

Key Skills

- the ability to use your initiative
- design skills and knowledge
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to work well with your hands
- the ability to use, repair and maintain machines and tools
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device
- to be flexible and open to change
- knowledge of manufacturing production and processes
- the ability to work well with others

Salary

£15,000 - £30,000

Working hours

43 – 45

a week

freelance / self-employed
managing your own hours

Upholsterer

College

You could take a college course, like a:

- Level 2 Certificate in Upholstery
- Level 2 or 3 Diploma in Furnishings - Traditional Upholstery
- Level 2 or 3 Diploma in Furnishings - Modern Upholstery

Courses like these may be useful when looking for a trainee upholsterer job with a company.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3, or equivalent, for a level 2 course and 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, for a level 3 course

Other Routes

You can train for upholstery qualifications with the Association of Master Upholsterers and Soft Furnishers. These may be useful when looking for a job or help if you're looking to set up your own business.

Apprenticeship

You could do a furniture manufacturer intermediate apprenticeship or upholsterer advanced apprenticeship. These typically take 24 months to complete as a mix of learning in the workplace and off-the-job study.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need some GCSEs, usually including English and Maths, or equivalent, for an intermediate apprenticeship
5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English and Maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

Work

You may be able to get work as a trainee upholsterer, without any experience. You would then do qualifications and get experience on the job.

Career path and progression

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities.

With experience, you could move into a supervisory or management position. You could specialise in re-upholstering antique furniture or work in interior design.

You could become self-employed and set up your own upholstery business. You could teach your upholstery skills to apprentices and students in further education.

Day to Day tasks:

- fix webbing and springs
- prepare patterns and templates
- make soft furnishings like cushions
- cut fabric to correct measurements
- add trimmings like piping, fringing and buttons
- plan work, advise on fabrics and estimate costs
- cover furniture frames with padding and fabric, using stitching, staples, tacks or glue
- remove old upholstery and repair frames before re-upholstering

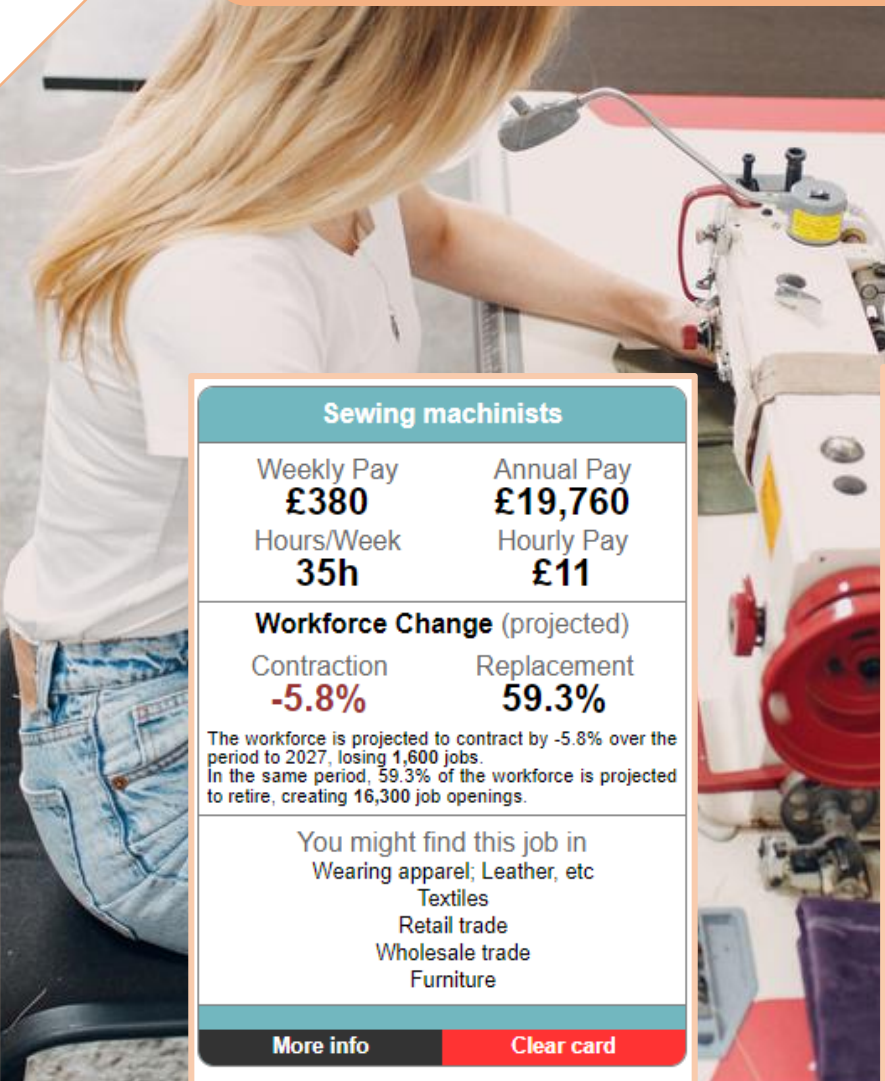
Working conditions

You could work in a workshop, in a factory, at a client's business or at a client's home.

Your working environment may be physically demanding.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.
Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.



Upholsterers	
Weekly Pay £390	Annual Pay £20,280
Hours/Week 34h	Hourly Pay £11
Workforce Change (projected)	
Contraction -4.8%	Replacement 71%
<p>The workforce is projected to contract by -4.8% over the period to 2027, losing 700 jobs. In the same period, 71% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 10,500 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Furniture Textiles Retail trade 	
More info	Clear card

Sewing machinists	
Weekly Pay £380	Annual Pay £19,760
Hours/Week 35h	Hourly Pay £11
Workforce Change (projected)	
Contraction -5.8%	Replacement 59.3%
<p>The workforce is projected to contract by -5.8% over the period to 2027, losing 1,600 jobs. In the same period, 59.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 16,300 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wearing apparel; Leather, etc Textiles Retail trade Wholesale trade Furniture 	
More info	Clear card

Tailors and dressmakers	
Weekly Pay £600	Annual Pay £31,200
Hours/Week 27h	Hourly Pay £22
Workforce Change (projected)	
Contraction -4.8%	Replacement 71%
<p>The workforce is projected to contract by -4.8% over the period to 2027, losing 700 jobs. In the same period, 71% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 9,700 job openings.</p>	
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail trade Wearing apparel; Leather, etc Other manufacturing Other personal service 	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information



Upholsterers

Job holders in this unit group upholster vehicle, aircraft and other seating, fix trimmings to the interiors of vehicles and aircraft, upholster furniture such as chairs and sofas, and make mattresses, curtains and other soft furnishings.

- Common tasks in this job:
- measures frame to be covered or examines drawings or other specifications and cuts material with shears, knife or scissors;
 - tacks and staples or otherwise secures webbing to furniture frame;
 - pads springs and secures padding by stitching, stapling, tacking, etc.;
 - pins sections of coverings together, joins by sewing and inserts trims, braids and buttons as required and fits upholstery unit to frame;

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Tailors and dressmakers

Tailors and dressmakers prepare patterns and make, fit and alter tailored garments, dresses and other articles of clothing.

- Common tasks in this job:
- takes customer's measurements and discusses required style and material;
 - prepares individual or adapts stock pattern;
 - examines fabrics or skins for flaws and prepares materials for cutting;
 - arranges pattern on correct grain of fabric, marks position and cuts out garment parts with hand shears, electric knife or cutting machine;

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Sewing machinists

Jobholders in this unit group sew and finish garments by hand or machine, rectify faults in manufactured textile goods and repair worn and damaged garments.

- Common tasks in this job:
- operates standard and specialised machines to sew, finish and repair garments and other textile, fabric, fur and skin products;
 - examines fabrics of all types to identify imperfections and determine best method of repair;
 - performs hand sewing tasks in the making, trimming and finishing of fur, sheepskin, leather, upholstery, mats, carpets, umbrellas and other textile products;
 - embroiders decorative designs on textiles with machine stitching;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Useful Websites

[Join Us – AMUSF](#)

[Upholsterer | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[Find a course | Boston College](#)

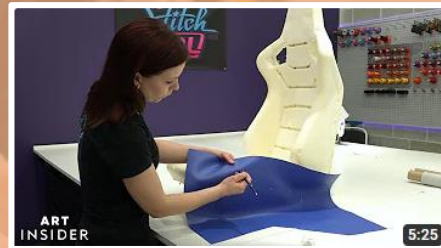
[Furniture designer job profile | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[Upholstery Courses, Classes & Workshops - Find a Craft](#)

[Explore | UCAS](#)

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Upholsterer Designs Custom Interiors



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo860tEGBiM&pp=ygUOdXBob2xzdGVyZXIgdWw%3D>

Furniture Making & Restoration Skills



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03gMpGblvkk&pp=ygUsY29sbGVnZSBGdXJuaXNoaW5ncyAtIFRyYWRpdGlubmFslFVwaG9sc3Rlcnk%3D>

Upholstery Repair



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfWkpFb-u7l&pp=ygUbdGhllHJlcGFpciBzaG9wIHVwaG9sc3RlcmVv>

Factory to Fitout



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoMYI1wv5G8&pp=ygUlDXBob2xzdGVyZXI%3D>

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve