



THE
KING'S
FOUNDATION



BUILDING CRAFT PROGRAMME 2024-25

PROGRAMME
INFORMATION

ABOUT

The King's Foundation (formerly The Prince's Foundation) provides holistic solutions to challenges facing the world today. We champion a sustainable approach to how we live our lives and build our communities, we run a diverse programme of education and training for all ages and backgrounds, and we regenerate and care for places where communities thrive and that visitors enjoy.

We work nationally and internationally but at the heart of our organisation is the heritage-led regeneration of the Dumfries House estate and its wider community, where our principles and philosophies are explored and put into practice.

The work of The King's Foundation is inspired by His Majesty The King Charles's philosophy of harmony: that by understanding the balance, the order and the relationships between ourselves and the natural world we can create a more sustainable future.

For more than 40 years His Majesty has been at the forefront of championing sustainability. During the last decade the impact of natural resource depletion, climate change and rapid urbanisation has become evident and widely understood. The work of The King's Foundation is inspired by the belief that only by taking a holistic view can we create a sustainable future to meet the needs of our world.



BUILDING CRAFT PROGRAMME 2024 - 2025

THE BUILDING CRAFT PROGRAMME SUPPORTS THOSE WORKING IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR TO PUSH THEIR SKILLS TO THE NEXT LEVEL AND CONTINUE ON THEIR JOURNEY TO BECOMING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TRADITIONAL MASTER CRAFTSPEOPLE.

INTRODUCTION

The King's Foundation believe that it is crucial to preserve the wisdom and knowledge that embodies many of the traditional building skills which have shaped our historical built environment. As many workers in the sector now reach retirement age it is vital that these skills are passed on to the next generation of master craftspeople. In doing so, we strive to ensure that the knowledge and practical craft skills required to restore and conserve our historical buildings remains alive, as well as demonstrating the significant role that traditional craft skills can play in creating new spaces and places.

The Building Craft Programme was established in 2006, and each year brings together 12 students for a period of eight months to gain practical experience in traditional building skills, conservation and repair, interdisciplinary practice, and the opportunity to work towards an Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Heritage Skills (Construction).

Many of our candidates have followed pathways through college programmes, or have acquired significant practical experience working within the sector. The Building Craft Programme aims to galvanise this experience, providing participants the opportunity to work alongside like-minded individuals, expand their portfolio of skills, and build networks across the UK.



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Building Craft Programme is an 8-month course which supports those working in the construction sector to push their skills to the next level and continue on their journey to becoming the next generation of traditional master craftspeople.



SUMMER SCHOOL

3 WEEKS

The course starts with an intensive three-week Summer School, delivered on the Dumfries House estate in Scotland.

The Summer School is an opportunity to gain insight into the broader teachings of The King's Foundation and includes activities such as drawing classes, geometry and lectures as well as architectural tours. During the second week, you will take part in a series of hands-on craft workshops with master craftspeople, gaining an appreciation for the many different skills and materials which make up our built environment. The Summer School will conclude with 'Design and Build' workshop based around traditional principles of design and construction.

LIVE BUILD PROJECT

10 WEEKS

The Live Build Project is an opportunity to work alongside your fellow participants to gain first-hand experience of completing a project on-site. The Live Build Project will be split into **two** stages:

DESIGN (2 weeks)

During the early stages of the programme you will work alongside your fellow cohort and The King's Foundation team to respond to a project design brief. This design will form the basis of your group Live Build project at the end of the course.

BUILD (8 weeks)

At the end of the programme you will work together to realise your project from the ground up. You and your fellow course mates will be responsible for ensuring all aspects of the project are realised to a high standard and within the time scales of the programme. The Live Build Project is an opportunity to demonstrate many of the skills you have acquired during your placements, but also learn from the variety of other trade areas represented in the group.

INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

14 WEEKS

A key aspect of the Building Craft Programme will involve participation in up to 14 weeks of Industry Placements with craftspeople and traditional construction companies around the UK. Placements are tailored towards your specific trade area and provide an excellent opportunity for you to build your practical skills, and gather vital evidence as you work towards gaining the Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Heritage Skills

Participants will typically take part in 2 or 3 placements with different organisations, of 4-6 weeks in duration.

Placements will be arranged on your behalf by The King's Foundation team drawing on our extensive network of placement providers.

BUSINESS SKILLS COURSE

1 WEEK

Following the completion of your first placement you will return to the Dumfries House estate to participate in a week-long Business Skills course. This course will introduce you to many of the core skills required when setting up and running a business in the construction sector.

PROGRAMME DATES 2024-25

[Subject to change]

START

SUMMER
SCHOOL

BREAK 1

LIVE BUILD
DESIGN SCHOOL

BREAK 2

PLACEMENT 1

BUSINESS SKILLS

BREAK 3

PLACEMENTS 2 - 3

BREAK 4

LIVE BUILD

END

SUNDAY 14TH JULY 2024

14TH JULY - 2ND AUGUST
DUMFRIES HOUSE ESTATE

5TH AUGUST - 9TH AUGUST

12TH AUGUST - 23RD AUGUST
DUMFRIES HOUSE ESTATE

26TH AUGUST – 30TH AUGUST

2ND SEPTEMBER – 4TH OCTOBER
VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE UK

7TH OCTOBER – 11TH OCTOBER
DUMFRIES HOUSE ESTATE

14TH OCTOBER – 18TH OCTOBER

21ST OCTOBER – 20TH DECEMBER

23RD DECEMBER - 7TH JANUARY

8TH JANUARY - 7TH MARCH

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025



FURTHER INFORMATION

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The Building Craft Programme is geared towards those with experience in craft areas such as: **stonemasonry, carpentry and joinery, bricklaying, blacksmithing, plastering, thatching, roofing and tiling, painting and decorating.**

In addition to practical experience in a building craft discipline, applicants should have an interest in developing their craft with a focus towards heritage and traditional methods whilst striking a balance with 21st Century ways of working.

The Building Craft Programme aims to highlight the holistic nature of our built environment and as such promotes multidisciplinary learning, providing exposure to elements of architecture, design and a range of craft skills.

Each year the programme hosts up to a maximum of 12 participants. Participants are selected via a process of application, shortlisting, and interview.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate **at least one** of the following:

- **NVQ/SVQ Level 2 or 3 or equivalent in a building craft/construction subject from a Centre of Vocational Excellence.**

and/or

- **Qualification in a building craft/construction subject from a recognised authority.**

and/or

- **Significant working experience in your chosen craft/trade area.**

Please note, you will be required to submit a digital portfolio containing examples of work / projects you have undertaken in relation to your craft / trade area.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The King's Foundation is proud to offer educational opportunities to students from all around the world. Should you require a visa to study or work in the UK, it is important to note that whilst The King's Foundation is a licensed student sponsor, this sponsorship does not extend to those undertaking the Building Craft Programme. Therefore, acceptance onto the Building Craft Programme alone is not sufficient to obtain the appropriate visa. Please note that The King's Foundation cannot assist you in obtaining a visa.

In most cases you will be required to hold one of the following in order to be eligible for the Building Craft Programme:

- **UK Passport Holder**
- **Settled Status / Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK**
- **Pre-settled Status**

If you require a visa to work or study in the UK, please contact the Programme Manager prior to submitting an application.



ATTENDANCE

The Building Craft Programme is a full-time course, commencing on Sunday 14th July 2024 and concluding on Friday 7th March 2025.

Breaks are scheduled throughout as per the course timetable. Please note that no holiday leave can be taken outside of this period.

The Building Craft Programme is generally delivered Monday – Friday of each week, however, you will be required to attend additional hours during particular aspects of the course such as the Summer School. Individual placement providers will advise on your hours of attendance during your Industry Placements.

FUNDING & BURSARIES

The Building Craft Programme is made possible due to generosity of a wide range of individuals and organisations who support the programme each year.

All participants of the Building Crafts Programme 2024-25 will be awarded a full scholarship covering the course fees, as well as being provided with a monthly tax-free bursary of £1,400 (pro-rated) to help towards living costs.

Participants will be required to arrange and pay for their own accommodation^{*(see separate note)}, travel, subsistence and any associated living costs while on the course. The majority of materials needed for the course will be provided.

ACCOMMODATION

Participants of the Building Craft Programme 2024-25 will be required to arrange and pay for their own accommodation at certain points throughout the programme.

During the Summer School, Live Build Design School, and Business Skills Week accommodation will be provided in the Tamar Manoukian Outdoor Residential Centre on the Dumfries House estate. This is bunkhouse style accommodation, with a communal living area. Meals will be provided by The King's Foundation chefs when staying in the Tamar Manoukian Outdoor Residential Centre.

During the Live Build Project and Industry Placements you will be required to source and pay for your own short term accommodation which will enable you to fully participate in the programme as arranged by The King's Foundation team. Due to the nature of the construction sector, it may not always be possible to provide participants with exact placement locations/details well in advance. Therefore, on some occasions you may be required to find accommodation at short notice. Every effort will be made to ensure placements are confirmed as soon as possible.

“ EVERY DAY OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL INTRODUCED ME TO ACTIVITIES, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAD NEVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE. ”

- PARTICIPANT 2021-22



INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

A key aspect of the Building Craft Programme will involve participation in up to 14 weeks of Industry Placements with craftspeople and traditional construction companies around the UK.

Industry Placements are arranged by The King's Foundation drawing our extensive network across the sector. There are a number of factors which need to be considered when arranging and confirming placements. Examples of some considerations include:

- Placement providers workload.
- Placement providers insurance provision.
- Placement providers capacity to monitor a student.
- Location of placement provider and projects.
- Duration of placement.
- Relevance of work in-line with NVQ requirements.
- Relevance of work in-line with the ethos of the programme.
- Relevance of the work in line with funding requirements.
- Your prior experience.

Placements will vary in duration depending on the workload of each placement provider and the experience on offer. As a general rule The King's Foundation will aim to arrange placements to be at least 4 - 6 weeks in duration as this ensures that participants have enough time to settle into a new environment and fully engage with the tasks at hand.

NVQ DIPLOMA IN HERITAGE SKILLS

The Building Craft Programme aims to build capacity within the traditional building skills sector. One way of supporting this is through providing participants with the opportunity to work towards a Level 3 NVQ in Heritage Skills (Construction). Those successful in gaining a place on the programme will be required to undertake this qualification wherever possible.

The Level 3 NVQ in Heritage Skills (Construction) is an on site assessed qualification (i.e. evidence is gathered through participation in live projects, not simulated work). Obtaining evidence in traditional conservation, restoration and repair methods will be a priority for those undertaking this qualification.

A participants eligibility for pursuing the NVQ qualification will be reviewed by an appropriate NVQ Assessor at the start of the programme. Where a participant is deemed eligible, it is expected that they will undertake the NVQ qualification.

Those undertaking the NVQ will meet with their assigned assessor throughout the year and have regular telephone conversations and email correspondence. It is the participants responsibility to ensure that they collect all of the relevant information and evidence as requested by the assigned assessor, ensuring any evidence is submitted on time.

The Level 3 NVQ in Heritage Skills is trade specific, i.e. Stone, Wood Occupations, Solid Plastering. Due to time constraints of the programme, and/or limited availability of NVQ Assessors it may not be possible to make the qualification available in all trade areas.



REPORTING & EVALUATION

As part of a participants attendance on the programme, feedback and evaluation will be required at various points in the course. These reports should reflect the tasks that have been performed and the knowledge acquired.

Reporting and evaluation is a vital part of our agreement with many of the programme sponsors and funders. Each evaluation will be accessible online, and should be completed within the time requirements as set by the Programme Manager, this is typically within one week.

A number of our sponsors and funders may nominate specific students on the programme that they would like to follow more closely during their time on the course. We will inform participants if this is the case and may look to introduce participants to a key contact within the organisation. As part of this nomination participants may be required to provide additional information, complete additional feedback forms, attend specific events, or be featured in specific publicity material.

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

During the Live Build Project and Industry Placements participants will generally be required to bring their own set of 'core hand tools' i.e. any hand tools that you would use on a regular basis as per your trade.

Should you be successful in gaining a place on the programme you must ensure that you have access to appropriate work wear, including waterproofs, winter clothing and steel toecap boots.

During the Summer School and Live Build Project, PPE such as hard hats, goggles, gloves, hi-viz vests and masks will be provided. You may be required to purchase your own additional elements of PPE whilst on Industry Placements.

The King's Foundation will not make any reimbursements for damage, loss, and/or wear and tear of your own tools and equipment.



APPLY NOW

Applications for the Building Craft Programme 2024 - 25 are now open. To apply download the application form at:
kings-foundation.org/building-crafts-programme

For your application to be considered please ensure you send your completed application form, completed reference and accompanying portfolio in the correct format via email (preferred) to:

DH.EDUCATION@KINGS-FOUNDATION.ORG

Please include the following reference in the subject line:
BCP 2024/25 - [YOUR FULL NAME]

Applications via post should be sent to:

**C/O EDUCATION OFFICE
THE KING'S FOUNDATION,
DUMFRIES HOUSE, CUMNOCK,
EAST AYRSHIRE SCOTLAND,
KA18 2NJ**

Deadline for receipt of applications:

MONDAY 8TH APRIL 2024 by 5PM

Please note that applications received after this time will not be considered.

Interviews will take place at the Dumfries House Estate, Cumnock, Scotland, KA18 2NJ in late April / early May 2024.



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