



The
GOLDSMITHS'
Company

The Goldsmiths' Company Apprenticeship Scheme

Fact Sheet for Apprentices

What is a Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice?

A Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice is a young person who receives vocational training within the Jewellery, Silversmithing and Allied Trades in a workshop environment under the instruction and guidance of an experienced tutor (Master). A Goldsmiths' Company Apprenticeship is an excellent way of gaining qualifications and workplace experience.

What is different about the Goldsmiths' Company Apprenticeship Scheme?

Our scheme has been running since 1334 and is widely regarded within the Trade as the benchmark for all other forms of craft training. Goldsmiths' Company Apprentices learn the ancient principles of the goldsmith alongside the latest technological innovations. The scheme provides a solid foundation in a career that is both creative and rewarding. Previous employers have included international jewellery houses Cartier and Asprey. Goldsmiths' Company Apprentices frequently win awards in nationally and internationally recognised competitions.

The Goldsmiths' Company Apprenticeship also carries a dedicated qualification, 'The Goldsmiths' Award' - a City & Guilds Licentiateship. All Goldsmiths' Company Apprentices register for the qualification, which is achieved by continuous assessment throughout their time on the programme, culminating in the production of a Masterpiece

We also provide a training grant for the employer to support this process.

What will be expected of me?

A Goldsmiths' Company Apprenticeship could be regarded as a full-time job with integrated training. Goldsmiths' Company Apprentices traditionally serve their time for three to five years, after which they are made 'free' and can become Masters in their own right after a period of further professional development (usually 10 -15 years).

Goldsmiths' Company Apprenticeship Scheme applicants are required to demonstrate a level of commitment and aptitude in using their hands in a workshop environment. Prior to being taken on a workshop trial will take place which gives the potential Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice and the Master an opportunity to get to know each other before making a commitment.

During the scheme, Goldsmiths' Company Apprentices may be entered for Industry awards or competitions, including UK Skills and WorldSkills, which we actively encourage to promote the highest standards of technical development for which Goldsmiths' Company Apprentices are known.

At the end of the training scheme, the Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice is made 'free' by producing his or her Masterpiece, which is inspected by the Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company at a Freedom



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Ceremony. If the piece is judged to be of the required standard, the Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice receives, a life membership of the Goldsmiths' Company which in turn allows them to become a Master and take on their own Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice in the future.

What the scheme could lead to

On completion of the Goldsmiths' Company Apprenticeship Scheme you could end up working for a famous jewellery manufacturing company on Bond Street, becoming a recognised specialist in your field going on to be a Master yourself or even becoming a leading Industry figures, like Stephen Webster or Shaun Leane.

How do I become a Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice?

There are usually only 25 Goldsmiths' Company Apprentices employed at any one time. We hold a list of candidates who have submitted application forms to the scheme and try to pair candidates with suitable Masters when approached by companies seeking potential Goldsmiths' Company Apprentices.

Applications to the Goldsmiths' Company Apprenticeship Scheme for financial support are usually applied for by the Master or their firm after they have identified a suitable Goldsmiths' Company Apprenticeship candidate.

Eligibility

If you are 16 to 21 years of age and live in London or the South East you can register your interest in becoming a Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice by emailing us at the address below.

Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice Masters should be freemen of the Goldsmiths' Company, based within London or the South East of England and agree to train a Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice for a three to five year period. If you are interested in taking on a Goldsmiths' Company Apprentice please email us at the address below.

Contact:

Please contact us directly to discuss any queries you may have:

T: 020 7606 7010

E: technologyandtraining@thegoldsmiths.co.uk