

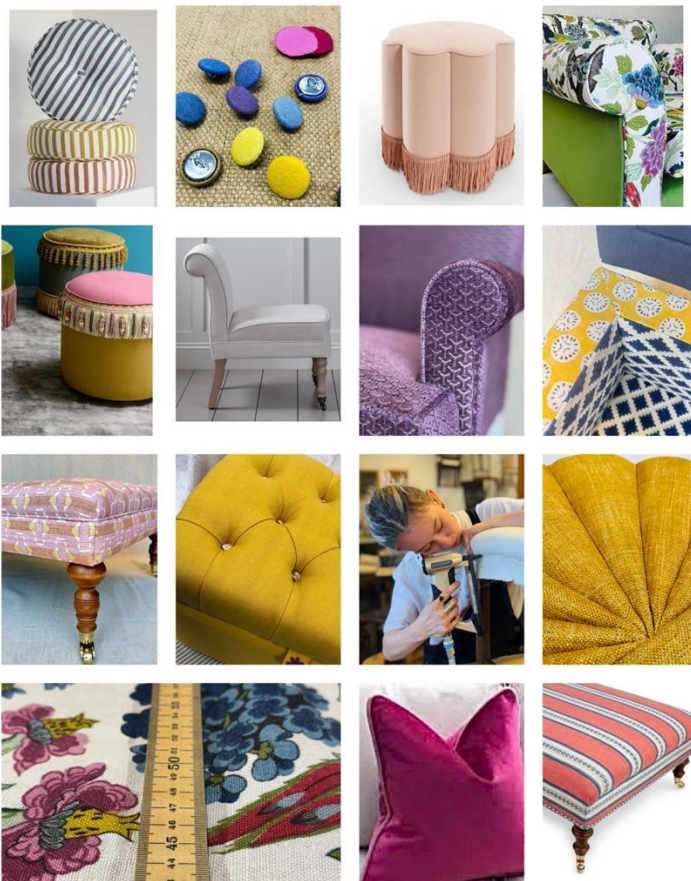


ONE YEAR UPHOLSTERY COURSE

A ONE YEAR PART-TIME COURSE IN MODERN AND CREATIVE UPHOLSTERY

Sept 16th 2026 – June 30th 2027

Every Wednesday during term time 9.30am to 4.45pm



Today's professional upholsterer will have spent years training in a craft which, while its roots are firmly based on traditional methods, must be able to exist in the modern world.

At Traditional Upholstery School we know there are many people who would like to be able to successfully reupholster pieces to a professionally high standard.

Traditional Upholstery School has designed this course to bridge the gap between leisure classes and full professional training. Our unique One Year Upholstery Course provides a solid grounding in many of the upholsterer's core skills. Students will learn essential modern and commercial upholstery skills on carefully chosen pieces of furniture, producing at least nine beautiful projects by the end of the course. On graduating, students will be able to use and develop these transferable skills across a broad range of upholstery projects.

Practical workroom experience is at the heart of the training. Students work alongside each other, enabling work to be discussed with peers and tutors.

Course content

Skills and specialist techniques are taught through a selection of projects designed to gradually introduce core skills and consolidate learning, so building confidence to work on a broad range of creative and bespoke pieces.



SEWING SKILLS

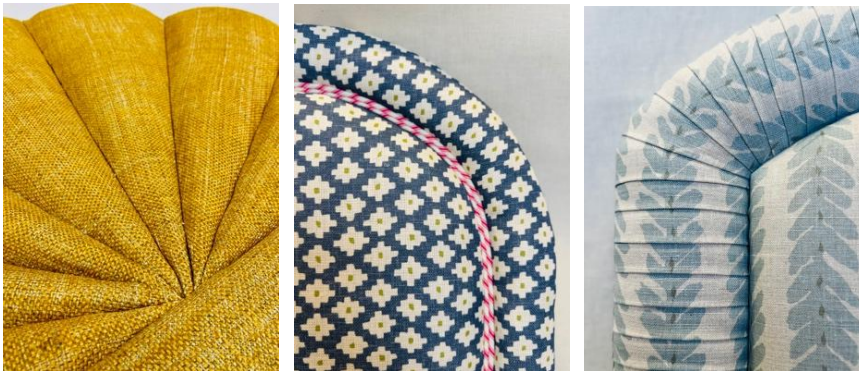
- Introduction to machine sewing.
- Creative edges: pleats, gathers, fringes and frills.
- Piped scatter cushion with a lapped zip.
- Box cushion, made to fit either the footstool or the armchair project.

CREATIVE UPHOLSTERY TECHNIQUES

- We start with learning the basics of creative upholstery techniques. Students work on four sample boards, learning valuable creative skills including shallow buttoning, ruched and pleated borders, piped borders and handling tricky shapes.

Throughout this module we will also work on techniques for sketching out and planning original designs for future projects.

One of these boards will be produced using environmentally friendly alternatives to the usual modern foams, including wool, bonded hair/fibres and recycled materials.



PROJECT ONE: POUFFE WITH PIPED DETAIL

- This one-day project introduces many of the core skills learnt on the sample boards and applies them to a piece of furniture.



PROJECT TWO: FOOTSTOOL WITH CREATIVE DETAIL

- Footstool, incorporating one of the creative skills learnt on the sample boards at the start of term. eg shallow buttoning with faux pleats; fluting; quilted or pleated border; box cushion with tufting.



PROJECT THREE: LINED AND COVERED BOX WITH DEEP BUTTONED LID



- Working with precision and a good eye will be honed on this project. Students will line and cover an ottoman box. The lid will be deep buttoned. This exacting project brings together many core modern upholstery skills as well as introducing new ones.

FIRESIDE CHAIR WITH NO ARMS



- Moving on to a more complex piece of furniture. Students will work on a chair with a fully upholstered seat and back.

• ARMCHAIR



- The final term will bring together all the skills learnt so far. We will start with chair design and project planning. Students will create a design brief; a cutting plan; a costing and estimate plan and a time plan for this project.

ADDITIONAL SYLLABUS CONTENT

Throughout the course students will work with modern upholstery tools and materials, including foams, sheet hair, pre-formed edge rolls, etc, acquiring key knowledge of commercial materials and how they can be used on a broad range of upholstered projects.

For all projects it is recommended that students present simple sketches of their design; calculate fabric quantity; and costings of sundries.

ECO FRIENDLY MATERIALS

On one of the projects on the course, students will have the opportunity to work with eco-friendly alternative materials to foam.

In addition to the practical syllabus, students will have workshop demonstrations and teaching about modern and traditional core materials and techniques.

These include:

- Health & safety: when working with tools and equipment in a workshop environment
- Appropriate use and care of tools and equipment
- Appropriate care handling of materials in a professional workroom
- Understanding fire safety regulations for furniture.

On successful completion of this one course, students will be able to apply technical knowledge and skills to a series of modern and traditional upholstered techniques.

FURNITURE – WHAT TO BRING AND WHAT IS PROVIDED

The One Year Upholstery Course follows a curriculum which means that students will all be working on the same or very similar projects. TUS provides suitable furniture frames, which we have made by our professional frame maker. In many cases students may bring their own pieces, as long as they fit the brief.

Creative sample boards –TUS will provide the sample boards

Pouffe – TUS have several pouffe frame designs in stock. Bespoke designs can be ordered. Students may also bring their own, if suitable.

Footstool – TUS’s range of footstool frames allows students a choice of stool size and leg style. Students may provide their own, if suitable.

Upholstered box – TUS has simple box frames made for this project. Hinges and leg T-nut fittings attached. Students may provide their own box, if suitable.

Fireside chair – TUS has a beautiful chair frame based on a classic design which is perfect for this project. Students may provide their own, if suitable.

Armchair – Students are invited to bring an armchair which they would like to reupholster. Chairs must be checked to ensure they are robust and fit for purpose and approved by the tutor.



A TYPICAL DAY AND HOW IT WORKS

Traditional Upholstery School’s tutors are knowledgeable, friendly and patient and we aim to make sure that students thoroughly enjoy the learning process. A

typical day is busy, and there will be lots to learn and remember, so students should arrive ready and prepared.

Students are at their workbenches by 9.30am. The workroom is open at 9.10am to allow students to settle in. Lunchtimes are at 1pm-ish and tend to be short.

Students usually eat soup or a sandwich at the bar.

The end of the teaching day is 4.30pm, when your tutor will step away from the class. All students are asked to leave their workbenches and the surrounding floor area swept and clean, and tools put away properly – just as they found it – before leaving by 5pm.

No furniture can be left in the workroom, so please do make sure you have space in your car.

HOW TO ENROL

Students can enrol online at www.traditionalupholsteryschool.co.uk When booking you will pay the initial deposit of £500. We will then get in touch with you to arrange a payment plan for you to pay the balance over the next few months by standing order.

If you'd rather book directly do email us at traditionalupholsteryschool@gmail.com and we will answer all your questions and send you course details and an invoice for the deposit payment. At this point we will also arrange a payment plan with you to spread the fees over the next few months by standing order.

Payment of the deposit guarantees your place on the course. It is non-refundable. Do read the booking terms on the website.

COURSE FEES

The full cost of the One Year Upholstery Course is £2,800 plus VAT. This can be paid as a deposit of £500 with the balance paid over the remaining months to the end of the course. We find that this helps our students spread the cost of the course more easily.

We will invoice and send you receipts for all payments. Please see our website for further details on booking terms.

On the first day you will be asked to fill in a contact form giving your phone, mobile and email details so that we can contact you in an emergency. This information will be kept private and not be shared with anyone.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

Additional costs to bear in mind are the cost of your furniture and the cost of upholstery sundries such as hessian, foam and hair used.

Students are charged on an as-you-use-it bases at the end of each project. At Traditional Upholstery School we charge just over trade prices (so much lower than retail prices) for most sundries, allowing students to get a good idea of the real costs involved in upholstery.

GETTING INTO THE SWING...

The first session of the course is always really exciting. There'll be new faces who'll become friends and the brand-new challenge of learning the hugely varied and complex skills of upholstery to get used to. We aim to make it a really positive experience and to ensure students enjoy it.

We encourage new students to make sure they arrive prepared and ready to learn.

- Always aim to arrive on time or a little before
- Your tutor is likely to be preparing for the day's class at this stage so do give them space to get on with it.
- Arrive prepared with your tools, planning notes, fabric and furniture.
- Always wear workroom appropriate clothing. This doesn't mean the full Dickies Workwear catalogue but it must include sturdy shoes which cover your toes, and clothing you don't mind getting dusty and dirty. In winter you'll need to layer up.
- Specs! If you need them for reading, bring them with you.

SUGGESTED READING

The Traditional Upholstery School workroom has an ever-growing library of excellent resource books for upholstery, woodwork repairs, sewing skills and related topics. We do ask students to make sure they have two or three good upholstery handbooks of their own, as they will find them an essential support for their studies. Happily, even though many are rather old-fashioned, the content

doesn't go out of date, and they can be bought fairly cheaply second hand. Here are some of our favourites:

Upholstery A Complete Course, by David James

Upholstery Restoration by David James

The Upholsterer's Handbook: A Practical Reference by Alex Law

COURSE KIT

You will need:

A sewing machine in full working order.

Sewing kit including sharp fabric scissors; sturdy craft scissors (for card, etc); bead headed pins; hand sewing needles; tape measure.

Workbench kit: 6b pencil; sharpie pen; 30cm metal ruler; notebook

WHY TRAIN AT TRADITIONAL UPHOLSTERY SCHOOL?

The Traditional Upholstery School was set up in 2016 by Joanna Heptinstall. It has already launched many talented students into the working world of upholstery. It is based in a lovely big, light and airy workroom in the Wiltshire countryside. We are two miles from Bradford on Avon, ten miles from Bath, 30 miles from Salisbury and just 14 miles south of the M4 Junction 17.

We are very proud that the Traditional Upholstery School in Wiltshire is one of only a handful of UK training centres approved by the Association of Master Upholsterers and Soft Furnishers to teach its professional diploma.

As well as this highly respected qualification, we also run a series of leisure classes, and short courses in specialist upholstery techniques.

We have plenty of free parking and are based on the ground floor (important when carrying chairs to and fro). There's a kitchen, huge teaching workroom and additional classroom for specific tutoring.

There's a 'bar area' too for tea-breaks, lunches and chatting. This is where the best ideas are often formed.

Class sizes are small and our tutors are experienced, supportive and friendly. Our small tutor-student ratio ensures we can give every student individual attention, allowing everyone to get the best from the training.

PARKING

Traditional Upholstery School is part of a rural business estate, so you'll find there's plenty of parking.

When you drive in, park on the left, just outside the wooden gates. The school is inside the gates. The entrance is halfway along the large wooden barn-like building.

Directions

From Holt on the B3107 towards Melksham

After Holt, take the first left into East Lane immediately after Hillview Riding Stables, signposted 'Atworth' and 'Broughton Gifford'. Holt Holdings is about 200 metres along on the left. You'll see a convex mirror in the hedge opposite the turning.

Still have questions? Get in touch...

Email us at traditionalupholsteryschool@gmail.com or text/call 07505 651030

Looking forward to seeing you!

Joanna Hepinstall