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### Higher Education Apprenticeships for the Domestic Furniture Design Industry

There has been endless debate about the role of higher education in the furniture industry over recent years. One of the biggest barriers to developing suitable higher education options has been cost, the governments' new higher education apprenticeships are an opportunity to help overcome this issue and for industry to access education very cost effectively. The first thing we need is for the industry to show support by signing up below.

Setting up apprenticeships needs to be an industry lead and as a consequence can be tailored directly to their requirements, furthermore it is a combination of work training and academic education which is an ideal mix to support our future industry workforce.

The Kitchen Education Trust (TKET) in association with the The Kitchen Bathroom Bedroom Specialist Association (KBSA), the Furniture and Interiors, Education, Skills and Training Alliance (FIESTA) and Achieve+Partners are looking for support to develop higher/degree apprenticeships for the furniture industry following the success of the Level 2 and Level 3 apprenticeships that have recently been developed.

Higher and degree apprenticeships are available at levels 4 to 7. They combine work with study and may include a work-based, academic or combined qualification relevant to the industry. Levels 4 and 5 are equivalent to a Higher Education Certificate/Diploma or a foundation degree, level 6 is equivalent to a Bachelor's degree and level 7 is equivalent to a Master's degree. Typically, higher apprentices study part-time at college, university or with a training provider.

You may be aware that a foundation degree in kitchen design already exists, funded by individual students and industry support, with funding being one of the biggest barriers. The Governments Higher Education Apprenticeships helps overcome this barrier.

We are looking to develop an apprenticeship predominantly at level 6, that will cover the design and development of fitted furniture from concept to completion for a range of consumers and market levels. This could include kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and media centres amongst other areas that range from individual commissions to multiples for the contract market. Content for the course would encompass liaising with customers, creating the designs, sales and managing the manufacturing and installation of the projects.



We are looking for employers that are interested in supporting this development and are willing to be named in the proposal to the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. There is no commitment beyond the acknowledge that the industry requires an education opportunity at the levels indicated at this stage. So, we would urge everyone in the industry to sign up their approval, especially the larger companies which make up a big percentage of the industry.

Please confirm your support by completing the following form online, it takes less than 2 minutes of your time to help professionalise your industry

<https://forms.gle/wDJDWHhp4e8nGq8S6>