Diploma in **Forwarding Upholstery Development**

1 year/part-time **The British School of Upholstered Furniture**

**Course Details**

**Course tutors:** Gareth Rees, Gregory Cupitt-Jones and specialist guest lecturers

**Start date:** 11 September 2020

**Contact days:** One day a week (Friday), 9am-4.30pm with an hour for lunch

**Contact hours:** 270 hours

**Venue:** The British School of Upholstered Furniture, Unit 6, Manor Farm Barns, High Street, Nettlebed, Oxon, RG9 5DA.

**Certificate type:** Diploma

**Duration:** The course runs for one year part-time, through three terms from September to September, spread over 42 weeks of tutored time.

**Parking**: Free on-site parking

**Course contact:** Gareth Rees

**Enquiry email:** [schoolofupholsteredfurniture@gmail.com](mailto:schoolofupholsteredfurniture@gmail.com)

**BSUF Tel:**

**Course fees: £3600 inc vat**

**Accessibility:** The school is situated on a ground floor with disabled access. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.\*

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1 year/part-time **The British School of Upholstered Furniture**

**Course Overview**

**Who the course is for:** The course is aimed at those with traditional upholstery experience. It is technically an advanced course that could supplement learning for those who have finished or are about to finish the AMUSF diploma, or would be suitable for those who have enough basic grounding and want to forward their learning (see course requirements and application process for further details).

**Course aims**: The course aims to move both students’ skills and the trade into a more forward-thinking ideal, progressing contemporary use of traditional upholstery techniques in 21st century design, and enabling students to be creative while retaining strong historical foundations.

By the end of the course, and following a programme of historical and critical studies and research both theoretical and practical, students will have designed and created one new substantial piece of upholstered furniture to their own design, to the highest possible standards and design specifications, using traditional processes. Students will showcase their work and methods at an end of year show.

After the course students will have increased confidence, be able to make informed decisions regarding correct upholstery applications and have a greater understanding of professional practice opportunities for their future in the trade.

**Tutor statement**

The main tenet of the course is to develop a good historical grounding in the development of techniques and to allow students to develop and apply their skills and knowledge in design theory, analytical thinking and the use of practical hand skills. Students will create a new piece of furniture of their own design, unhindered by the ethics and honesty required when working on a pre-existing piece of historical furniture.

Throughout the year an examination board will meet and inspect work at four major stages. Marks will be given at each of these stages, so that at the end of the year an accumulative mark is awarded. We feel that it is essential that the foundation stages are included in assessment, as this thoroughly demonstrates a student’s development, choices and critical understanding of their work. The final piece will be supplemented by all practice pieces, notebooks, journals and a Viva Voce, along with a written dissertation or presentation on an area of furniture history.

We feel that this course will fill an essential gap in upholstery training in the UK.

Gareth Rees

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**Course requirements**

**Participation/attendance:** Students will be expected to attend the school one day per week on their allotted day during term time, with the aim of receiving all the contact hours allotted as scheduled. Students will need to participate actively in group tuition and exercises, and hand in work required at dates specified for the purposes of ongoing assessment, marking and verification.

**Home study:** A **minimum** of 12 hours a week home study, year round, is recommended in order to achieve the course aims. Self-initiated research into materials, techniques and design history is expected, and time given to develop practical work such as samples, testers and final pieces will be required outside of allotted contact hours.

**Communication:** Although the majority of credits are for practical work there are integral written elements to the study. Students’ written and spoken English needs to be of a sufficient level to make clear their understanding of their upholstery process for their Viva Voce and for their ‘Contextualised Report’. Students may choose to submit either a 5000-6500 word Dissertation or a 20 minute Presentation. Presentations can be either live, video or audio recording. The course is delivered in English.\*

**Additional course costs:** Fees, plus cost of frame and materials used on final piece and samples. The school will set some practice pieces which are covered by course fees. Students to supply their own tools and materials.

**Learner Agreement**: At the beginning of the course all students will be asked to sign a Learner Agreement stating that they believe themselves able to complete the course at that time. Students are asked to impart openly any information that may affect their learning, so that tutors can adapt delivery according to those needs, offering appropriate support when required, to enable all students to complete the course to time and full potential. \*

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**Non-discrimination policy**

\*BSUF have a non-discrimination policy and will aim to make the course accessible to all learners whose work meets the application requirements. Differentiation of student needs will be considered and work adapted when required on a person by person basis.

**Application process**

Applicants should submit detailed pictures evidencing the upholstery process of two substantial pieces of furniture which they have upholstered, a covering letter explaining their reason for application and a current CV.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview and assessment. Successful applicants will be offered a place (Five places are available for the 2020 cohort). Unsuccessful applicants will be given feedback and guidance on how to further their skills and knowledge.

**Application deadline:** TBA

**Interview date:** TBA

**Application via email only:** [schoolofupholsteredfurniture@gmail.com](mailto:schoolofupholsteredfurniture@gmail.com)

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**Assessment**

100 credits are available. The course is broken down into four assessed areas of course content: Practical Work; Contextualised Report; Design Assessment; and Research and Development. All four modules must be submitted for assessment in order to complete the course.

Assessment of student Practical Work is marked at three key stages throughout terms 2 and 3 (50 credits). Students are expected to document their Research and Development throughout the course and this is marked at the end (30 credits) along with a Contextualised Report (10 credits) and Design Assessment (10 credits).

**Table shows assessment dates, content and credits available.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Term | Term Dates | Assessment Date | Module | Credits Available |
| 1 | TBA |  |  |  |
| 2 | TBA | TBA | Practical Work / Stage 1 | 10 |
| 3 | TBA | TBA | Practical Work / Stage 2 | 20 |
| 3 | TBA | TBA | Practical Work / Stage 3 | 20 |
| 3 | TBA | TBA | Contextualised Report | 10 |
| 3 | TBA | TBA | Design Assessment /Viva Voce | 10 |
| 3 | TBA | TBA | Research and Development | 30 |

**The marks available are: Pass 50-59 %; Credit 59- 69%; Merit 69-79%; and Distinction 79% and above.**

**Verification:** All assessed content is verified by independent upholstery professionals and two course tutors. All practical work is assessed by a panel of five.