



SPORTSTURF TECHNICIAN LEVEL 3 APPRENTICESHIP

Introduction to the Programme

This occupation is found in a wide range of relevant venues, for example, athletics, bowls, cricket, croquet, football, golf, hockey, equestrian events, rugby league and union, and tennis. Venues include public parks, sports clubs, schools, first class stadia, training facilities and golf courses including links, parkland and heathland. Facilities can range in size and stature, from international stadia and championship golf courses that host big events through to smaller, local venues serving the local community.

Level of Study:

Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)

Typical Duration:

24 Months

Delivery Location:

Nationwide

Delivery Model:

Work-based

Start Date:

August 2023

The broad purpose of the occupation is to ensure that public and private sports turf surfaces (including hybrid but not fully artificial surfaces) meet the requirements of the sport and are available for use at all levels from amateur to professional sport. They supervise the staff and the maintenance of the sports turf surfaces. They supervise the planning, maintenance, care, and overall appearance of surfaces in line with the employer's requirements and the requirements of the sport's governing body. They may lead, support and supervise renovation and associated projects and typically have responsibility for maintaining wider facilities.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders. They might typically report to a manager, deputy manager, general manager, owner or a committee. On a daily basis, they may interact with visitors, the general public, players, coaching staff, and other turf management/greenkeeping colleagues. They may also be required to liaise with suppliers and delivery personnel.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for ensuring that the playing surfaces are suitably prepared. They will also have responsibilities across the wider facility. They supervise staff or volunteers and are responsible for ensuring that the playing surface is suitably prepared and maintained in line with the rules of the relevant sport. They will have responsibility for the safe use and maintenance of irrigation, drainage, equipment, and machinery used by operatives. They must adhere to relevant health and safety and environmental legislation and present a professional image. They would not necessarily have direct responsibility for budget control but would be expected to advise their manager and colleagues on the correct use and deployment of resources.

Typical job titles include:

Advanced golf greenkeeper
Advanced sports turf technician
Assistant head grounds person
Deputy course manager Deputy head greenkeeper
Deputy head grounds person
First assistant greenkeeper
Pitch manager
Senior greenkeeper
Senior grounds person
Skilled grounds person

Duration

The apprentice would typically take 24 months to complete their education and training to become fully competent. However, this may be reduced if an apprentice has already gained knowledge and skills working on a golf course in a supervisory and technical role

All apprentices will spend a minimum of 12 months on programme

Entry Requirements

Typically, an applicant will have attained a minimum of 4 GCSE grades C or 4 including both Maths and English. Functional Skills Level 2 will be accepted as an alternative to GCSEs. It is also essential that applicants have already attained a Level 2 core qualification in Sportsturf /Greenkeeping or an associated subject.

Learners will also need to be able to gain the necessary skills, knowledge and experience within their job roles to meet the requirements of the programme.

Exceptional entries will be considered for all Apprenticeships at the discretion of the college based on experience, successful interview and outcomes of Initial and Diagnostic assessments for English and Maths to establish current levels of ability.

Costs

Costs will be dependent on several factors such as age of apprentice and size of employer. The cost may be reduced if the apprentice has already gained knowledge and skills working in this sector. Currently the funding cap for this programme is set at £8000.

Please contact us for more information.

Delivery Model and Core Tasks

The delivery model will be a blended approach of work-place visits from an industry professional tutor underpinned by learning resources via a virtual learning environment (VLE).

Learners will study a range of core themes over a 18-24 period (Depending on experience). Each theme will be delivered against specific skills, knowledge and behaviours with learners working towards the completion of a dedicated assignment briefs to collate the relevant evidence which in turn will be mapped towards the apprenticeship Standard.

The VLE site will cover all the required knowledge needed to both support the end point exam as well as providing the learner with key background information needed to write the assignments, based on project work and real work-based evidence. Learners will be stretched and challenged through the VLE with a number of tests that will sign-off the underpinning knowledge whereas the work-based visits will provide one-to-one tutor support to further develop the required skills, knowledge and behaviours required by industry.

This apprenticeship is devised around a range of core duties (12) as listed below:

Duty 1

Supervise and undertake the preparation and maintenance of the playing surface in accordance with governing bodies requirements, rules and regulations.

Duty 2

Evaluate performance and agronomic data of playing surfaces (e.g. weather data, soil conditions, performance quality standard). Recommends improvements to turf health and playing surface conditions.

Duty 3

Monitor and control threats to turf health and apply sustainable integrated pest management practices (encompassing weeds, pests, and diseases).

Duty 4

Supervise and implement processes, procedures and strategies for the effective usage of irrigation and drainage systems to maximise sports turf health and surface performance.

Duty 5

Prepare sports turf machinery and supervise maintenance programmes for equipment and machinery.

Duty 6

Agree the specification and implement resource and budget requirements for sports turf projects.

Duty 7

Supervise and mentor operatives and report on staff performance.

Duty 8

Supervise the adoption of sustainable and environmentally friendly working practices.

Duty 9

Ensure a safe working environment and the adoption of legal working practices including the reviewing of risk assessments.

Duty 10

Maintain own personal development by keeping up to date with current industry practices.

Duty 11

Communicate with stakeholders on the factors affecting the condition of the sports turf and manage expectations.

Duty 12

Plan, prepare for and supervise the construction or renovation of the sports turf facilities.

End Point Assessment

At a point where employer, tutor and apprentice feel is appropriate, apprentices will undertake an end point assessment, which is carried out by a separate approved organisation, independent from Myerscough College.

The end point assessment will consist of 4 discrete assessment methods (individually graded as Fail, Pass, Merit & Distinction):

- Knowledge test
- Project with report
- A presentation with questions and answers
- Professional Discussion

Performance in the EPA will determine the overall apprenticeship standard and grade of: Fail, Pass, Merit and Distinction. In the unlikely event of an apprentice needing to resit an End Point Assessment (or elements of the End Point Assessment), then the employer will be responsible for funding these additional costs.

You will also be required to achieve the following additional qualifications prior to end point assessment:

Level 2 Award in Safe Use of Pesticides (PA1), along with either PA2 (Boom Sprayer) or PA6 (Hand Held Applicators) or equivalents as detailed on:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/resources/R/Recognised_certificates.pdf

Progression

This standard is recognised by the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), the Professional Body for Greenkeepers. At the start of the apprenticeship the apprentice will be registered with BIGGA. Upon completion of this standard the apprentice will be eligible to join BIGGA as a full member and become a BIGGA Accredited Greenkeeper.

The successful apprentice will have the opportunity to progress on to a higher-level apprenticeship standard, if the role allows. For example: Course Manager Higher Apprenticeship Level 5 or other supervisory/management apprenticeship programmes.

There is also the option of our successful FdSc programme in Sportsturf Management:

<https://www.ucmyerscough.ac.uk/courses/sportsturf/fdsc-sportsturf-management-on-line/>

What's Next? How to Apply

In order to start the enrolment process we need an **Online Application Form** to be completed & submitted. You can do this by contacting the Employer Services Team.

Telephone: 01995 642255

Email: employerenquiries@myerscough.ac.uk

Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk