



The Association of Guilds of Weavers,
Spinners and Dyers

Reg. Charity No. 289590

Website: www.wsd.org.uk

Foundation Certificate in Spinning: Student Information Pack



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Foundation Certificate in Spinning

Dear Foundation Certificate Student,

We are delighted that you have registered to complete the Foundation Certificate in Spinning. I am enclosing the information pack that will guide your work. This pack has been revised over the autumn of 2017 to take account of feedback from past students, mentors and spinning teachers.

I hope you will find the pack informative and helpful. Your mentor will have a copy of the pack and it is available on the Association WIP so anyone who is supporting you can see the content. The content of the syllabus is the same as before – we have put in more about learning objectives and assessment standards and clarified a number of areas.

If you have any queries, please contact your mentor in the first instance or contact me if your need more guidance.

I wish you every success in your study and hope that the Foundation Certificate journey inspires you to go further. Any feedback you have during or after you have completed the FC, would be most welcome. Do keep in touch.

Best wishes

Janet Maher
Foundation Certificate Coordinator

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Foundation Certificate in Spinning: Requirements

Introduction:

The Foundation Certificate in Spinning has been created by the Association for Guild members, both those new to spinning and others who wish to gain more skill and understanding in this craft.

Registration:

If you want further information or wish to register for the Certificate after reading this document please contact the Coordinator.

The registration fee for this certificate is £55.00. The following conditions apply:

- A completed registration form and fee is required from all students
- On receipt of a registration form, the Coordinator will send an invoice for fees, which will need to have been paid before a student may start to work on the Foundation Certificate
- Once fees have been paid the Coordinator will issue a full information pack including the syllabus and will give you the name of your mentor
- The registration fee is payable in advance and valid for twelve months
- The registration fee is not refundable
- If at the end of the period set out in the timetable below modules 1 and 2 are not completed, registration will be terminated
- Applications for an extension may be made in writing to the Coordinator if there are extenuating personal circumstances
- Registration may also be renewed with the agreement of the Coordinator for a further and final period by making a second non-refundable payment of £35.00 in advance

The Certificate Marking System:

There are four modules in the Foundation Certificate. A pass mark is required on all four modules for the Foundation Certificate to be awarded.

There are 100 marks awarded overall. The Modules carry the following maximum marks

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • Module 1 Spinning Technology | 20 marks |
| • Module 2 The Nature of Fibres | 20 marks |
| • Module 3 Spinning in Practice – English Long Draw Spinning | 30 marks |
| • Module 4 Spinning in Practice – Worsted Spinning | 30 marks |

The minimum pass mark is 50 out of a possible 100. Gaining between 65 – 80 marks will achieve a credit in the Foundation Certificate. Gaining more than 80 marks will achieve a distinction.

Expected learning outcomes and assessment criteria are set out in the syllabus.

A minimum of 20 marks is required in total for modules one and two – 10 on each.

A minimum of 30 marks is required for modules three and four – 15 on each.

A pass grade for the final submitted skein is required for both modules three and four.

Information required in Submissions:

- Tell us a little about your experience as a spinner
- Put your name on everything you send in (including labels on your Module 3 and 4 skeins)
- While answering questions, it is likely that you will have gained information from books, leaflets and other sources. In every case of quotation, photos or illustrations, please list all references e.g.(Ashford Book of Spinning p.112) or (Linen, Baines p.56)
- Please say whether the illustrated wheel is the same or different from the one you normally use
- If you have received support from members of your Guild or attended a workshop, please record this in your submission

How the Foundation Certificate is organised:

- The Foundation Certificate is for individual spinners and there is expectation of self directed learning
- Joining together with others who are undertaking the FC can be supportive for learning and for keeping up motivation so Study Groups are actively encouraged
- The Coordinator or your mentor may be able to assist with making contact with students in other Guilds if you are the sole student from your Guild

Timetable:

- Students may commence the Foundation Certificate at any time
- Modules 1 and 2 will be completed and submitted to the Coordinator within four months of starting work on the Certificate
- Modules 1 and 2 will be completed before embarking on Modules 3 and 4
- Modules 3 and 4 will be completed within six months of being given permission to start. Students can choose which of Modules 3 and 4 to tackle first

Mentors:

- Mentors act as the first point of support for Students
- Every student will have a mentor appointed
- Mentors will be appointed on a regional basis
- Students will liaise with mentors about modules before submitting them for assessment

Workshops:

Modules 3 and 4 require practical work in the preparation of fibres and spinning of the final skein for submission. Most students will benefit from some hands-on tuition.

Whilst these skills may be freely available to some Study Groups or through students own Guilds, not all students will have ready access. Mentors and the Coordinator can arrange for workshops to be organised.

- There will need to be 5/6 students for a workshop to be financially viable and the mentor or Coordinator may bring together students from a number of Guilds in a region
- Each person will pay the Association £35.00 as a contribution towards the cost of the workshop.
- In addition to the £35.00 contribution towards costs, the local group will need to provide and pay for a suitable location for the workshop
- The Association will pay the remaining cost of providing tutors

Going Forward:

To register your interest or to gain further information, please contact Janet Maher. She can be contacted by:

Email foundationspin@wsd.org.uk

Phone: 07703 829068

Post: Janet Maher, Honeysuckle Cottage, Ashill, Ilminster, Somerset TA19



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The Foundation Certificate in Spinning: Syllabus

This document should be read in conjunction with the Requirements document for the Foundation Certificate in Spinning available from the Coordinator.

The syllabus comprises four modules. You will submit the work for modules one and two before proceeding with modules three and four.

You may choose the order of the practical modules three and four.

When completed, please check each module with your Mentor before sending it for assessment or starting the next one.

There is nothing to prevent you from working in a group with other students. Working in a group can help maintain motivation and can offer support. The work you submit, however, needs to be your own.

Module 1: Spinning Technology

Expected learning outcomes

By the end of this module you will have:

- Conducted research using books, videos and personal observation into how different forms of spinning equipment work to produce yarn
- Described your learning using a range of written explanations, photos, diagrams or cartoons

Assessment standard:

- For the minimum pass grade students will:
 - List basic components of both key types of spinning wheels using photos or diagrams
 - Explain how the different parts operate together when spinning fibre
 - List four pieces of equipment, other than wheels, two used in the preparation of fibre for spinning and two in dealing with the spun fibre
- More marks will be gained for including wider ranges of equipment and evaluation of the suitability of equipment for different methods of spinning

Question One: Research and make a list of as many different types of spinning wheel and other equipment used to spin fibres

At this stage you are not expected to do more than list them.

Question Two: Describe and explain how each of the two main types of spinning wheel work.

There are two principal designs of spinning wheel found in common use - the Single and the Double drive band wheels. In this section you are asked to describe how each type works. Imagine you are explaining to someone you know. For each type, please:

- *Name the parts*
- *Explain in steps how each wheel operates*
- *Describe how the flyer is driven*
- *Explain how the bobbin is made to wind up the spun yarn*
- *Explain how bobbin tension is adjusted*
- *Explain how being able to change the tension is helpful when spinning*
- *Describe the care and maintenance needed for each type of wheel*

Question Three: Moving on to spinning in practice and how we control the yarn we produce:

- *Explain what effect the size of the drive wheel has on spinning*
- *Explain how the flyer whorl and the different groove sizes affect spinning*
- *Explain how the thickness of the thread is controlled in spinning*
- *Explain the significance of the direction the wheel is turned when spinning*
- *Explain the reason yarn is normally plied*

Question Four: Describe other equipment you use as part your spinning activities and how this equipment is cared for:

- *List all the equipment (except those things already listed in question1) used to support spinning, from preparation through to finished yarn.*
- *Describe briefly their use.*
- *Explain how to care for and maintain those items.*
- *Explain any health and safety measures taken when preparing and spinning fibre*

You may submit your answers to this module by email.

When you have completed this module please send it to your Mentor before moving on to module 2. Please make sure you have placed your name on the first page.

Module 2: The Nature of Fibres

Expected learning outcomes

By the end of this module you will have:

- *Researched the characteristics of different types of wool fleece through books, videos and actual samples and describe the differences using written explanation with diagrams/photos*
- *Explained how wool fleece is cleaned for spinning and how it is stored*
- *Researched and explained the characteristics, production and spinning of flax fibre*
- *Repeated the above step for one other fibre of your choice – either animal or plant fibre*

Assessment standard:

- *For the minimum pass grade students will:*
 - *List the core characteristics of wool fleece and describe at least two different wool fibres linking the explanation to spinning practice*
 - *Explain how wool is cleaned before spinning and stored*
 - *For flax and the second chosen fibre, describe the basic production processes using words and photos, and explain how the fibres are spun together with potential uses*
- *More marks will be gained for including descriptions of a wider range of fibres, evaluating which fibres are suited for different yarns and for linking back to the spinning equipment required*

Question One: While the production of wool was the historic basis of England's past economic fortune, spinners today can choose to spin from a large range of fibres. In this question the focus is wool and we would like you to compare the characteristics of wool, what care is required of the fibre and how it is cleaned. Use pictures, photographs or diagrams to support your written explanation.

- *Examine different examples of wool fleece – looking at a whole fleece and the locks from different parts of the fleece can be informative and your Guild may support you to provide different fleeces if you do not have access*
- *Describe the differences between the types of fleece, what terms are used to describe fleece and how these differences influence how the fibre is spun*
- *Explain what makes wool different from other fibres*
- *Describe how wool is cleaned for spinning. Describe the factors that need thinking about when storing wool – washed and unwashed*

Question Two: Flax was also a very important fibre historically in the UK, and most spinners in the past would have been skilled in preparing and spinning flax. This question explores the fibre from growing the plant to spinning the fibre.

- Describe flax fibre and where is it found naturally
- Describe its key characteristics
- Explain how it is processed and prepared for spinning
- Describe the key features of spinning flax
- Explain how the final product is used

Question Three: There are many other fibres used for spinning. In this question, you can choose one that interests you. As with wool and flax, the requirement is for you to go through all aspects of the lifecycle of the fibre.

- List the key characteristics of the fibre. Where is it found naturally? How is it grown and collected?
- Explain how the fibre is processed – what are the stages involved?
- Describe the final form for spinning
- Explain how it is spun, including any special measures or care required
- Explain how it is finished
- Describe the potential uses for the yarn

You may submit your answers to this module by email.

When you have completed this module please send it to your Mentor, Please make sure you have placed your name on the first page.

Please note. You may not submit Module 3 or 4 until your submissions of Modules 1 and 2 have been marked and you have scored a minimum of 10 or more marks for each. We do recognise, however, that you may wish to practise your practical skills for modules 3 and 4 before you submit modules 1 and 2. Whilst it is normal to learn by moving around a syllabus, we do want the submission of modules for assessment to be in the order set out.

Module 3: Spinning in practice – Woollen Yarn made using the English Long Draw Method

Expected learning outcomes

By the end of this module you will have:

- Named and described the fibres suitable for long draw spinning and the reason for the choice of fleece spun in the final skein submitted
- Used words and photos/diagrams to explain how fibre is prepared for long draw spinning
- Described the English long draw method of spinning using words and photos/diagrams
- Identified and named the key characteristics of a high quality English long draw spun woollen yarn
- Produced a submission skein of 25 metres in length

Assessment standard:

- For the minimum pass grade students will:
 - List at least two types of sheep fleece and one other fibre that are suitable for English long draw spinning together with the three key characteristics of woollen yarn
 - Explain all the steps followed in preparing the wool fibre and then spinning using the English long draw method
 - In order to be awarded the Foundation Certificate, students will need to achieve a pass mark for the submitted skein
- More marks will be awarded for listing a greater variety of possible fibres, as well as the inclusion of extra samples in the progress notebook and for the quality of final submitted skein

As this module is about practical skills, please prepare for the assessment by recording progress in the form of a notebook with examples, diagrams, photographs and illustrations as appropriate. This record of the learning journey will be a useful future reference tool also. The key requirement of the module is the preparation and submission of a labelled skein of 25 metres in length. Please attach a sample lock from the raw fleece to the label. The notebook, examples and final skein will be the means of assessment.

Commercially prepared fibres may not be used as the module is about taking raw fleece through to spun yarn.

Question One: Materials and preparation for English long draw spinning

- *Describe the key characteristics of fibres suitable for long draw spinning*
- *List types of sheep fleece that meet these criteria using words and diagrams/photos*
- *Repeat for other suitable fibres*
- *Describe the equipment used to prepare suitable fibres for spinning. List with a brief description of function*
- *Describe in detail the steps used in the preparation of rolags using words and photos/diagrams*
- *Explain the reasons for the wool fibre chosen to make the final skein for submission*

Question Two: English long draw method and the finishing of the yarn

- *Explain the characteristics of a woollen yarn prepared using the English long draw method*
- *Describe in detail the method of spinning used using words and photos/diagrams*
- *Describe how to finish the yarn, from resting the singles through to plying using words and photos*
- *Explain how to prepare the final skein for submission – how to tie and label the skein correctly*

Question Three: The final skein

- *Please ensure the skein can be easily examined by the assessor so keep the skein loosely packed and not in plastic wrap stuck with sellotape. Bubble wrap is suitable inside a more robust package with you notebook*
- *The skein will be assessed against a comparison skein pre-judged to have all the necessary characteristics*

Most students will want some support and hands-on tuition for this module and the next one. You will have more success by staying in touch with your mentor and locally with your Guild as you work. If your mentor cannot provide tuition or workshops, they can contact the Coordinator who has a list of potential tutors. Working alone on the practical modules is not recommended.

When you have completed this module please show to your Mentor before submission. Please make sure you have placed your name on all parts of your submission

Module 4: Spinning in practice - Worsted Yarn

Expected learning outcomes

By the end of this module you will have:

- **Named and described the fibres suitable for worsted spinning and the reason for the choice of fleece spun in the final skein submitted**
- **Used words and photos/diagrams to explain how fibre is prepared for worsted spinning**
- **Described the worsted method of spinning using words and photos/diagrams**
- **Identified and named the key characteristics of a high quality worsted spun thread**
- **Produced a submission skein of 25 metres in length**

Assessment standard:

- For the minimum pass grade students will:
 - List at least two types of sheep fleece and one other fibre that are suitable for worsted spinning together with the four key characteristics of worsted yarn
 - Explain all the steps followed in preparing the wool fibre and then spinning using the worsted method
 - In order to be awarded the Foundation Certificate, students will need to achieve a pass mark for the submitted skein
- More marks will be awarded for listing a greater variety of possible fibres, as well as the inclusion of extra samples in the progress notebook and for the quality of final submitted skein

As this module is about practical skills, please prepare for the assessment by recording progress in the form of a notebook with examples, diagrams, photographs and illustrations as appropriate. This record of the learning journey will be a useful future reference tool also. The key requirement of the module is the preparation and submission of a labelled skein of 25 metres in length. Please attach a sample lock from the raw fleece to the label. The notebook, examples and final skein will be the means of assessment.

Commercially prepared fibres may not be used as the module is about taking raw fleece through to spun yarn.

Question One: Materials and preparation for worsted spinning

- *Describe the key characteristics of fibres suitable for worsted spinning*
- *List types of sheep fleece that meet these criteria using words and diagrams/photos*
- *Repeat for other suitable fibres*
- *Describe the equipment used to prepare suitable fibres for spinning. List with a brief description of function*
- *Describe in detail the steps used in combing fleece using words and photos/diagrams*
- *Explain the reasons for the wool fibre chosen to make the final skein for submission*

Question Two: Worsted method of spinning and the finishing of the yarn

- *Explain the characteristics of a worsted yarn*
- *Describe in detail the worsted method of spinning used using words and photos/diagrams*
- *Describe how to finish the yarn from resting the singles through to plying using words and photos*
- *Explain how to prepare the final skein for submission – how to tie and label the skein correctly*

Question Three: The final skein

- *Please ensure the skein can be easily examined by the assessor so keep the skein loosely packed and not in plastic wrap stuck with sellotape. Bubble wrap is suitable inside a more robust package with your notebook*
- *The skein will be assessed against a comparison skein pre-judged to have all the necessary characteristics*

When you have completed this module please show to your Mentor before submission. Please make sure you have placed your name on all parts of your submission

Questions and Queries

If you are having any difficulty, please contact your Mentor in the first instance or failing that, the Foundation Certificate Coordinator

Janet Maher foundationspin@wsd.org.uk

Phone: 07703 829068



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Foundation Certificate in Spinning: Guidance on Presentation

We want you to enjoy doing this certificate and to go away inspired to learn more about spinning. We do not wish for you to be overly concerned about how to present your submissions, as this will detract from your pleasure in learning. The guidance below is based on feedback from students. If you think more is needed, do get in touch.

Written Modules

- The certificate is not a test of how well you write. The written modules are about you conveying that you understand how spinning equipment works and that you understand about different fibres
- You can communicate your knowledge most effectively by writing from your own experience not paraphrasing what you read in books. Describe what you learn and how it changes your spinning practice
- Making the written modules easy to read helps those assessing your work. We recommend using a standard A4 page layout and a universally known font such as Arial
- Put in headings to separate out each part of your writing as this makes reading easier and shows that you have understood how different pieces fit together
- Typed submissions are helpful as hand writing can be difficult to read
- Use photos with labels to support your written explanations
- Test out your written piece by asking someone else if they can make sense of it
- Ask your mentor to read your work before you submit a module for assessment
- Whilst you will use books and the internet in your research, copying from these sources is not acceptable – assessors want to see how you interpret what you have read

Practical Modules

- Label everything clearly just in case yarn and written work become detached in transit
- Ask for support in your own Guild with the spinning techniques
- If you cannot find support locally, speak to your mentor as most people will benefit from some hands-on teaching, especially for the longdraw module
- Show your learning by including the samples that did not work and how you developed over time to reach your final skein
- If you have Guild members in your own or in adjacent Guilds who have completed the FC, ask to talk to them as they will be only too willing to help – they know what you are going through
- If in doing the practical work, you realise a fact or learn something that relates back to an earlier written module which you did not include then, make a clear reference to this in your written explanation that accompanies your skein e.g. if you discover a breed of sheep that you did not mention in module 2 but see it has perfect characteristics for longdraw, then refer to module 2 as you write about it in module 3

Order of Completion of Modules

Many of you commented that completing the woollen module before the worsted was challenging and that you would have preferred it the other way round. We are changing the rules so that you can do the practical modules in the order that suits you. You will need to complete both in the timescale agreed.

Some key points about completing the modules:

- We recognise that people do not learn in an orderly fashion and that you will learn new skills and facts as you tackle each module. The reason that you do not receive a final score until all four modules are complete takes account of later learning you may have that relates to an earlier module and which you did not include at that time
- It is acceptable for you to re-submit a module if you believe you have new learning to include – the certificate is about overall learning. You will receive support from your mentor in this regard
- Whilst we know you will tackle aspects of all four modules as you learn, we do need some order in how you submit so we can give you feedback and allow you to modify your submission if necessary – we want you to be as successful as possible
- We would like you to submit modules 1 and 2 in order then you can choose whether you do 3 or 4 next
- Students will achieve more marks by drawing on their own learning journey and using examples of where things worked well, what worked less well and how improvements in spinning practice were made.

Finally, do keep talking to us and giving feedback on how it all works for you. This is still a new certificate and we will review and revise what we do over time.

Good luck and have fun learning.

Janet Maher
Foundation Certificate Coordinator
31 December 2017

Recommended Books and YouTube Videos for the Foundation Certificate in Spinning

Title	Author	Publisher	Year
Ashford Book of Spinning	Field, A	Batsford Press	1992
Big Book of Hand Spinning, The	Amos, Alden	Interweave	2001
British Sheep & Wool Book	British Wool Marketing Board	BWMB	2010
Complete Guide to Spinning Yarns, The	Gibson, Brenda	Quarto Publishing	2011
Craft of Handspinning, The	Chadwick, E	The Anchor Press Ltd	1980
Encyclopedia of Hand Spinning	Ross, Mable	Batsford Press	1988
Essentials of Yarn Design for Hand Spinning	Ross, Mable	Private publication	1983
Hand Woolcombing and Spinning	Teal, Peter	Littlehampton Book Services	1976
Learn to spin with Anne Field	Field, A	Search Press	2011
Linen Handspinning and Weaving	Baines, Patricia	Batsford Press	1989
Respect the spindle	Abbey Franquemont	Interweave Press	2009
Spin Control	Amy King	Interweave Press	2009
Spinning Wool, Beyond the Basics	Field, A	David Bateman	2010
Start Spinning	Maggie Casey	Interweave Press	2008
The Fleece and Fiber Sourcebook,	D. Robson & C Ekarius	Storey Publishing	2011
The Spinners Book of Yarn Designs	Anderson, Sarah Judith MacKenzie	Storey Publishing	2012
The Intentional Spinner	McCuin	Interweave Press	2009
The Practical Spinner's Guide - Silk	Sara Lamb	Interweave Press	2014

All of the above books have been recommended by tutors and past students. For those just starting spinning, the books seen as easiest to follow are any by Anne Field and the one by Brenda Gibson. Most of these books will be held in Guild libraries or in the Association library. Most are still available on Amazon, although some are expensive due to rarity value.

For those of you who wish to have a more technical understanding of spinning techniques, the Mabel Ross publications are excellent and Sarah Anderson's book is recommended for complex yarn design (also a good basic text too).

Below are a series of YouTube videos that have been recommended. Many students find it helpful to see something done rather than just read a book. These videos are also helpful as reminders after attending a workshop on spinning technique.

Wool Combing with Amanda Hannaford

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcYY1xF-JvY> Part 1
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9Trl5v5ZEK> Part 2
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPaD4mU1PUo> Part 3
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZCz37Gqf8c> Part 4

Preparing Rolags for Longdraw

- https://youtu.be/l6pcQK2ZQ_k
- https://youtu.be/Zp_flc5lCuk
- <https://youtu.be/sytFslRitZ0>

English Woollen Longdraw

<https://youtu.be/z92lpGYh8RE>

<https://youtu.be/0HNrflq9sd0>

Drop Spindle Techniques

<https://youtu.be/Hllrfkcg5uk>

<https://youtu.be/2PvJldraT6g>

<https://youtu.be/ADaEzuSx6SE>

<https://youtu.be/ybvermVmsMI>

https://youtu.be/D_p7OIghMVw

Preparing and Spinning Flax

<https://youtu.be/TFuj7sXVnIU>

<https://youtu.be/Az2VNIIZhEE>

Sources of Information

If you need more information and support, do ask around; someone in your Guild or your mentor may have the answer you are looking for or can tell you where to look.