

Horticulture

Sports Turf Operative Level 2 Apprenticeship

In Brief

Start Date / Duration

You can start an apprenticeship at any time. You will need an employer to employ you as an apprentice and will have completed your College departmental induction. This course runs for 25 months and one day.

Entry Requirements

Entry requirements will be determined by individual employers but typically potential apprentices will have a minimum of five GCSEs at Grades 5/D or above (including maths, English and Science) or other equivalent vocational qualifications. Employers who recruit apprentices without the above levels of qualifications will have to ensure they achieve Level 1 in English and maths as part of their apprenticeship.

- The Functional Skills minimum requirement is Level 1 in English and maths and to sit the Level 2 English and maths Functional Skills examinations in order to access the gateway to the end point.
- Other requirements e.g. a DBS check may be required by your employer.
- You will need to find an employer to employ you as an apprentice.

Please see our apprenticeship vacancies to see our current opportunities.

You will achieve

Level 2 Apprenticeship Sports Turf Operative (Pass, Merit, Distinction graded) and City & Guilds Level 2 Horticulture Diploma Sports Turf Groundsmanship (Pass grade only)

Course Overview

A Sports Turf Operative, (which might also be referred to as a Grounds Person or Grounds Maintenance Operative) exists to ensure that public and private sports facilities are available as well as supporting the Government policy around increasing physical activity.

A Sports Turf Operative is responsible for the maintenance, renovation and overall appearance of one or more sports turf surfaces in accordance with the needs of the particular sport. It is their job to maintain an appropriate quality playing surface which reflects the carrying capacity of that surface to ensure that a sustainable playing surface is provided.

A career as a Sports Turf Operative can be quite varied, potentially working across a wide range of different sports and venues, including athletics, bowls, cricket, croquet, football, hockey, horse racing, rugby and tennis ranging from general parks up to first class stadia.

Working in an outdoor environment can be a healthy and therapeutic activity, which contributes to the wellbeing of employees as well as users of sports surfaces. With the vast range of natural or artificial turf pitches available throughout the UK and worldwide, it is an excellent time to join this well-established and dynamic profession.

Click here [<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/>] for further information regarding the Standard Apprenticeship.

Course Content

Knowledge

The knowledge which underpins the required skills will allow a Sports Turf Operative to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the principles of the maintenance and renovation requirements of different sports turf surfaces which are appropriate to their level of apprenticeship and the specific needs of the industry sector. These are:

- Compliance with environmental and health and safety legislation and regulations
- Compliance with policies and procedures – company, client, health and safety risk assessments, rules of the game from the different Governing Bodies of Sport
- The identification and correct application of materials, tools, equipment and machinery used in maintenance and renovation activities
- Identification and understanding of different grasses, soil types, weeds, pests, diseases, turf disorders, artificial surfacing material, underlays, infill material, turf and soil reinforcement material and line marking materials
- The principles of photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration in the growth and development of plants
- The impact of weather, ground conditions and usage on pitch quality and playing quality
- The different performance quality standards for a range of different sports turf surfaces
- How to minimise waste and reduce environmental impacts.
- How to monitor, record and report basic grounds maintenance findings.

Skills

The Sports Turf Operative must be able to apply the knowledge and skills in a logical and systematic approach and demonstrate a positive work ethic in achieving the desired outcomes from the sports surfaces being maintained. In order to do this they will need to be capable of the following:

- Maintain and renovate turf surfaces in a safe and appropriate way to ensure games can take place which provide for a fair, safe and exciting contest for players. This will include the safe use of a range of equipment and machinery, such as mowers, scarifiers, aerators and other specialist turf care equipment, covering hand tools, as well as pedestrian operated, ride-on and tractor mounted implements.
- Correctly calibrate equipment for material requirements and apply at the correct rates a range of materials, including grass seed, fertiliser and bulky top-dressing.
- Use integrated prevention and control methods to reduce the incidence of diseases, disorders, pests and weeds on turf.
- Set and mark out sports areas in accordance with the Laws of the Governing Bodies of Sport.
- Maintain tools, equipment and machinery used for maintenance and renovation activities to ensure their safe and effective use.
- Maintain and conduct basic routine servicing and repairs to drainage and irrigation systems.
- Effectively communicate with others and provide an excellent level of customer service.
- Work safely, efficiently and effectively at all times, whether under supervision, as an individual, or in a team.

Behaviours

Customers demand safe and appropriate quality playing surfaces, which can range from pitches produced on limited budgets to first class televised events where pitches are at the cutting edge of technological developments. The Sports Turf Operative will frequently work in situations involving the general public, customers or commercial events. It is therefore important to ensure an operative is capable of demonstrating certain behaviours at all times, including the following:

- Safety orientation – This occupation operates within an industry that has significant hazards and risks from the use of machinery and materials (such as pesticides). The potential for harm to self, others, wildlife and the environment is considerable. There needs to be a competent understanding of health and safety and implementation of these practices at all times.
- Positive work ethic – A positive attitude, commitment and motivation to providing an excellent customer service and getting the game on wherever possible is required. You must be able to adapt to a change in conditions, products, situations and working environments. You must also be dependable, reliable, responsible and responsive to embracing social and cultural diversity and ethical in the treatment of others. Ideal for those looking to stretch and drive their continuous professional development.
- Quality focused – Follow approved procedures and processes in a logical manner, paying attention to detail and applying approved checks throughout work activities to ensure work completed is fit for purpose.
- Team player – Able to work on own initiative but also able to interact and communicate effectively within a team applying a respectful professional manner. Able to listen and absorb information, to ask questions when instructions are not understood or unclear and to work within the limitations of the job role.
- Contributor to sustainability – Continuously strives to work efficiently and effectively to assist others in activities as appropriate to the job role. Aware of the financial, social and environmental impacts of their actions.

How will I be assessed?

Apprenticeship standard – Sports turf Operative

The end point assessment covers 100% of the overall Pass, Merit or Distinction grading.

The end point assessment consists of the following two elements –

- Written and online test (40% of overall grade – Pass/Merit/ Distinction)
- Practical assessment (60% of overall grade – Pass/Merit/ Distinction)

Level 2 Diploma in Sports Turf Groundmanship

You will be continually assessed in the workplace of your practical competences and produce a written/word processed underpinning knowledge portfolio for all mandatory units.

What Equipment Will I Need?

All equipment will be provided.

Where will I study?

You will study within the workplace and attend classes at Barnsley College, Wigfield Farm campus, Haverlands Lane, Worsborough, Barnsley, S70 5NQ.

What can I do next?

This standard is recognised by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), the Professional Body for Sports Turf Operatives and others working in the grounds care industry. Upon achievement of this standard the apprentice will be eligible to join the IOG register of Turf Management Professionals.

The successful apprentice will have the opportunity to progress on to a higher level apprenticeship standard.

You may also wish to consider full-time FE and HE studies on completion of the higher level apprenticeship standard.

Job opportunities will also be enhanced for those apprentices who have completed the programme with promotion to more senior positions within a football or rugby club facility or the option to progress by working in other sports facilities such as a Grounds Maintenance Operator/Technician.

How much does the course cost?

There is no cost to being an apprentice. All costs associated with your apprenticeship, including the cost of training and your salary, will be paid by your employer.

Financial support

You may be eligible for assistance with expenses such as travel, books, equipment and childcare. For further information please contact the Student Services Team on +44 (0)1226 216 267.

Extra information

Contact the Apprenticeship Team

For further information please contact the team on 01226 216166 or email: apprenticeships@barnsley.ac.uk [mailto:apprenticeships@barnsley.ac.uk]

Want to join Barnsley Sports Academy and the Sports Village?

Barnsley College has a range of sports opportunities for all students to take part in, gain professional training and compete nationally and internationally. We also have a state-of-the-art fitness village, Honeywell Sports Village [<https://www.barnsley.ac.uk/shops-services/honeywell-sports-village/>] where students can make use of our fitness suite, spinning studio and classes for competitive rates. You don't have to be studying sport to get involved in the Sports Academy [<https://www.barnsley.ac.uk/barnsley-sports-academy/>].

Additional Learning Support

Our Additional Learning Support team can provide you with the support you need. Please contact them on +44 (0)1226 216 769.

English and Maths

Having good English and Maths qualifications are important for most careers and we want to give you the help you need to succeed.

If you are aged 16 – 19 and don't already have a grade C/4 or above in GCSE English and Maths they will automatically be included in your study programme. If you want to work towards higher grades in English and Maths we can help you do that too.

Need a higher level Maths qualification? We offer a [Level 3 Mathematical Studies \(Core Maths\)](#).

This can be added to your study programme.

If you need any further information, please contact our friendly [Information Team](#).

Disclaimer

Please note we reserve the right to change details without notice. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Last updated: 25th April 2022

Want to apply?

Visit <https://www.barnsley.ac.uk/apply> to get started

Call us on **01226 216 123**