

# CraftGate Teacher Pack

A short guide for teachers and careers advisers introducing heritage craft pathways to students.

## What CraftGate is

CraftGate connects people with structured placements alongside working heritage craftspeople — pre-apprenticeships for 16–25s, career-change pathways for adults, and short-form experiences for passion learners. The pre-apprenticeship route is free and secures an apprenticeship or job offer before each placement ends.

## Why it matters

Heritage crafts — stonemasonry, lime plastering, joinery, roofing, brickwork, metalwork and more — are on the Heritage Crafts Association red list. The work has not gone away. The people who know how to do it are retiring without successors. Students entering the sector are filling a gap that has no other solution.

## What students get

- A free, structured 6–12 week pre-apprenticeship placement.
- A short online foundation course before they arrive.
- A verified host with safeguarding, insurance, and DBS in place.
- A confirmed destination — apprenticeship, job, or supported route — before placement ends.
- The CraftGate Foundation Award and a host reference for their CV.

## Costs and fees

Free for students aged 16–25. Travel costs covered by a bus-pass equivalent. No tuition debt.

# Craft careers reference

The nine traditional building crafts on CraftGate today, with typical earnings. All work is centred on conserving and repairing Britain's historic buildings.

| Craft                              | Typical earnings (UK)                                     |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Stonemasonry                       | Entry £22–28k · Experienced £35–45k+                      |
| Lime Plastering                    | Entry £20–26k · Experienced £30–40k+                      |
| Heritage Roofing                   | Entry £18–22k · Qualified £30–45k                         |
| Heritage Timber & Joinery          | Entry £22–28k · Experienced £32–45k                       |
| Stained Glass Conservation         | Entry £20–25k · Senior £35–50k+                           |
| Dry Stone Walling                  | Employed £25–35k · Master craftsman more                  |
| Cob Building                       | Sole-trader / specialist work, regional                   |
| Heritage Brickwork                 | Entry £22–28k · NVQ L3 £32–45k · Gauged specialist higher |
| Blacksmithing & Heritage Metalwork | Apprentice £18–22k · Qualified £28–40k                    |

## What unites them

- All listed on the Heritage Crafts Association red list of endangered crafts.
- All require three-dimensional thinking, problem-solving, and reading materials by hand.
- All work with low-carbon, traditional materials — lime, stone, timber, reed, metal.
- All offer pathways to NVQ Level 3 Heritage Skills (Gold CSCS card) and self-employment.

# Curriculum links

Heritage craft pathways are a strong fit for students from a wide range of subjects.

| Subject             | Connection                                                   |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Design & Technology | Materials science, joinery, metalwork, construction          |
| Art                 | Stained glass, carving, decorative techniques, drawing       |
| Geography           | Landscape, vernacular architecture, regional materials       |
| Science             | Chemistry of lime, geology of stone, timber biology          |
| PSHE / Careers      | Alternative career pathways, apprenticeship routes, earnings |
| Sustainability      | Embodied carbon, repair vs replacement, natural materials    |

## Useful talking points in class

- University now costs £9,535/year. A heritage apprenticeship pays you to learn.
- Heritage crafts are zero embodied carbon: the most practical form of sustainable construction.
- Suited to spatial and tactile learners — these are not academic deficits, they are exactly the skills the sector needs.
- Salary progression is real: from £18–22k entry to £30–45k qualified specialist; self-employed master craftspeople earn more.

# Module 1 viewing guide

CraftGate's Module 1 is free and open to everyone — no account needed. It introduces the craft, the conservation principles behind it, and the careers it leads to. Around 45 minutes per craft.

## Suggested classroom format (45–60 minutes)

- Pre-watch (5 min): ask students which heritage crafts they recognise from buildings they know.
- Watch (25–30 min): play the Module 1 video for one chosen craft.
- Discussion (10 min): what surprised them? What does the work involve day to day?
- Activity (10 min): students browse [craftgate.org/crafts](https://craftgate.org/crafts) and pick one to read further.

## Discussion prompts

- Why are these crafts disappearing if there is plenty of work?
- How is conservation work different from new-build construction?
- Could you imagine yourself doing this kind of work? What would you need to learn?
- What would you say to a parent who is unsure about a non-academic route?

## Things to know before you teach

- Module 1 is the same content students see when they register — there is no “school version”.
- Modules 2–6 require a free CraftGate account and take about 5–6 hours total at the student's own pace.
- A bus-pass equivalent covers travel during placement. Students with additional needs should email us at screening — we can help plan support.

# How to refer a student

Six steps from interest to confirmed destination. Most happen in the student's own time outside school.

- 01** Point them to [craftgate.org](https://craftgate.org) and pick a craft.
- 02** They watch Module 1 free — no account needed.
- 03** They register (free) and continue Modules 2–6 at their own pace.
- 04** They write a short motivation statement and apply to a placement.
- 05** On acceptance, host check-ins begin — including a midpoint review.
- 06** Before placement ends, CraftGate secures their next step — apprenticeship, job, or supported route.

## Safeguarding at a glance

- Every host is vetted before listing — DBS, insurance, site suitability, safeguarding policy.
- Under-18 placements require parental consent through a structured online process.
- Working hours comply with Working Time Regulations for young workers.
- Concerns route directly to [office@craftgate.org](mailto:office@craftgate.org) and are handled the same day.

# Contact

We are a small team and we read every email we receive.

## Talk to us

General enquiries, placements, safeguarding, partnerships:

**office@craftgate.org**

Web: [craftgate.org](https://craftgate.org)

## Useful pages

- For Students — [craftgate.org/for-students](https://craftgate.org/for-students)
- For Career Changers — [craftgate.org/for-career-changers](https://craftgate.org/for-career-changers)
- For Parents & Teachers — [craftgate.org/for-parents-teachers](https://craftgate.org/for-parents-teachers)
- For Hosts — [craftgate.org/for-hosts](https://craftgate.org/for-hosts)
- Crafts library — [craftgate.org/crafts](https://craftgate.org/crafts)
- Live placements — [craftgate.org/placements](https://craftgate.org/placements)

## A note for careers advisers

If you are at a school, college, or careers service and would like to arrange a free CraftGate session for students, parents' evening, or staff CPD, email us at [office@craftgate.org](mailto:office@craftgate.org) with a sentence about your group and what you are trying to cover. We aim to reply within five working days.

*CraftGate Ltd · The next generation of heritage crafts. Free for 16–25; paid pathways for adults; weekend experiences for passion learners.*