**The Saddler’s Technique Ltd**

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**Certificate in Western Saddle Fitting**

**Course Prospectus**

**By Maria Score**

**The Western Saddler**

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# Welcome and Introduction

## from Maria Score

Are you looking to turn your love for horses into a fulfilling career?

The Saddler's Technique offers training courses for individuals, who aspire to become certified consultant saddle fitters, with The Western Saddler Ltd.

At The Saddler's Technique, we understand that a good saddle is not just about the rider's comfort but also about the horse's well-being; and so for those who love horses as much as we do, we offer an exceptional program to teach the art of Western saddle fitting, to horse lovers who wish to work as Western saddle fitters.

## Course Overview

Drawing extensively upon the research, training and 40-year experience of Maria Score [The Saddler's Technique Ltd. | western saddle fitting courses | Ringwood, UK](https://www.saddle-fit.co.uk/) and associated industry experts, this comprehensive, in-depth and demanding course covers the theory and practice of Western Saddle fitting. It is a one-year course, delivered over five intensive weekends, to give you time to practise and consolidate your learning, prepare your case studies, presentation skills and for further research.

​The course aims to:

* equip you with the knowledge, skills and understanding required to professionally practice as a Western Saddle Fitter.
* promote and maintain the correct fitting of Western saddlery and lorinery, to ensure high standards of equine welfare.
* enhance your ability to work safely, effectively and efficiently in the workplace, reducing unnecessary risks to yourself and others.

If successful, you will be certified as a Western saddle fitter and be ready for a highly rewarding career, which puts horse safety, comfort and welfare first, foremost and paramount.

## Accreditation

The Certificate in Western Saddle Fitting has been designed and developed by The Saddler’s Technique Ltd, in partnership with Lantra.

It offers equine professionals and experienced amateurs the opportunity to achieve a nationally recognised certification that verifies the knowledge, skills and values required to undertake a career as a professional Western Saddle Fitter.

## Entry Requirements

To apply for the course, you will need to:

* Be over 18 years of age.
* Hold a DBS (update).
* Hold a current licence to drive.
* Be literate, numerate and IT proficient at Level 2.
* Be able to follow clear written and verbal instructions to support learning, take part in group activity and communicate professionally with clients.
* Have professional or extensive amateur experience with horses.
* Be committed to horse safety, comfort and welfare.

## Course Fees

Please see website for details of course fees for your year of application.

## Key dates and timetabling

The course is scheduled to run yearly over one weekend (TBA) in the following months:

Module 1: May

Module 2: June

Module 3: September

Module 4: October

Module 5: November

Module 6: November
Module 7: TBA individually

Please see website for dates for your year of entry.

Each module is timetabled to run from 8.30 to 5pm on the Saturday and Sunday, with breaks for lunch and coffee.

## Venues

**Formal Instruction:** The venue for Modules 1-5 is: [Home | Ferne Animal Sanctuary](https://www.ferneanimalsanctuary.org/)

Ferne Animal Sanctuary, Wambrook, Chard. TA20 3DH t: 01460 65214

The venue is in a beautiful setting and has a well-run yard, with kindly staff willing to assist in demonstrations and practical work on a range of equines. It also has excellent classroom facilities, with tea and coffee provided and there is ample free parking. Overnight accommodation is available in nearby hotels and B&Bs.

For Module 6, you will attend either the [Horsemanship Showcase - The Horsemanship Event of the Year](https://horsemanshipshowcase.com/) and [Your Horse Live - Your Horse](https://www.yourhorse.co.uk/yourhorselive/) for team and individual presentation activities.

Your final assessment will be held with Maria Score, currently in Ringwood, Hampshire.

**Informal Learning and Work Shadowing**:

You will be invited to take part in further, informal learner-directed days (TBA), for practical revision and review. These currently take place over the summer period, with Maria Score, at the premises of The Saddler’s Technique Ltd, Ringwood, Hampshire.

There will also be opportunities for you to shadow Maria or one of our already qualified fitters, to gain a deeper insight into the work of a professional saddle fitter.

## Key staff and contact details

Course Director and Principal Lecturer: Maria Score info@saddle-fit.co.uk 07725 137737

Course Administrator: Eden Score-Owens info@saddle-fit.co.uk 07449 648225

Teaching Team: We are extremely fortunate to have a bank of peripatetic, qualified specialist instructors and industry professionals ready to teach on our courses. These include veterinary surgeons, animal behavioural scientists, veterinary physiotherapists, chartered accountants, business leaders etc.

## How we will communicate with you

We will contact you with essential information and updates via your given email address and a WhatsApp group dedicated to your learning cohort, to which you are invited to freely contribute.

## Group Size

Group sizes are limited to 12 per course, to allow for maximum instructor - learner contact time and personalised individual support.

## Course Content

**Module 1:** The Western Saddle

* English and Western saddles - a comparison.
* Western saddles: structure, function, styles, makes, models, materials and care.
* Western saddle trees: types, angles and measurements.
* Western saddle accessories: saddle pads, cinches, etc. - purpose, development, types, styles, materials and fitting.
* Record Keeping.

**Module 2**: Equine – Human Psychology

* Understanding the true nature of the horse and its response to domestication.
* How equines signal stages of discomfort, anxiety and fear.
* How to predict, understand and make rational judgements about equine behaviour.
* Horses, donkeys, mules, hybrids and their differences.
* Working safely with equines and their handlers

**Module 3**: Equine Anatomy and Physiology

* The skeletal system - anatomy and maturation.
* Range of motion of the axial skeleton. The appendicular skeleton.
* The muscular system - major muscle groups and understanding the horse's back.
* Static and dynamic conformation, gait analysis and condition scoring.
* Working within professional boundaries.

**Module 4:** Rules and Regulations

* Law
* Finance
* Accountancy
* Health and safety
* Record Keeping

**Module 5:** The Consultation

* Preliminary information gathering.
* Assessing horse and rider.
* Measuring for saddle fit, padding, shimming and girthing.
* Evaluating saddle fit, first without and then with the rider.
* Providing excellent customer service

**Module 6**: Professional Presentation

* Demonstrating complete familiarity with different Western saddles, bridles, accessories and their constituent parts.
* Presenting professionally and appropriately for safety and security with equines.
* Listening carefully to a client and explaining clearly how you will work.
* Knowing when to recommend something other than a saddle e.g., bareback pad, treeless etc.
* Knowing when and where to refer a client if you cannot source, suitable products for the horse and rider.

**Module 7**: Case Studies and Final Assessment

* To recognise your existing knowledge, skills and strengths.
* To support your independent practice of what you learn throughout the course.
* To properly prepare you for your final assessment.
* To give you a reference book to look back on and use in your future career.
* To provide you with evidence of attainment for any future courses that you may wish to undertake.

## Teaching and Learning

The course has been carefully designed to provide a synergy and balance between theory and hands-on practice.

**Teaching and Learning Activities:**

* Case studies
* Demonstrations giving learners the opportunities to observe good practice
* Group discussion
* Learner Directed Days.
* Lectures attended by all learners on the module at the same time
* Self-study and independent learning
* Small group / paired / individual activities to reinforce direct learning
* Supervised practice to support learners in skills development
* Wider reading and opportunities for further research

## Assessment

To ensure high standards of equine welfare and professional practice, all assessment throughout the course is ‘criterion referenced’ against occupational standards laid down by The Saddlers Technique Ltd. The course has been written and is delivered to the descriptors of a Level 4 regulated qualification framework (equivalent to the first year of an undergraduate degree). The certification is internally assessed with external verification.

**Methods of Assessment:**

Assessment is formative, summative and terminal.

**Formative:** You will be continually assessed, guided and supported in your knowledge and practical skillsas the course progresses. Formative assessment aims to prepare you to confidently be able to meet and pass each summative assessment.

Formative assessment activities may include:

* Observation of performance of short, practical tasks
* Peer review (paired activities, role play)
* Practical demonstration (games, observation, palpation, gait analysis etc)
* Project work (small case studies)
* Question and Answer
* Reflective practice (group discussion, note taking, journalling, plenaries)
* RPL Recognition of Prior Learning
* Short form written work (questionnaires, quizzes, games, tests)

**Summative**: The knowledge, skills and understanding gained in each module are cumulative, with each module building on the last and essential for entry to successive modules. This means that you must pass each module, before proceeding on to the next. Coursework completed and returned no later than 10 working days of undertaking the module, confirms that you have satisfactorily met all the learning outcomes for that module.

* Case Studies
* Video of performance of skills
* Presentations
* Multiple choice question papers
* Written papers

**Terminal**: Maria will come to observe and assess you conducting consultations for Western Saddle fitting, on two equines of differing conformation types. You will be marked against set criteria for the occupational standards laid down by The Saddlers Technique Ltd, all of which will be covered in depth on the course and revised through your Case Studies Log.

**Feedback:**

You will receive your feedback on each module within 10 working days. Once you have received your feedback, you should take time to read through/listen to comments, look at the highlighted marking criteria, and reflect on the guidance in the comments. You can then consider what aspects of the feedback can feed into your own practice, to further develop your skills.

**Preparing for Re-assessment:**

Once only during the course, a learner may resubmit one module, once only, before proceeding on to the next module. In exceptional circumstances, a learner may elect to defer for a year. If you have not passed a module and would like further advice on the feedback given, contact your instructor to ask for email support to help you to re-engage with the assessment and know what to do to successfully re-submit.

**Results:**

Your final result will be confirmed after the end of course meeting (TBA) of the whole teaching team and quality assurance advisors.

**Keeping a copy of your assessments:**

We are required to keep a copy of the assessments that you submit for seven years. This is to meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act (2018).

## Awards

On successful completion of the course, you will be awarded the Lantra accredited Certificate in Western Saddle Fitting, renewable every 3 years, subject to 12 hours per year of recorded CPD.

## Quality Assurance

The Saddler’s Technique Ltd welcomes feedback on courses and course delivery from all our learners. There are several ways you can do this. You are invited to informally feedback during out of hours socials and all learners are asked to complete a (anonymous if preferred) course evaluation at the end of Module 5.

## The Saddler’s Technique Ltd Policy Documents

[Animal Welfare Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Animal%20Welfare%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Appeals Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Appeals%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Assessment Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Assessment%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Complaints, Feedback and Compliments Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Complaints%20Feedback%20and%20Compliments%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Conflict of Interest Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Conflict%20of%20Interest%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Data Protection Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Data%20Protection%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Equality and Diversity Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Equality%20and%20Diversity%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Health and Safety Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Health%20and%20Safety%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Malpractice and Maladministration Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Malpractice%20and%20Maladministration%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Privacy Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Privacy%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Reasonable%20Adjustments%20and%20Special%20Consideration%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Recognition%20of%20Prior%20Learning%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Safeguarding Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Safeguarding%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

[Substance Misuse Policy](https://d.docs.live.net/6678862d0d114cd4/Desktop/Western%20Saddler/Policy%20Documents/TST%20Policy%20Documents%202024/Substance%20Misuse%20Policy%20%28Final%29.docx)

## Application Form for The Certificate in Western Saddle Fitting

**Personal Details:**

Name Click or tap here to enter text.

I confirm that I am over the age of 18 [ ]

Business Name (if Applicable) Click or tap here to enter text.

Address Click or tap here to enter text.

Address for Correspondence (if different) Click or tap here to enter text.

Landline number Click or tap here to enter text. Mobile number Click or tap here to enter text.

Email Address Click or tap here to enter text.

Please provide URL address of any of your

a) Website Click or tap here to enter text. b) Facebook Page Click or tap here to enter text. c) Instagram Click or tap here to enter text.

Are you literate, numerate and IT competent at Level 2? Click or tap here to enter text.

Do you have any special educational needs or disabilities that you would like us to be aware of? Click or tap here to enter text.

Do you hold a full drivers’ licence? Click or tap here to enter text.

Do you hold a DBS (Update)? Click or tap here to enter text.

**Your Current Experience:**

Are you currently a saddle fitter? Click or tap here to enter text.

Do you hold any equine related qualifications? Click or tap here to enter text.

Have you received any training as an equine body worker? Click or tap here to enter text.

Are you currently employed in the equine industry? Click or tap here to enter text.

Do you compete? Click or tap here to enter text.

Briefly describe your experience with horses to date. Click or tap here to enter text.

What experience, if any, do you have of Western riding? Click or tap here to enter text.

**Future Plans:**

Are you looking to supplement your current income? Click or tap here to enter text.

Are you looking for a career change? Click or tap here to enter text.

What do you hope to gain from this course? Click or tap here to enter text.

## Final Words

Our comprehensive courses are taught by industry experts, who are dedicated to ensuring that you have the knowledge and skills to succeed in this exciting field of horse-comfort based saddle fitting. The course is designed to cover all aspects of saddle fitting, from basic anatomy to advanced techniques. With our expert instructors, you'll learn to recognise the signs of an ill-fitting saddle and how to remedy this.

We believe that proper saddle fit is essential for both the horse and rider's health and happiness. Our team of experts will guide you through the process, so you can become an expert in saddle fitting yourself. By the end of our program, you'll be ready to make sure that your own horses and those of others, are riding with ease and comfort.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Maria Score.