

# TAXI ACADEMY

## The Taxi Academy Celebrates it's First Birthday!



28<sup>th</sup> of February 2008 – Greater Manchester

Manchester City has it's own version of London's "The Knowledge", as all private hire and hackney carriage drivers must pass a stringent council test to gain work as a driver.

With the credit crunch making cash tighter, the Taxi Academy is offering an opportunity to people who enjoy delivering great customer service, desire flexible working hours, and want the ability to earn more than the national average. Manchester's position as fastest growing city in the UK<sup>1</sup>, Capital of the North, and third most visited city by foreign visitors makes it the perfect location for a bustling taxi trade.

The Taxi Academy has been teaching drivers "The Manchester Knowledge" for a year now, and will be celebrating their first birthday with their students on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

To celebrate their one year anniversary, the Taxi Academy are launching day classes, which will enable shift and night workers access to the course that teaches the vital "Knowledge". Classes now run Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes, and Monday and Wednesday evening.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.manchester.gov.uk/site/scripts/news\\_article.php?newsID=2915](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/site/scripts/news_article.php?newsID=2915)

The Taxi Academy is one of the businesses incubated in East Manchester's new "Knowledge Mill" - One Central Park ([www.onecentralpark.co.uk](http://www.onecentralpark.co.uk)). Operations Manager James Hill told us that "The people we've met and the support networks we have gained have been a fantastic help in bringing the Taxi Academy to life."

The idea was created when Kashef Ahmad, one of the founders of the academy studied to become a Private Hire Taxi Driver. He found the test to be incredibly difficult, with pass rates as low as 10 - 20 percent. Identifying a gap in the market, he teamed up with James Hill and together they have worked day and night to create an academy to help learners get their license. Currently graduates of the course are achieving a 70% pass rate.

The Taxi Academy can be called on **0800 862 0016**, or the website is accessible at [www.taxi-academy.co.uk](http://www.taxi-academy.co.uk) .

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**Pictures and further material available on request**

