



## **Interested in applying for Judges Training with the UK Floristry Judges Guild?**

Floristry judging is rewarding, time-consuming and requires dedication to the craft of floristry. (Owen 2010).

Before you apply to become a Judge, you must think carefully about the role of Judge and whether it is right for you to commit to the training programme. The questions and answers below will help you to understand the requirements of the role and a little of the training involved. If your application is successful, then you will be invited to a one-day induction where you will learn more about the actual training and will have ample opportunity to ask questions, before committing fully to the training programme.

Our goal is to raise standards across the industry by offering a uniform judging platform that upholds the high values of the UK Floristry Judges Guild.

### **What is the role of a floristry judge?**

According to Lynda Owen: a floristry judge is an authorised florist who is appointed to decide the winners of a floristry competition. The judge evaluates floristry competition exhibits based on recognised standards of design and technique and then forms a judgement after careful consideration of these standards.

As a judge, you may be asked to judge a range of competitions from junior level through to more senior and advanced skill levels, WorldSkills UK competitions, and competitions organised by other organisations such as the BFA, and Interflora. Following further RHS accreditation, you may be invited to judge at RHS shows and events. There is no guarantee of the amount of judging you may be offered and often no payment for your services. As a judge your role is concerned with supporting floristry, so you must be committed to being of service to the industry.

### **Essential criteria to be a Judge:**

- Commitment to floristry and the wider industry, demonstrating a willingness to share knowledge and be of service to the industry.
- Up to date industry experience, with a minimum 10 years' experience of working in floristry.
- Level 4 qualification in floristry or equivalent or IPF Academic Fellow demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of floristry skills, techniques, and theory.
- Proficient IT skills (Outlook, word, PowerPoint, excel).
- High standard of literacy and numeracy with a high level of English. Please note, that the training, shadow judging and examinations will be taken in English only.
- Evidence of competition experience or commitment to supporting others with competition work.
- Access to a car or means of travel around the UK.
- Member of the BFA or IPF.

### **Desirable criteria to be a Judge:**

There are many varied skills and personal attributes required to be a successful judge. Some may be developed during training, and others you may be able to demonstrate already.

- Ability to work effectively and collaboratively as part of a team.
- Ability to communicate, both written and verbally, to a wide variety of audiences, often giving feedback and praise to competitors.
- Ability to make decisions, impartially and consistently whilst being able to explain and validate decisions made.
- Time management skills which show the ability to work to deadlines, calmly and efficiently.
- Good people skills with the ability to listen to others, show empathy, be reliable and honest with a generosity of spirit to help others succeed.
- Demonstrate integrity and professionalism, showing respect to others and upholding the UKFJG standards at all times.

### **That sounds like me – how do I apply?**

The application form is available to download from the UK Floristry Judges Guild website. Once completed, return by email to [training@floristryjudgesguild.co.uk](mailto:training@floristryjudgesguild.co.uk) .

The training committee will review all applications and you will then be invited to join the training programme. You will be asked to bring copies of your qualification certificates and photographs of your work to the first training session.

### **How long will the training take?**

Floristry judges training will take place over a period of 18 months- 2 years. To be eligible to take the final examination you must complete the training days listed below plus four shadow judging assignments and one stewarding assignment.

It should be noted that accreditation might be withdrawn at any time in the event of unprofessional behaviour liable to bring disrepute to the organisation, criminal prosecution, upheld complaints, or failure to comply with the Code of Ethics.

### **When will it start and where will it take place?**

It is anticipated that the training programme will be spread across a mix of online and physical training weekends, culminating in a final exam. Online zoom meetings will be arranged throughout the training to support trainees and add additional theoretical information, whilst the in-person training weekends will provide opportunities for marking as well as explore topics related to judging.

Missing any of the training sessions may mean you will not be eligible to take the final examination as you may not be ready.

### **Location:**

Training will be held at a location to be confirmed to suit the candidates.

### **How much will it cost?**

The cost of the full training will be payable in advance and is non-refundable.

Travel and accommodation costs for all training days and shadow judging/stewarding is to be borne by the trainee judge.

### **Can I still compete?**

Trainee judges, and indeed any Judges within the UKFJG, may **not** enter local, national, or international competitions.

### **What will I learn?**

The training weekends will cover aspects of floristry judging to enhance and develop floristry knowledge and judging skills. There will be a focus on practical judging, understanding the judging facets and how to award marks. The discipline of the

competition room will be discussed, together with stewarding and schedule writing. Giving commentary and feedback will also be practised.

The floristry judges training course is rigorous, completing the training days and taking the examination does not automatically mean you will pass the examination and become accredited as a UK national floristry judge.

### **How will I be assessed?**

Candidates are continually evaluated throughout the training sessions; shadow judging and supervised practical judging sessions before being allowed to move forward to the final examination. There will be a range of homework, including written work, plus practical marking at the exam and giving feedback and analysis.

### **Summary:**

Judging is a huge honour and a fantastic opportunity to view some of the best floristry and floral design work by a range of competitors. It is hugely rewarding, challenging, and exciting and you will also have the opportunity to be part of a group of like-minded Judges and help to move the Guild forward in future.