

Hospitality team member professional standard

A hospitality team member can work in a range of establishments, for example bars, restaurants, cafés, conference centres, banqueting venues, hotels or contract caterers. The role is very varied and although hospitality team members tend to specialise in an area, they have to be adaptable and ready to support team members across the business, for example during busy periods. Specialist areas in hospitality include food and beverage service, serving alcoholic beverages, barista, food preparation, housekeeping, concierge and guest services, reception, reservations and conference and banqueting. The most important part of the role is developing fantastic 'hospitality' skills and knowledge such as recognising customer needs, knowing how to match them to the products and services of the business and working as part of a team to ensure that every customer, whether they are eating in a restaurant, drinking cocktails in a bar, ordering room service in a hotel or attending a business conference feels welcomed and looked after.

In many organisations hospitality team members will work across a range of areas throughout the organisation. This standard provides the knowledge, skills and behaviours a hospitality team member needs to appreciate the breadth and depth of the industry, as well as core competencies which apply to all areas. In addition to the multi skilled nature of the industry apprentices must specialise in one function – the opportunity to take a general role and really extend the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to become a professional in the industry.

Entry	Employers will set their own entry requirements in order to start on this apprenticeship.
Duration	The minimum duration for this apprenticeship is 12 months.
Progression	Progression from this apprenticeship is expected to be onto a hospitality supervisory or team leading role.
Level	This standard is set at level 2.
Renewal	March 2020, unless there is evidence of significant industry change which employers agree warrants earlier amendment.

Industry Knowledge: All hospitality team members must have the following introductory knowledge

Introduction to the hospitality industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what hospitality means; the culture of the industry and why delivering a customer experience to meet and exceed customer's expectations is so important to hospitality businesses. • Appreciate the importance of hospitality behaviours such as personal conduct, being adaptable, using initiative and communicating with a diverse range of people. • Know the range of businesses and establishments that make up the hospitality industry, their differences and similarities and the variety of job roles and progression opportunities that are available.
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Hospitality team member professional standard

Core Hospitality: All hospitality team members must have the following core hospitality knowledge, skills and behaviours

	Knowledge and Understanding (Know it)	Skills (Show it)	Behaviours (Live it)
Customer	Recognise customer profiles in hospitality and how customers have different needs	Use clear and engaging communication to establish a good rapport with customers and ask relevant questions to determine their needs	Use own initiative and have confidence in determining customers' needs
	Understand the importance of meeting, and where possible, exceeding customer expectations in line with the business / brand standards	Deliver excellent customer service in line with the business / brand standards with the aim of exceeding customer expectations	Take an enthusiastic and positive approach to providing excellent customer service
	Understand the importance of receiving and dealing with customer feedback to support the improvement of products and services and provide value for money	Check that customers are satisfied with products and services and act on feedback in line with business procedures	Take feedback from customers seriously and actively improve own customer service in line with business / brand standards
Business	Know the business vision and values, its main competitors, how it fits into the wider hospitality industry and how own area of work contributes to achieving business targets	Perform activities to positively promote business / brand standards and identify opportunities to increase sales and achieve customer loyalty	Proactively support the reputation of the business and be aware of how it compares with its competitors
	Know how own role can minimise unnecessary financial loss to the business	Carefully handle payments*, transactions, stock and packaging to minimise unnecessary financial loss	Carry out activities with consideration of their cost and value
	Understand how personal discipline in approach to work, for example time-keeping, attendance, personal appearance, personal presentation and conduct can all have an impact on the business/ brand reputation	Prepare and organise own work for example promptly arriving for shifts, communicating information at team meetings / briefings, following business / brand guidelines and procedures, meeting agreed deadlines	Organise own work and have the confidence to ask for guidance, fully participate in performance reviews and training and act on feedback relating to personal performance
	Know the products / services that are offered by the business, their prices and special offers and how to match them to customers' needs	Clearly communicate relevant and useful information on products and services based on a clear understanding of customers' needs	Confidently demonstrate a belief in the products / services the business offers
	Know how the business aims to increase its market share and compete against its main competitors, for example its unique selling points, promotions and marketing campaigns	Actively promote the unique selling points of the business and special offers available and promotions to customers	Keep up to date with how the business positions itself within the wider hospitality industry

Hospitality team member professional standard

	Knowledge and Understanding (Know it)	Skills (Show it)	Behaviours (Live it)
	Understand how the use of technology can enhance customer service and productivity in hospitality businesses	Use technology appropriately and efficiently in line with company policy in a way that supports customer service and ensure that faults and maintenance issues are reported promptly	Use technology responsibly and take an interest in new developments that relate to own job role
	Recognise and understand legislative responsibilities relating to the business and the products and / or services it offers	Comply with legal requirements to avoid risk minimising disruption to the business and to maintain the safety and security of people at all times	Work with integrity in a safe, honest and trustworthy manner putting personal safety and that of others first
	Know how the activities in hospitality businesses can have a negative effect on the environment	Work in a way that minimises negative effects on the environment for example by managing wastage in line with business procedures	Demonstrate personal commitment to minimising the negative affect on the environment caused by work activities
People	Understand the importance of using appropriate methods of communication that are suitable for different situations and individuals' needs in a variety of hospitality contexts	Communicate accurately and effectively with others in line with the business culture to achieve the best result according to the situation	Take a friendly and outgoing approach and enjoy talking and interacting with others, and communicating according to the business / brand standard
	Know how to support and influence the team positively, recognising how team members are dependent on each other to meet business objectives	Support team members to ensure that the products and services delivered are of a high quality, on time and meet customer expectations in line with business needs	Demonstrate pride in own role through a consistently positive and professional approach, and be aware of the impact of personal behaviour within the team
	Understand how to work with people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures	Put people at ease in all matters, adapt products and services as necessary, helping them to feel welcome and supported and provide them with information that is relevant to their needs	Operate in a fair and professional manner
First line supervision / Team leading	Understand how to support the supervision of team members for example new and junior employees to assist line manager	Contribute to meetings and planning shifts, support shift briefings and assist in the monitoring of standards to help ensure quality is maintained	Demonstrate the ability and confidence to deputise for the line manager when necessary

* Apprentices in a housekeeping or food production specialism are expected to know and understand payments but it is not mandatory to actually process them if not naturally occurring in their job role

Hospitality team member professional standard

Hospitality specialist: Hospitality team members must select from one of the following specialist functions

	Knowledge and Understanding (Know it)	Skills (Show it)	Behaviours (Live it)
Food and beverage service	Know the range of food and beverage service styles and standards within different types of hospitality operations; the key features of menu items products and services, and basic food and beverage pairing in line with menu	Ensure each stage of food and beverage service meets business / brand standard, including, for example, customer arrival, provision of information, promoting menu and other items, taking and processing orders, serving food and drink and taking payments. Food and beverage service must be demonstrated in at least one food service style, such as table service, counter service, room service or conference and banqueting	Take a responsible approach to the preparation, sale and service of food and beverages for example in relation to safe handling and storage, and accurately communicating the contents of products. Use appropriate opportunities to upsell and promote additional products and services Actively seek opportunities to delight and 'wow' customers in line with the business / brand standard
Alcoholic beverage service	<p>All apprentices selecting alcoholic beverage service will cover the knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to preparation and service of a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. In addition, they will then select one of four areas within which to specialise further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licenced retail specialist • Wine specialist • Beer / cask ale specialist • Cocktails / mixology specialist 		
	<p>All apprentices selecting an alcoholic beverage service specialism must:</p> <p>Know a variety of alcoholic, non-alcoholic and hot beverages (including spirits, beer, wine, soft and hot drinks), their basic characteristics, information required for the customer, equipment required to store, prepare and serve them and storage conditions required for optimum quality</p>	<p>All apprentices selecting an alcoholic beverage service specialism must:</p> <p>Provide accurate information on alcoholic, non-alcoholic and hot beverages, prepare, serve and store alcoholic beverages available in the organisation in the correct manner and use specialist equipment for preparing and serving alcoholic, non-alcoholic and hot beverages appropriately</p>	<p>All apprentices selecting an alcoholic beverage service specialism must:</p> <p>Take a responsible approach to the preparation, sale and service of food and beverages for example in relation to safe handling and storage, and accurately communicating the contents of products. Use appropriate opportunities to upsell and promote additional products and services Actively seek opportunities to delight and 'wow' customers in line with the business / brand standard</p>

Hospitality team member professional standard

Licensed retail specialist:

Apprentices in licensed retail will work in a multi-tasking environment based around alcoholic beverage service but often undertaking additional roles. Each licenced premise will have a different combination of tasks and roles, such as accommodation, but the business operation will have licenced trade at its core. This specialism allows an in depth look at the competencies across a licenced retail operation, with specific additional emphasis on social responsibility and the operations of a licenced premise.

Understand how a licensed premise is regulated and its responsibilities in relation to alcohol and other age restricted sales, drugs awareness, conflict management and the welfare of staff, visitors and customers, including first aid and emergency situations

Work across the designated areas of the licensed premises supporting the delivery of customer requirements during both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage service and when performing other duties, ensuring the required conduct of the licensed premises is maintained at all times

Work responsibly upholding the values of the organisation and its place in the community as a licensed operator

Be highly organised and have the ability to multitask whilst maintaining an engaging, friendly and helpful attitude to customers

Wine specialist:

Wine is a key part of many dining experiences. A good hospitality team member taking the alcoholic beverage service route with wine specialism will know about the key types of wine, their characteristics, storage, preparation and service and how they pair with foods

Know a variety of wine styles and popular grape varieties, their basic characteristics, basic wine and food pairing in line with the menu, information that will help inform customers, equipment required to store and serve wines and conditions required for optimum wine quality

Provide accurate information on the wine menu, make basic recommendations to customers based on menu, serve and store wine in the correct manner and use specialist equipment for preparing and serving wine appropriately

Take a responsible approach to the preparation, sale and service of food and beverages for example in relation to safe handling and storage, and accurately communicating the contents of products.

Use appropriate opportunities to upsell and promote additional products and services

Actively seek opportunities to delight and 'wow' customers in line with the business / brand standard

Hospitality team member professional standard

Beer / cask ale specialist:

With the increase in popularity of craft breweries and the discerning palettes of beer drinkers becoming more and more keen on well conditioned beverages the beer and cask ale specialist will know and be able to look after a range of beers in kegs, casks and bottles for the perfect serve

Know a variety of beers, including bottled, keg and cask ales, their characteristics, basic food pairing in line with the menu, information that will help inform customers, the equipment required to store and serve them and conditions required for optimum quality and the correct cellar procedures and conditions

Provide accurate information on beers, including bottled, keg and cask ales; make recommendations to customers based on menu, serve and store beer and cask ales in the correct manner and use specialist equipment appropriately. Help ensure that the correct cellar conditions are maintained to preserve the quality of the beer / cask ale

Take a responsible approach to the preparation, sale and service of food and beverages for example in relation to safe handling and storage, and accurately communicating the contents of products. Use appropriate opportunities to upsell and promote additional products and services. Actively seek opportunities to delight and 'wow' customers in line with the business / brand standard

Cocktails / mixology specialist:

Cocktails and mixology represent a growing and diverse area of the alcoholic beverage market. Base ingredients, build methods and accompaniments are both classic and ever evolving to meet the needs of today's cocktail clientele. A cocktails / mixology specialist will be able to prepare and serve a range of cocktails to customers' exacting requirements

Know the main categories of cocktails, including common base ingredients, methods of preparing and serving them, how ingredients and equipment should be stored and information that will help inform customers

Provide accurate information on the cocktail menus to customers, prepare cocktails using a range of ingredients and methods and adjust the cocktail to customers' taste and preference. Ensure ingredients are stored correctly and use specialist equipment appropriately

Take a responsible approach to the preparation, sale and service of food and beverages for example in relation to safe handling and storage, and accurately communicating the contents of products. Use appropriate opportunities to upsell and promote additional products and services. Actively seek opportunities to delight and 'wow' customers in line with the business / brand standard

Hospitality team member professional standard

Barista	<p>Know the main categories and types of hot and cold beverages in particular coffee, and the methods of preparing and serving them. Know how different ingredients should be stored, and the origins key ingredients. Identify specialist equipment, and know how to use it correctly and keep it clean and hygienic</p>	<p>Provide accurate information on hot and cold beverages, demonstrate how to make a variety of products, follow customer requirements for strength and flavour, ensure ingredients are stored correctly and use specialist equipment appropriately</p>	<p>Take a responsible approach to the preparation, sale and service of food and beverages for example in relation to safe handling and storage, and accurately communicating the contents of products.</p> <p>Use appropriate opportunities to upsell and promote additional products and services</p> <p>Actively seek opportunities to delight and ‘wow’ customers in line with the business / brand standard</p>
Food preparation	<p>Know how to perform basic food processing tasks such as preparation, cooking and regeneration of food in line with business / brand specifications and identify how to follow kitchen procedures to maintain food safety and quality. Know how to maintain excellent standards of hygiene and how to use equipment correctly and store food safely</p>	<p>Perform basic cleaning, washing up, food processing, preparation, regeneration and cooking tasks following line with the kitchen procedures and maintain food safety and quality (basic food processing and preparation includes for example sandwiches, bar snacks, light bites, compiling desserts, toasted items)</p>	<p>Demonstrate high personal hygiene standards and clean workstation ethic at all times</p>
Concierge and guest services	<p>Know local and national information or where to access it and the variety of services available to customers. Know the process for procurement of additional products and services in order to meet customer needs and the business standards and procedures for room service and recognise the importance of following them.</p>	<p>Meet and greet customers, coordinate with suppliers of guest services and other organisations and source information that support customers’ experience, promote services such as valet parking and stores or transfers customers’ luggage, book external / additional services and provide a link between the customer and all departments within the business</p>	<p>Take every opportunity to provide customers with all the information and services they need to get the best out of their stay, maintain discretion and customer confidentiality</p>

Hospitality team member professional standard

House-keeping	Know how to clean and maintain a variety of areas and materials and understand the importance of responsibility using cleaning equipment, techniques, chemicals and agents, and ensuring that the appearance of rooms and external areas meet the business / brand standard	Clean and maintain bedrooms and public areas including furniture, fixtures and fittings, soft and hard flooring; identify and report maintenance needs and check that outcomes of work meet the businesses / brand standards for presentation	Pay attention to detail and have high standards of cleanliness and presentation. Work in a discreet manner and maintain customer confidentiality
Reception	Know business procedures for delivering reception operations and understand the requirements for processing personal and sensitive data; identify internal customers and their needs and how they feed into the operation. Know the products, facilities and services of the whole business and how to communicate these to customers, staff and visitors	Welcome customers and provide a broad range of relevant information relating to the business. Support an efficient check in / check out service for customers, answer enquiries and take reservations and bookings face to face, on the telephone or on-line. Be the link between visitors, staff and guests	Be highly organised and has the ability to multitask whilst maintaining an engaging, friendly and helpful attitude to customers Anticipate customer needs and can adapt products and services to meet them Ensure interdepartmental and external communication provides good flow of information to meet and exceed customers' expectations
Reservations	Understand how to take individual and group accommodation or event reservations in line with business / brand standard. Know the pricing policy of the organisation and how this ensures effective yield management. Understand requirements for processing personal and sensitive data	Take and process reservations and negotiate rates in line with own authority. Ensure reservations follow organisation's yield management policy. Support the team to plan events, show customers the facilities of the business and provide information on the typical procedure for running events	Actively seek opportunities to make a great guest experience
Conference and Events Operations	Understand how to adapt approach and communication with the customer depending on the nature of their visit and event for example the difference in approach for a wedding party or a business. Know how and where to secure resources and own authority to do so, in line with the organisations procedures	Support the delivery of a variety of events according to the business / brand standard. Co-ordinate with customers', suppliers and team members, ensuring the right resources are in place to meet the event brief.	

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