

# Western Saddle Fitter

## At a glance...

### Modular customised provision

Delivery Method: Classroom and practical demonstration and assessment

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 lornery, 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.

