

Upholstery Courses with Hamilton & Hodson



Hamilton and Hodson are delighted to present a series of short upholstery courses for 2021-22. These one- or two-day sessions will give students, new and experienced, the space and opportunity to develop their passion for upholstery. Taught by Nicky Hamilton and Erica Fredricksson, who have over 30 years' combined experience, you will receive close supervision and guidance and learn new skills to upholster creatively and accurately. Either Nicky or Erica will be teaching, so the tutor/student ratio will be 1:3.

About the course

Book for one or two days to begin your upholstery journey with us, or for a series of sessions to develop your knowledge and skills to a greater level. We will support students to upholster a broad range of furniture, learning a variety of techniques with both traditional and modern methods. Nestled in the train station at Redland, our workshop is a wonderful space to learn a new skill, use your imagination and focus on a creative project. We only book three students for each day, so you will be closely supported to realise your new upholstery ambition and share ideas with other students. No prior experience is required.

New students

We recommend new students start with a simple project to learn the basic principles of upholstery, and advise working on a footstool, drop-in dining chair or small headboard as a first step. We can also provide an introduction to using a sewing machine, perfect for your first box or scatter cushion project or to create some sumptuous piping to finish a chair.

Returning students

Once you have a little experience, a small upholstered chair or ottoman would be a good next step. We also encourage those with more experience to join us, to flex their technical skill and knowledge as we support and inspire each other.

Dates and time

Courses in 2021

We are fully booked for our summer course programme. We will soon be announcing new course dates starting in September. Please send us an email if you would like to be added to our course mailing list. We will never pass your details on to third parties.

You can book as many or few as you wish, to fit with your passion and commitment. Each day will begin at 9.30am, finishing at 4.30pm, with a break for lunch and regular breaks throughout the day as you need. If you would like to book a single day of the 2-day blocks, please do get in touch and we will do our best to accommodate this.

Cost

The cost for 1 day is £120. If you book for more than 1 day at once, the cost will be reduced to £110 a day.

The cost guarantees your space in the workshop, dedicated teaching, use of our tools for the course and detailed reference sheets for you to take away to support your learning.

You will need to source your own piece of furniture and fabric. We would recommend bringing a notebook and a camera to log your learning. Please also wear appropriate footwear (closed trainers or hard-soled shoes) in case of loose tacks or staples on the floor.

There will be a small additional cost for materials (including tacks, twine, staples and thread), which you tally as you work. This usually doesn't amount to more than £10 for each piece of furniture. Substantial materials (such as foam) will be more.

Covid & workshop safety

The wellbeing of our employees, students and customers is paramount. Therefore, in-line with government guidelines we are operating a strict 'covid secure' environment.

We will be following the guidelines below for the foreseeable future:

General guidance:

- All students must bring a mask for use when we come to work on your project with you and distancing is not practical. We will only come within 2m when proactively teaching on your project, at which time both of us will be wearing a mask.
- All personal belongings must be taken back with you at the end of each day.
- Keep a safe distance of 2m apart whenever possible.

- We will still offer drinks, from a cup washed in boiling water, and wash our hands before making it. You are of course welcome to bring your own refreshments too. We also have a microwave & a toaster for your use.
- We will deep-clean the bathroom before each session. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser and disposable handtowels are available.

Workstation & tools guidance:

- You will have a dedicated workstation which will stay the same for the duration of the course – please make sure that everything that belongs to you stays within your area.
- Each station will have hand sanitisers which we encourage you to use upon arrival and regularly, especially after handling communal items.
- Each workstation has its own full set of tools so that students do not need to share or pass any tools between them during a session

Next steps

- Let us know if you're interested. We would be delighted to answer any questions you have.
- Send us a photo of your project and we can advise on what is possible. We can also recommend places to buy good quality second-hand furniture if you need help with sourcing.
- Book! Please be in touch by email or phone to secure your place.
- Source your fabric. We have a wonderful selection of fabrics here at the workshop. Please call or email us to make an appointment to visit. Alternatively, please email to request a PDF of fabric suppliers we use. We can usually request any samples to be sent direct to students free of charge so let us know if you would like to request any samples.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

