



AMUSF Diploma Stage Three

Course Content



Each of the three stages of the diploma includes different techniques. The items highlighted in bold are marked by externally upholstery experts from the Association. All items on the curriculum must be completed to a high standard before each stage certificate will be awarded.

AMUSF Stage Three - Diploma

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.

These are:

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: a History of Upholstered Furniture

Throughout the year students will be encouraged to develop their own creative responses to the assessment projects. They will acquire an understanding of the history of upholstered furniture and the development of techniques and materials used. They will receive workshop inductions, practical demonstrations and teaching in the use and application of core materials and techniques, both modern and traditional, including:

- 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 slipstitching • 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; Legal & Safety requirements; Terms & Conditions; Insurances; PR & Marketing including social media; Resources; Evaluation methods.

On successful completion of Stage 3, students will be able to:

- Apply technical knowledge and skills to a range of modern and traditional upholstered armchairs
- Understand the range of materials and processes available to modern and traditional advanced upholstery work
- Develop an understanding of how to establish a small upholstery business
- Show a good understanding of the history of upholstered furniture and the development of upholstery techniques and materials used, including fabrics
- Develop project management skills with a view to working for clients

On completion of Stage 3 students will have gained experience of a variety of techniques and materials used in modern and traditional upholstery. These practical skills will form a strong foundation upon which students can practice and develop their professional competency in preparation for undertaking client-based briefs.