seminars

To aid your learning over the duration of the course, on-demand webinar sessions are available for all of the course subjects.

Certificate in Standards & Regulations (CertSRA)

The Certificate in Standards and Regulations is an ongoing training programme to educate on all aspects of the standards relevant to the architectural ironmongery industry.

Study time

80 hours, on average, plus regular practical scheduling exercises.

(Over a one year period, depending on each individual learner).

Who is the course for?

- Anyone who has completed the CiAH Stages 1 and 2, or has passed any of the other Stage 3 Diplomas. Learners with existing CiAH or DipGAI qualifications achieved pre-2022 enrolment will need to take a bridging course. (See page 28 for further details)
- Anyone specifying architectural ironmongery, or working with architectural ironmongery specifications, who wants to build and demonstrate the technical expertise and understanding to know what can and should be specified, why, and the consequences of getting it wrong.
- Anyone involved in the supply chain responsible for testing products in their business or importing products and responsible for checking certification.

Course content

In the Certificate in Standards & Regulations you will explore the following subject areas:

- Understanding standards and regulations
- Legal status of regulations and legislation
- Guides to Standards
- Code of Practice for Fire and Escape Doors
- Comparison between EN and ANSI standards
- Specification and Supply
- Checking supporting documentation
- Consequences of ignoring the risks

Having achieved the Certificate, you can use the post nominal CertSRA after your name to present your qualification to the industry. Due to frequent changes in Standards and Regulations, this certification will have an annual expiry date of 31st August. It will therefore be a mandatory requirement for the learner to follow the GAI CPD programme and to also sit an annual online examination to maintain their CertSRA status.

(See pages 32-33 for further details)

Assessment

- Online course with examination at a local PearsonVue test centre.
- Each learner will answer a set of compulsory questions at the end of each module. In addition, a separate assignment needs to be completed. The combined scores from the modules and the assignment will form 30% of the overall mark.
- Sit a final exam which will make up 70% of your overall mark. To pass the course you must achieve a 60% mark or above.
- A learner will only be allowed two fails in their final examination at Stage 3. Should a learner fail for a third time then they will be required to re-enrol for the next Education Programme Term.

Supporting seminars

To aid your learning over the duration of the course, on-demand webinar sessions are available.

FEES

£1,065 exc vat for GAI Members

£2,130 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment opens
1 September 2026 for
academic year
September to June.

Deadline for enrolment
is 18 December 2026.

Please enrol by visiting
www.gai.org.uk/enrol or scanning the
QR code.



T&Cs are available on the GAI website.



Stage 3 Bridging Courses

Learners who completed the CiAH or DipGAI before August 2022 will be required to complete a bridging course in order to study any of the new Stage 3 qualifications.

Study time

60+ hours, on average.

(Due to the period of study needed for past students enrolling for the one of the new Diplomas, they may choose to take their final examination on one of the retake dates in September or October. If this is the preferred option, please notify education@gai.org.uk).

Who is the course for?

- Anyone wanting to study Stage 3 qualifications DipAC, DipDS or CertSRA, who completed the Certificate in Architectural Hardware Stages 1 and 2, or DipGAI before August 2022

Course content

There are 3 bridging courses available, dependant on which Stage 3 course you want to on to study:

Bridging course for GAI Diploma in Electric Hardware & Access Control

- Door closing devices – Part 1 and 2
- Electric hardware – Part 1 and 2
- Standards and Regulations – Part 1 and 2
- Escape door hardware

Bridging course for GAI Diploma in Door Systems

- Timber doors and frames
- Steel doors and frames
- Standards and Regulations – Part 1 and 2
- Door closing devices – Part 1 and 2
- Fire door hardware
- Door systems (S2)

Bridging course for Certificate in Standards and Regulations

- Hinges
- Door closing devices – Part 1 and 2

- Standards and Regulations – Part 1 and 2
- Hardware – Part 1
- Specialist hardware
- Escape door hardware
- Fire door hardware

Assessment

There are two online assessments for this course, no exam required. A minimum score of 80% must be achieved in each of the two assessments in order to pass the course.

FEES

£485 exc vat for GAI Members

£970 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

ENROLMENT

You can enrol for the Bridging Course at any time by visiting www.gai.org.uk/enrol or scanning the QR code.



T&Cs are available on the GAI website.

Challenge Exams

GAI Challenge exams allows candidates to resume and complete their qualification after a break without having to start again from the beginning of the education programme.

Who are the exams for?

- Certificate in Architectural Hardware candidates who have taken a break of three years or more between stages;

OR

- Successful Certificate candidates who wish to move on to Diploma studies after a cumulative break in their GAI studies of more than three years.

Assessment

- A 90 minute exam taken on the GAI Learning Hub website
- To pass the Challenge Exam, you must achieve a minimum score of 60%

Successful Challenge Exam candidates can then progress to the next stage in the GAI education programme without restarting Stage 1.

Students who have taken more than a three year sabbatical and fail the Challenge Exam will be required to enrol for Stage 1.

FEES

£320 exc vat for GAI Members

£640 exc vat for Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment. To benefit from the discounted rate you must be an employee of a corporate member.

EXAM LEARNING MATERIAL FEES

£85 exc vat for GAI Members

£170 exc vat for Non Members

(Available online prior to examination only).

ENROLMENT

You can enrol for the Challenge Exam at any time by visiting www.gai.org.uk/enrol or scanning the QR code.



T&Cs are available on the GAI website.

GAI Education Awards

All new Stage 3 course graduates are invited to attend the GAI Education Awards, the annual flagship industry event held in November.



Check out the highlights from the GAI Education Awards 2025

Introduction

The GAI Education Awards celebrates excellence in architectural ironmongery education, recognising the dedication and achievements of professionals in the industry.

This annual prestigious ceremony honours individuals who have successfully completed the GAI's rigorous education courses. The event also highlights exceptional talent with awards for the top-performing learners across all stages of the programme.

Beyond individual achievements, the GAI Education Awards serves as a key gathering for the industry, bringing together the leading professionals and businesses to celebrate the commitment to continuous learning and excellence within the sector.

Stage 3 Awards*

For each of the four Stage 3 courses, Bronze, Silver and Gold medals are awarded to the top 3 learners of the year. The winners join a long line of esteemed members in the industry and receive cash prizes as follows:

- **Gold Medal** - £400 cash award
- **Silver Medal** - £300 cash award
- **Bronze Medal** - £200 cash award

Stage 2 Awards*

The Certificate in Architectural Hardware prizes are awarded to the top 3 learners with combined results of Stage 1 and 2 with a cash prize:

- **Gold Medal** - £400 cash award
- **Silver Medal** - £300 cash award
- **Bronze Medal** - £200 cash award

*Excluding students who are taking bridging courses or retakes.

Pinnacle Award

The Pinnacle Award stands as the highest honour within the GAI's Education Awards, recognising the individual who has attained the most outstanding overall results across all four Stage 3 courses.

In addition to this prestigious recognition, the recipient is also awarded a £500 prize as a mark of their exceptional achievement.

4.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

The GAI's CPD programme enables those who have attained a Stage 3 GAI qualification to establish and maintain their Registered or Certified professional status – Registered Architectural

Ironmonger (RegAI); Registered in Door Systems (RegDS); Registered in Electric Hardware and Access Control (RegAC); or Certificated Standards and Regulations Advisor (CertSRA).

**GAI Registered
Professional**
(RegAI/RegAC/RegDS)

Page 32-33

**GAI Certified
Professional**
(CertSRA)

Page 32-33

GAI Registered & Certified Professionals (RegAI / RegAC / RegDS / CertSRA)

Completing a Stage 3 course and then participating in our CPD programme demonstrates professional competency to all.

Study time

20+ hours, on average.

(Over a one year period, learners are required to gain 20 CPD points through varying activities).

Who is CPD for?

Through the GAI's programme for continuing professional development (CPD), those who have attained a Stage 3 GAI qualification can go on to establish and maintain their Registered or Certified professional status.

This is the highest possible standard of education and professionalism you can achieve in the industry; a benchmark standard for demonstrable professional competence in architectural ironmongery and its related disciplines.

Registered & Certified Status

Completing the CPD programme demonstrates that you are fully up-to-date with the latest industry standards, regulation, legislation, and best practice.

To achieve and retain professional recognition, the CPD programme must be completed annually. Learners can attain and maintain the following statuses, based on their Stage 3 specialisms:

- Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAI)
- Registered Door Systems (RegDS)
- Registered Electric Hardware & Access Control (RegAC)
- Certificated Standards and Regulations Advisor (CertSRA)



RegAI



RegDS



RegAC



CertSRA

Requirements

To achieve and maintain registered or certified status, you must:

- Register or renew your annual membership to join the CPD programme
- Gain 20 CPD points within a 12 month calendar year to gain registered or certified status the following year
- Maintain your Reg status by continuing to gain 20 CPD points each calendar year thereafter

Our flexible CPD requirements can be met by activities including:

- GAI compulsory coursework
- Community Hub meeting presentations
- Webinars, recordings and quizzes
- GAI verified factory visits
- Presenting CPD presentations
- In-house or external training courses relevant to your role
- GAI (or related) tutoring or education programmes
- Reading industry related articles and completing a quiz to qualify they have read the articles

ENROLMENT

You can enrol for the CPD programme at any point of the year but the CPD points collection window is 1 January to 31 December. For further information please visit www.gai.org.uk/cpd or scan the QR code.



T&Cs are available on the GAI website.





“I decided to study for the diploma to broaden my knowledge of the Architectural Ironmongery industry, particularly from a marketing perspective. In my role, I mainly focus on hinges, but I rarely get to explore the wider scope of the industry. I wanted a deeper understanding of the full process.

This qualification isn't just for those working in scheduling—it's designed to broaden knowledge across all areas of the industry.”

Lisa Douras, DipGAI, RegAI
Simonswerk Group

Exam retakes

In the event that learners do not pass their respective course, the GAI offers flexible options for retaking exams to support their continued progression.

Stage 1, 2 & 3 exams can be retaken either later in the same year during September/October, or in the following June. However, learners on the Stage 3 GAI Diploma in Scheduling have to retake both the coursework and exam the following academic year.

FEES

Stage 1, 2 & 3 courses (exc GAI Diploma in Scheduling)

£420 exc vat for GAI Members

£840 exc vat for Non Members

GAI Diploma in Scheduling only

£525 exc vat for GAI Members

£1,050 exc vat for Non Members

£710 exc vat for GAI International Members

£1,420 exc vat for International Non Members

Fees to be paid upon enrolment.

ENROLMENT

You can enrol for an exam retake following the publication of your results. Retake dates can be found on **Page 6** of this prospectus. Retakes can be booked via the **Learning Shop** or by email at education@gai.org.uk.

T&Cs are available on the GAI website.



Guild of Architectural Ironmongers

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