

Bespoke Saddler

Level 3

Set within an industry steeped in tradition, the Saddlery trade supports the pursuit of excellence in its traditional craft skills whilst also embracing innovation and technology.

The Bespoke Saddler is a fundamental occupational role in the saddlery trade and is an integral part of an industry that contributes over £8bn to the British economy. Bespoke Saddler is a broad description of someone who produces Saddles or Bridles and provides comprehensive repair service to saddles and other equestrian equipment. All will be capable of producing a standard or bespoke product that is cut and made to a unique pattern or measurement for a horse.

Many of the skills are carried out by hand to produce an item that fits precisely to a customer's requirements. Handcrafted products form the heart of the British Saddlery industry and have an international and iconic reputation.

Bespoke Saddlers have practical skills in the manufacture of equestrian products including measurement and pattern construction. The skills involved in Bespoke Saddlery cover a wide area of expertise that includes craft, technical, creative and design. These skills are fundamental to the Bespoke Saddlery industry and ultimately have to be employed with great precision, to high standards of excellence and within realistic time constraints.

Upon completion of this standard, the apprentice will be competent in both Saddle and Bridle making.

Behaviours

Bespoke Saddlers will be expected to demonstrate:

- Adherence to appropriate Health & Safety procedures within the workplace;
- A commitment to maintaining high standards of precision and excellence as appropriate to the craft;
- A focus on the requirements of the customer;
- An ability to work effectively both individually and as part of a team;
- A strong work ethic and commitment in order to meet the standards required;
- A recognition and appreciation of equality and diversity in the workplace.

Entry requirements

Individual employers will set the selection criteria for their Apprenticeships but typically a prospective candidate will have 12 months practical experience and will demonstrate skills in cutting, preparation and finishing leather products as well as being able to

double hand and single/backstitch. Other relevant or prior experience may also be considered as an alternative.

Qualifications

Apprentices will be required to complete the industry-recognised Level 3 Diploma in Saddlery (Bridle and Saddle Making) as a mandatory part of this Standard.

Maths and English will be included in the delivery of the programme; unless you have achieved Grade A-C or 4-9 at GCSE level, or a Level 2 Functional Skills qualification.

For the Level 3 Apprenticeship, all apprentices need to achieve level 2 English and maths prior to completion of their Apprenticeship, unless they hold an equivalent qualification already.

Teaching and support for Maths and English will be given in the workplace and contextualised to the working environment.

Please [apply online](#) or contact Mark Romain on 01722 341144 or info@saddlerytraining.com.