

Western Saddle Fitting Course



At a glance...

Modular customised provision

Recognised by: Lantra Awards

Prerequisites:

- Be over 18 years of age.
- Hold a DBS (up to date).
- Hold a current licence to drive.
- Be literate, numerate and IT proficient at Level 2.
- Be able to follow clear written and verbal instructions to support learning, take part in group activities and communicate professionally with clients.
- Have professional or extensive amateur experience with horses.
- Be committed to horse safety, comfort and welfare.

Introduction

Drawing extensively upon the research, training and 40-year experience of Maria Score The Western Saddler Ltd. and associated industry experts, this comprehensive, in-depth and demanding course covers the theory and practice of Western Saddle fitting.

Overview in brief

This is the only Western Saddle fitting course in the UK which is accredited and certified by Lantra.

The finer details

Module 1: The Western Saddle

- English and Western saddles - a comparison.
- Western saddles: structure, function, styles, makes, models, materials and care.
- Western saddle trees: types, angles and measurements.



- Western saddle accessories: saddle pads, cinches, etc. - purpose, development, types, styles, materials and fitting.
- Record keeping



Module 2: Equine – Human Psychology

- Understanding the true nature of the horse and its response to domestication.
- How equines signal stages of discomfort, anxiety and fear.
- How to predict, understand and make rational judgements about equine behaviour.
- Horses, donkeys, mules, hybrids and their differences.
- Working safely with equines and their handlers.

Module 3: Equine Anatomy and Physiology

- The skeletal system - anatomy and maturation.
- Range of motion of the axial skeleton. The appendicular skeleton.
- The muscular system - major muscle groups and understanding the horse's back.
- Static and dynamic conformation, gait analysis and condition scoring.
- Working within professional boundaries.

Module 4: Rules and Regulations

- Law
- Finance
- Accountancy
- Health and safety
- Record Keeping



Module 5: The Consultation

- Preliminary information gathering.
- Assessing horse and rider.
- Measuring for saddle fit, padding, shimming and girthing.
- Evaluating saddle fit, first without and then with the rider.
- Providing excellent customer service



Module 6: Professional Presentation

- Demonstrating complete familiarity with different Western saddles, bridles, accessories and their constituent parts.
- Presenting professionally and appropriately for safety and security with equines.
- Listening carefully to a client and explaining clearly how you will work.
- Knowing when to recommend something other than a saddle e.g., bareback pad, treeless etc.
- Knowing when and where to refer a client if suitable products for the horse and rider cannot be sourced.

Module 7: Case Studies

End Point Assessment: Observed professional practice.

Who should attend?

Equine professionals from all disciplines and experienced amateurs with a paramount concern for horse safety, comfort and welfare, who wish to professionally practise as a Western Saddle Fitter.

What will be covered?

The course aims to:



- equip learners with the knowledge, skills and understanding required to professionally practice as a Western Saddle Fitter.

- promote and maintain the correct fitting of Western saddlery and livery, to ensure high standards of equine welfare.

- enhance the ability of learners to work safely, effectively and efficiently in the workplace, reducing unnecessary risks to themselves and others.



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@LantraUK

T 02476 696 996

E awards@lantra.co.uk

Lantra, Lantra House, Stoneleigh Park,

Coventry, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG