



TRESITHICK UPHOLSTERY TRAINING

Association of Master Upholsterers and Soft Furnishers (AMUSF) Accredited Courses

Upholstery – Diploma Course

As an AMUSF Approved Training Centre, Tresithick Upholstery is a provider of the Association of Master Upholsterer and Soft Furnishers Accredited Upholstery Diploma course.

We offer our courses year round and are not restricted to the academic year. We do this in order to offer the student the greatest flexibility and freedom in completing the course alongside their other commitments.

The Diploma Course is offered in three stages

- Stage 1 - Craft Certificate
- Stage 2 - Intermediate Craft Skills
- Stage 3 - Diploma

The introductory Craft Certificate – Stage 1 is a natural stepping stone to the Intermediate Craft Skills - Stage 2 course. The Intermediate Craft Skills course covers further techniques of a more advanced nature. The Diploma - Stage 3 furnishes the student with the necessary skills and knowledge with which to consider either entering the industry or starting their own business.

At each stage, the course is designed to enable progression and to consolidate the practical techniques learnt. The practical syllabus exercises may be completed in the form of exercise frames or actual furniture items, or a combination of the two. Where practical, we encourage students to use actual items as these then have a lasting functional purpose (ie it is your furniture that you take away and use after the course), rather than using exercise frames, which are subsequently stripped and re-used by future students.

All tuition takes place in our workshop which creates a highly fertile practical learning environment. As our courses do not take place in strict accordance with the academic year, we do not accept intakes of multiple students all starting at the same time. Therefore, not all students will be working on the same item at the same time. You will therefore receive highly individual tuition, which is tailored to your needs, and conducted at a pace that suits you, the individual, and not a whole group; there is no pressure to 'keep up' with anyone else.

Moreover, at any one time in the workshop, as students will be receiving instruction, and working, on their own pieces you will gain much from learning alongside students who are at different stages of the course. We make the most of the training opportunities which are presented as a result of this approach by conducting discussions and demonstrations as appropriate, identifying specific problem areas and difficulties that students may typically encounter. If a student has already experienced the particular issue under discussion then we find this serves to revise and consolidate what has already been learnt, or if it is new to you, then it proves an excellent learning tool for future work.

We offer the 3 stages either as stand-alone 'modules' with a gap (of months or years) in between each, or, if desired, you can proceed immediately onto the next stage. There is no obligation to undertake and complete all 3 stages.

Assessment

During the course the tutors track student progress and make notes which assist learning. On completion of each syllabus item, the exercise is discussed and de-briefed in a constructive way with the student using these notes, identifying particular strengths and weaknesses, and where difficulties (if any) were encountered so you can learn from the experience and take this forward to the next exercise. Formal assessment of students' course work is made internally by the Principal Tutor based on the notes taken

during the course. An AMUSF Internal Assessment Form is completed prior to annual verification (which you will receive a copy of following verification). Students' work is verified, annually, by an External Verifier appointed by the AMUSF. Verification confirms the internal assessment and determines the pass level (Pass/Credit/Distinction).

Pass - 60% - 74%

Credit – 75% - 89%

Distinction – 90%+

Stage 1 Craft Certificate Course

Enrolment

You can enrol for this course and start at any time throughout the year; please contact us to check course availability and/or to request an Enrolment Form.

Course Length. 210 hrs to be completed within 12 months.

The Course takes place over 6 weeks.

The training day at Tresithick Upholstery Training Centre is 7 hrs in duration starting at **9:00 am** and finishing at **5:00pm** (with scheduled refreshment/lunch breaks totalling 1 hr).

35 hrs of training is delivered in each of the 6 weeks.

The course is designed to be flexible so as to allow the student to complete the syllabus in (individually) achievable time periods and so your training can be spread over a number of months provided it is completed within the stipulated 12 months from commencement.

Course Cost. Total course tuition fees total £2410:00.

An initial non-refundable deposit of £435:00 is taken on course enrolment. This includes an administration fee of £40:00.

The balance of course fees is invoiced in 5 equal instalments of £395:00 with the first instalment of £395:00 payable on the day you start your course. The remaining 4 instalments of £395:00 follow thereafter at 28 day intervals ¹.

Payments under either option can be made by UK cheque, or bank transfer.

Upholstery materials and sundries are **not included** in the above course fees as these costs vary according to the actual furniture item each student elects to work on. These materials are invoiced separately as per consumption recorded on a Materials Usage Sheet on completion of each individual syllabus item.

¹ Where the course is programmed to complete within 4 calendar months of commencement, the instalments are adjusted to ensure full payment is made before the end of your course.

Please note VAT is **NOT** payable.

An AMUSF registration fee of £50 +VAT is payable separately **direct to the AMUSF** and must be made within 4 weeks of starting the course.

Stage 1 Syllabus

During this stage students will develop their practical skills, gaining knowledge and experience in the manipulation of a variety of materials and processes, within the context of a series of individual set exercises and/or assessment projects.

Students will acquire an understanding of upholstery fabrics and textiles and should be encouraged to develop, where appropriate, their own creative responses to the assessment projects.

Over the duration of the course the candidate will complete the following projects (as either exercise or actual pieces):

Stage 1 – Craft Certificate

- ◎ Drop-in seat (modern materials)
- ◎ Drop-in seat (traditional materials including fabric and bottoming cloth)
- ◎ Stitched and stuffed footstool or chair (traditional materials and methods including fabric and bottoming)
- ◎ **Sprung dining chair** (traditional materials and methods including fabric and bottoming cloth)
- ◎ Sprung arm exercise for an inset facing (traditional materials and methods)
- ◎ Box Cushion with piping and zip (sample)
- ◎ Bolster End with piping (sample)
- ◎ **Upholstered and lined box with decorative detail and deep-buttoned lid** (modern materials, with a minimum of three diamonds)
- ◎ Portfolio containing notes and details of work in progress
- ◎ **Written Research Project** - Fabric Characteristics, Identification & Appropriate Usage

Portfolio

Portfolio support work will also be required and the following notes provide a useful Aide Memoire for the suggested contents.

Before any stripping of the old upholstery is begun the furniture item must be photographed and, together with training objectives discussed with your tutor, entered into your portfolio to compile part of your evidence. It may sometimes be necessary to communicate an idea to a colleague or client through use of an image as opposed to text, one can often do this through use of existing images from magazines, books etc. However, sometimes due to time constraints, or design originality or detail, it may be more appropriate to produce a sketch or a scale drawing (accompanying colour swatches for example to explain the furniture to a customer).

The following skills are covered, and will be acquired directly through the experience of working on each piece of your furniture. Therefore, you must remember to reference them in your portfolio notes as evidence:

The students will receive workshop inductions, practical demonstrations and teaching in the use and application of core materials and techniques, both modern and traditional, including instruction on:

- ⊙ Health & Safety: when working with tools and equipment in a workshop environment
- ⊙ Appropriate use of tools and equipment, both hand and machine
- ⊙ Understanding of Domestic and Industrial Sewing machines
- ⊙ Appropriate use of Fillings & Sundry Materials
- ⊙ Appropriate use of techniques and processes including Knots, Blind, Top and Slip-Stitching
- ⊙ Cutting, Pattern Matching and Finishing of Fabrics
- ⊙ Sewing seams and decorative techniques
- ⊙ Trims and Decorative detailing
- ⊙ Awareness of frame repairs and polishing
- ⊙ Costing Materials
- ⊙ Evaluation Methods

For each piece undertaken a detailed list of materials and costing should be made, along with a description of the process including references to the use of tools, handling of materials, and health and safety awareness. Pictures should be taken at every stage of the project to create a close photographic record of work involved from start to finish and this should be combined with a written descriptor of each step. Any evidence of machine sewing, pattern matching, colour coordination and finishing should also be included in the portfolio.

The 3 main elements to the course that form the majority of the awarding marks are as follows:

- Traditionally sprung dining chair (45%)
- Upholstered and lined box with decorative detail and deep – buttoned lid ,must have a minimum of 3 diamonds and 3 rows of buttons (45%)
- Mandatory project – written project on Fabric Characteristics, Identification & Appropriate Use (10%)

All elements must be completed in order to achieve the highest marks.

UK-based students are required to provide their own furniture to meet the syllabus requirements, with the exception of the Sprung Arm * and the cushion inner for the box cushion cover exercise. For overseas students, by arrangement, Tresithick Upholstery Training can provide the necessary furniture items on request.

*Exercise frames carry a hire charge and are retained by Tresithick Upholstery Training upon completion

The Craft Certificate is awarded by the AMUSF on successful completion of the course. Students will be required to make available the sprung dining chair and the upholstered and lined box and project for the verification by the External Verifier.

Successful completion of the Stage 1 course is usually a pre-requisite for enrolling on the Stage 2 course unless the applicant can produce satisfactory evidence to prove that they already possess the skill and knowledge taught on the Stage 1 course.

Stage 2 Intermediate Craft Skills

The Course takes place over 6 weeks.

The training day at Tresithick Upholstery Training Centre is 7 hrs in duration starting at **9:00 am** and finishing at **5:00pm** (with scheduled refreshment/lunch breaks totalling 1 hr).

35 hrs of training is delivered in each of the 6 weeks.

The course is designed to be flexible so as to allow the student to complete the syllabus in (individually) achievable time periods and so your training can be spread over a number of months provided it is completed within the stipulated 12 months from commencement.

Course Cost. Total course tuition fees total £2410:00.

An initial non-refundable deposit of £435:00 is taken on course enrolment. This includes an administration fee of £40:00.

The balance of course fees is invoiced in 5 equal instalments of £395:00 with the first instalment of £395:00 payable on the day you start your course. The remaining 4 instalments of £395:00 follow thereafter at 28 day intervals ².

Payments under either option can be made by UK cheque, or bank transfer.

Upholstery materials and sundries are **not included** in the above course fees as these costs vary according to the actual furniture item each student elects to work on. These materials are invoiced separately as per consumption recorded on a Materials Usage Sheet on completion of each individual syllabus item.

Please note VAT is **NOT** payable.

An AMUSF registration fee of £50 +VAT is payable separately **direct to the AMUSF** and must be made within 4 weeks of starting the course.

Stage 2 Syllabus

During this stage students will develop their practical skills, gaining knowledge and experience in the manipulation of a variety of materials and processes, within the context of a series of individual set exercises and/or assessment projects. Students will acquire an understanding of upholstery fabrics and textiles and should be encouraged to develop, where appropriate, their own creative responses to the assessment projects.

Over the duration of the course the candidate will complete the following projects (as either exercise or actual pieces):

² Where the course is programmed to complete within 4 calendar months of commencement, the instalments are adjusted to ensure full payment is made before the end of your course.

Stage 2 – Intermediate Craft Skills

- ⊙ T-Shaped Cushion with piping and zips (samples)
- ⊙ Tailoring, including the fitting of caps and collars (samples)
- ⊙ Independent sprung edge for a cushion seat (exercise) (traditional materials and methods, including fabric and front border)
- ⊙ **Armless chair with traditionally upholstered seat and back (seat to be sprung with coil springs)**
- ⊙ **Post 1950s Armchair upholstered using modern materials & methods**
- ⊙ Portfolio containing notes and details of work in progress
- ⊙ **Written Research** Project - History of Upholstered Furniture – a timeline and overview of the styles of upholstered furniture and the development of upholstery techniques and materials used.

Portfolio

Portfolio support work will also be required and the following notes provide a useful Aide Memoire for the suggested contents.

Before any stripping of the old upholstery is begun the furniture item must be photographed and, together with training objectives discussed with your tutor, entered into your portfolio to compile part of your evidence. It may sometimes be necessary to communicate an idea to a colleague or client through use of an image as opposed to text, one can often do this through use of existing images from magazines, books etc. However, sometimes due to time constraints, or design originality or detail, it may be more appropriate to produce a sketch or a scale drawing (accompanying colour swatches for example to explain the furniture to a customer).

The following skills are covered, and will be acquired directly through the experience of working on each piece of your furniture. Therefore, you must remember to reference them in your portfolio notes as evidence:

The students will receive workshop inductions, practical demonstrations and teaching in the use and application of core materials and techniques, both modern and traditional, including instruction on:

- ⊗ Health & Safety: when working with tools and equipment in a workshop environment
- ⊗ Frame repair and polishing, including the fitting of castors
- ⊗ Understanding of Industrial and Domestic sewing machines
- ⊗ Appropriate use of Fillings & Sundry Materials
- ⊗ Types of springs and suspension systems: coil, serpentine, tension springs, sprung units, pocket springs, rubber & elastic webbings etc.
- ⊗ Appropriate use of foams and rubberized hair sheets and various pre-formed profiles
- ⊗ Appropriate use of techniques and processes including Knots, Blind, Top and Slip-Stitching
- ⊗ Cutting, Pattern Matching and Finishing of Fabrics
- ⊗ Tailoring, including the fitting of caps and collars
- ⊗ Basic Design Skills: sketching, colour co-ordination and scale drawing
- ⊗ An understanding of the UK's Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations 1988 relating to domestic furniture and furnishings
- ⊗ Fabric Classifications – Martindale abrasion test
- ⊗ Estimating & Costing Materials
- ⊗ Evaluation Methods

For each piece undertaken a detailed list of materials and costing should be made, along with a description of the process including references to the use of tools, handling of materials, and health and safety awareness. Pictures should be taken at every stage of the project to create a close photographic record of work involved from start to finish and this should be combined with a written descriptor of each step. Any evidence of machine sewing, pattern matching, colour coordination and finishing should also be included in the portfolio.

The 3 main elements to the course that form the majority of the awarding marks are as follows:

- Armless Chair (50%)
- Post 1950's Armchair (40%)
- Mandatory project – written project on the History of Upholstered Furniture – a timeline and overview of the styles of upholstered furniture and the development of upholstery techniques and materials used.

All elements must be completed in order to achieve the highest marks.

UK-based students are required to provide their own furniture to meet the syllabus requirements. For overseas students, by arrangement, Tresithick Upholstery Training can provide the necessary furniture items on request.

The Intermediate Craft Certificate is awarded by the AMUSF on successful completion of the course. Students will be required to make available the armless chair and the post 50's armchair and project for the verification by the External Verifier.

Successful completion of the Stage 2 course is usually a pre-requisite for enrolling on the Stage 3 course unless the applicant can produce satisfactory evidence to prove that they already possess the skill and knowledge taught on both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 course.

Stage 3 – Diploma

The Course takes place over 6 weeks.

The training day at Tresithick Upholstery Training Centre is 7 hrs in duration starting at **9:00 am** and finishing at **5:00pm** (with scheduled refreshment/lunch breaks totalling 1 hr).

35 hrs of training is delivered in each of the 6 weeks.

The course is designed to be flexible so as to allow the student to complete the syllabus in (individually) achievable time periods and so your training can be spread over a number of months provided it is completed within the stipulated 12 months from commencement.

We are able to offer intensive courses (subject to availability) for overseas students to optimize time spent in the UK and reduce travel costs.

Course Cost. Total course tuition fees total £2410:00.

An initial non-refundable deposit of £435:00 is taken on course enrolment. This includes an administration fee of £40:00.

The balance of course fees is invoiced in 5 equal instalments of £395:00 with the first instalment of £395:00 payable on the day you start your course. The remaining 4 instalments of £395:00 follow thereafter at 28 day intervals ³.

Payments under either option can be made by UK cheque, or bank transfer.

Upholstery materials and sundries are **not included** in the above course fees as these costs vary according to the actual furniture item each student elects to work on. These materials are invoiced separately as per consumption recorded on a Materials Usage Sheet on completion of each individual syllabus item.

Please note VAT is **NOT** payable.

An AMUSF registration fee of £50 +VAT is payable separately **direct to the AMUSF** and must be made within 4 weeks of starting the course.

³ Where the course is programmed to complete within 4 calendar months of commencement, the instalments are adjusted to ensure full payment is made before the end of your course.

Stage 3 Syllabus

During this stage students will develop their practical skills, gaining knowledge and experience in the manipulation of a variety of materials and processes, within the context of a series of individual set projects.

Students will acquire an understanding of the history of upholstered furniture and the development of techniques and materials used.

Students should be encouraged to develop, where appropriate, their own creative responses to the assessment projects.

Stage 3 Diploma

◎ **Substantial Traditional Armchair** of advanced techniques, which should include at least two of the following elements: the fitting of caps and collars, scroll arms or stitched-up edges to arms, sprung arms, coil sprung seats, independent sprung edges, deep buttoning, fluting or an iron framed chair.

◎ **Modern Chair with a concave inside back** incorporating tailored fitting and top stitching

i.e. Egg style (shell frame)

◎ Portfolio containing notes and details of work in progress

◎ **Written Research Project** – 20th Century Furniture Design – an overview of the styles, periods and iconic designers of the 20th Century.

Portfolio

Portfolio support work will also be required and the following notes provide a useful Aide Memoire for the suggested contents.

Before any stripping of the old upholstery is begun the furniture item must be photographed and, together with training objectives discussed with your tutor, entered into your portfolio to compile part of your evidence. It may sometimes be necessary to communicate an idea to a colleague or client through use of an image as opposed to text, one can often do this through use of existing images from magazines, books etc. However, sometimes due to time constraints, or design originality or detail, it may be more appropriate to produce a sketch or a scale drawing (accompanying colour swatches for example to explain the furniture to a customer).

The following skills are covered, and will be acquired directly through the experience of working on each piece of your furniture. Therefore, you must remember to reference them in your portfolio notes as evidence:

The students will receive workshop inductions, practical demonstrations and teaching in the use and application of core materials and techniques, both modern and traditional, including instruction on:

- ⊙ Health & Safety: when working with tools and equipment in a workshop environment
- ⊙ Understanding of Industrial and Domestic sewing machines
- ⊙ Frame repair and polishing including fitting castors: costs and time required to undertake repairs
- ⊙ Appropriate use of Fillings & Sundry Materials
- ⊙ Types of springs and suspension systems: coil, serpentine, tension springs, sprung units, pocket springs, rubber & elastic webbings etc.
- ⊙ Appropriate use of foams and rubberized hair sheets and various pre-formed profiles
- ⊙ Appropriate use of techniques and processes including Knots, Blind, Top and Slip-Stitching
- ⊙ Cutting, Pattern Matching and Finishing of Fabrics
- ⊙ Tailoring, including the fitting of caps and collars
- ⊙ Basic Design Skills: sketching, colour co-ordination and scale drawing
- ⊙ An understanding of the UK's Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations 1988 relating to domestic furniture and furnishings
- ⊙ Fabric Classifications – Martindale abrasion test
- ⊙ Estimating & Costing Materials and Labour
- ⊙ Working to a deadline including timing records
- ⊙ Business Studies:
 - Requirements of self-employment
 - H&S whilst working from home or a workshop

- o Legal & Safety requirements
- o Terms & Conditions
- o Insurances
- o PR & Marketing including social media
- o Resources
- © Evaluation Methods

For each piece undertaken a detailed list of materials and costing should be made, along with a description of the process including references to the use of tools, handling of materials, and health and safety awareness. Pictures should be taken at every stage of the project to create a close photographic record of work involved from start to finish and this should be combined with a written descriptor of each step. Any evidence of machine sewing, pattern matching, colour coordination and finishing should also be included in the portfolio.

The 3 main elements to the course that form the majority of the awarding marks are as follows:

- Substantial Traditional Armchair (50%)
- Modern Chair with a concave inside back (40%)
- Mandatory project – 20th Century Furniture Design – an overview of the styles, periods and iconic designers of the 20th Century. (10%)

All elements must be completed in order to achieve the highest marks

UK-based students are required to provide their own furniture to meet the syllabus requirements. For overseas students, by arrangement, Tresithick Upholstery Training can provide the necessary furniture items on request.

The Diploma is awarded by the AMUSF on successful completion of the course. Students will be required to make available the substantial traditional armchair and the modern chair with concave inside back, and project for the verification by the External Verifier.