

Public sector skills support: bursary schemes

The Heritage Lottery Fund's Skills for the Future programme has funded a number of organisations to deliver a wide range of bursary schemes. One of them is the Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme (TBSBS), managed by the National Trust in partnership Cadw, English Heritage, the National Heritage Training Group and CITB-Construction Skills.

The scheme provides construction students with a work-based placement with a public or private sector organisation specialising in traditional building work, enabling them to complete a standard vocational qualification in their chosen trade whilst learning and developing new skills to work on historic buildings.

Construction students are often unaware of opportunities in the built heritage sector and many enter the mainstream construction industry once they have completed their training. By investing in individuals at this early stage in their career, the TBSBS aims to encourage new entrants to traditional construction trades and provide them with comprehensive training and experience.

Luke McEnroe (above) is one of 20 young people currently on the TBSBS as an apprentice bench joiner, working on the 7,000-acre National Trust Buscot and Coleshill estate on the Oxfordshire and Wiltshire border. Luke was the first apprentice to join the scheme in September 2012 on a 24-month placement. In his first year, working with a team of highly skilled craftsmen on the estate, Luke gained valuable skills from working on a wide range of different types of traditional building, and completed an NVQ Level 2 in Bench Joinery. Luke is now enrolled on a specialist apprenticeship programme to work towards a Heritage NVQ Level 3 in Wood Occupations. Luke has also found time to be an ambassador for his craft, giving practical skills demonstrations at the Royal Welsh Show to encourage more school leavers and construction students to consider a career in the heritage sector.



*Luke McEnroe, apprentice bench joiner on the Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme, practicing glazing repair techniques.
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