

SWIFTS



Introduction



FAQS & MEMBER
SCENARIOS

CREATED BY
SWI STAFF & SWIFTS TUTORS

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Scottish Women's Institutes Framework for
Textile Skills **OR** Scottish Women's Institutes
Food Technologies

- A new, structured way to learn and recognise skills within SWI
- A step-by-step learning pathway for members to grow their skills and confidence at varying levels
- Each course will be available at a beginner, intermediate & advanced level



DEVELOPED BY

**SWI Skills & Events
Sub-Committee**

Who are the SWIFTS for?

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- SWI members who want to develop or refresh skills
- Members looking for structured learning with clear outcomes
- Those interested in gaining recognised internal certification
- Members who enjoy learning at their own pace with tutor support

Purpose of the SWIFTS



Why are we developing the SWIFTS?

- To support skills development within SWI
- To protect and pass on traditional and creative skills
- To offer clear learning pathways
- To recognise member achievement and tutor expertise

Core Subjects

04

KNITTING



EMBROIDERY



PRESERVES



FLORAL ARTS



CROCHET



BAKING



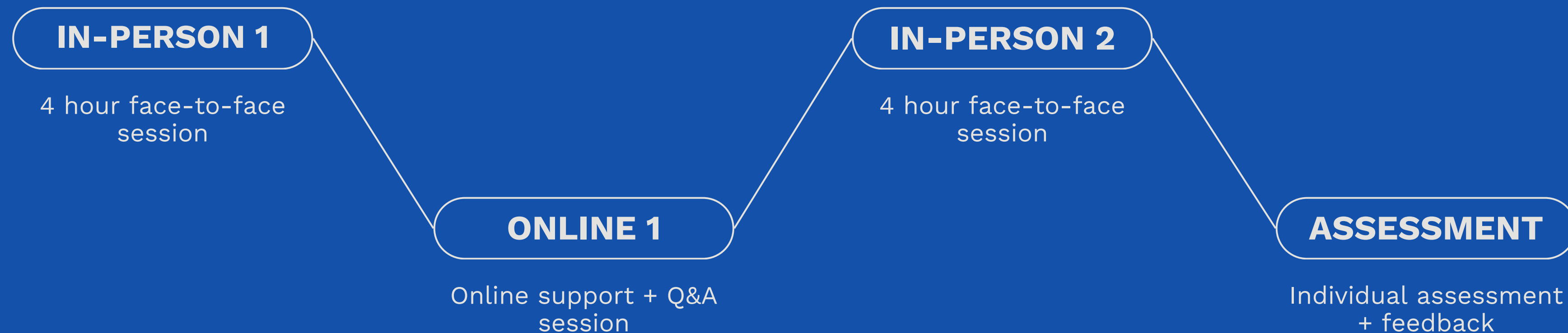
SUGARCRAFT

Course Structure

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- 12-week course duration
- Two in-person teaching sessions
- Online support and guidance from your tutor throughout the course
- Independent practice between sessions
- Final assessment submission & individual feedback at the end of the course

Please note: some courses may follow a slightly different structure, but this will be indicated prior to booking.



Assessment

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- One assessment designed to match the skills you've learned during the course
- Marked using the new SWIFTS credit system:
 - Distinction: 90–100
 - Pass: 60–89
 - Fail: 0–59
- Feedback provided to everyone
- SWIFTS certificate awarded on completion



Becoming a Judge

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This is not delivered via workshops but is earned by fulfilling strict criteria:

SWIFTS Credit Requirements

- Minimum average of 85 SWIFTS credits, obtained by completing:
 - Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced SWIFTS levels in your chosen subject area.

Practical Judging Credits

- Minimum of 75 Practical Judging Credits, achieved by:
 - Completing 3 peer-reviewed judging sessions (each worth 25 credits).
 - Each session must be observed and signed off with a reference by certified mentors/judges.

Once these thresholds are met, the participant is awarded a SWIFTS Single-Subject Judging Qualification.

- Members may progress to Multi-Subject Judge status by completing additional SWIFTS courses in other subject areas.

Becoming a Judge

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For Members with Old-Style Proficiency Certificates

Minimum requirements:

- Hold at least three First Class Passes.
- Proof of marks/certificates must be provided.

AND

- Completing 3 peer-reviewed judging sessions (each worth 25 credits).

This allows members to progress to the practical judging pathway without having to resit assessments. Three or more first-class proficiency certificates are equivalent to completing a full SWIFTS pathway.

Once completed, participants are awarded a SWIFTS Judging Qualification in the relevant subject area.

- Previously held proficiency certificates are included for other subject areas, enabling Multi-Subject Judge Status.

Pricing

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Per full SWIFTS course:

- Members: £95
- Non-members: £130

The price of your course includes tuition & support over the 12 weeks and venue costs.

Part-payment plans will be available.

As this is a new programme in its first year, prices may be reviewed to make sure the offering continues to be the best it can be.

*of pilot attendees felt the course was good value for money

*

100%

Pricing

A limited number of assessment-only are available on SWIFTS courses:

This opportunity is for members who are already skilled in the subject, so would not benefit from the learning pathway, but would like to sit the assessment for personal satisfaction, or to fast track to the Judging stage.

- £20 – One assessment-only at any level, including access to the course handbook to understand learning outcomes & assessment criteria.
- £30 – Two assessment-only at Beginner & Intermediate level, fast-tracking to Advanced. (includes access to course handbooks for both levels)

See page 13 for a scenario in which the assessment-only options may be applied.

Scenario 1: New to SWIFTS and Proficiency Tests

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Margaret has been an SWI member for several years and enjoys baking, but she has never entered an old-style proficiency test or taken part in SWIFTS before. She would like to improve her skills and, one day, become an SWI judge.

Margaret enrolls on the **Beginner Baking SWIFTS** course and successfully completes the assessment. She then progresses to the **Intermediate** and **Advanced** levels, building her knowledge and practical skills as she goes.

Once she has successfully completed all three levels, Margaret moves on to the judging pathway, where she completes **three practical judging sessions** under the guidance of a qualified SWI judge.

After completing these supervised judging sessions, Margaret is awarded **SWI Single-Subject Judge status** in Baking and becomes qualified to judge that subject at SWI competitions.

Outcome: *Margaret has developed her skills from beginner to advanced level and is now a single-subject SWI Judge in Baking.*

Scenario 2: Three or More Old-Style Proficiency Tests

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Janet previously achieved three First Class Passes in the old-style proficiency tests for Knitting, Crochet and Embroidery. She would now like to become an SWI judge.

Because the standard required to achieve an old-style proficiency test is considered equivalent to the **Advanced SWIFTS level**, Janet does **not** need to complete any further skill-based assessments in these subjects.

Instead, she progresses directly to the judging pathway by completing **three supervised practical judging sessions** with a qualified SWI judge. During these sessions, she gains experience judging knitting, crochet and embroidery entries.

Once these practical judging sessions have been successfully completed, Janet becomes an **SWI Multi-Subject Judge** for Knitting, Crochet and Embroidery.

If Janet later decides she would also like to judge **Baking**, she would first need to complete the full SWIFTS pathway in Baking before undertaking supervised judging in that subject.

Outcome: Janet is able to use her existing qualifications to fast-track into judging, recognising the skills she has already achieved while ensuring she gains practical judging experience.

Scenario 3: One or Two Old-Style Proficiency Tests

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Anne has previously achieved a Second Class Pass in the old-style proficiency tests for Knitting. She would like to become an SWI judge.

Although Anne already has valuable experience, she does not meet the current requirement of holding **three or more** old-style proficiency tests at First Class passes to fast-track directly into judging. To bridge this gap, Anne chooses to complete the SWIFTS programme in **Knitting**.

Anne chooses to complete the assessment-only route for the **Beginner and Intermediate** levels, costing **£30** (instead of £95 per level). She completes these two assessments before enrolling on the full **12-week Advanced Knitting course**, which includes both learning and assessment. It is mandatory in this situation that a full Advanced course is complete to show understanding of the subject.

After successfully completing the Advanced level, Anne then undertakes **three supervised practical judging sessions** with a qualified SWI judge. Having completed the required training and judging experience, Anne becomes an **SWI Single-Subject Judge** for Knitting.

Outcome: *Anne is able to build on the skills she already has, complete a SWIFTS pathway, and progress to becoming a qualified SWI judge.*

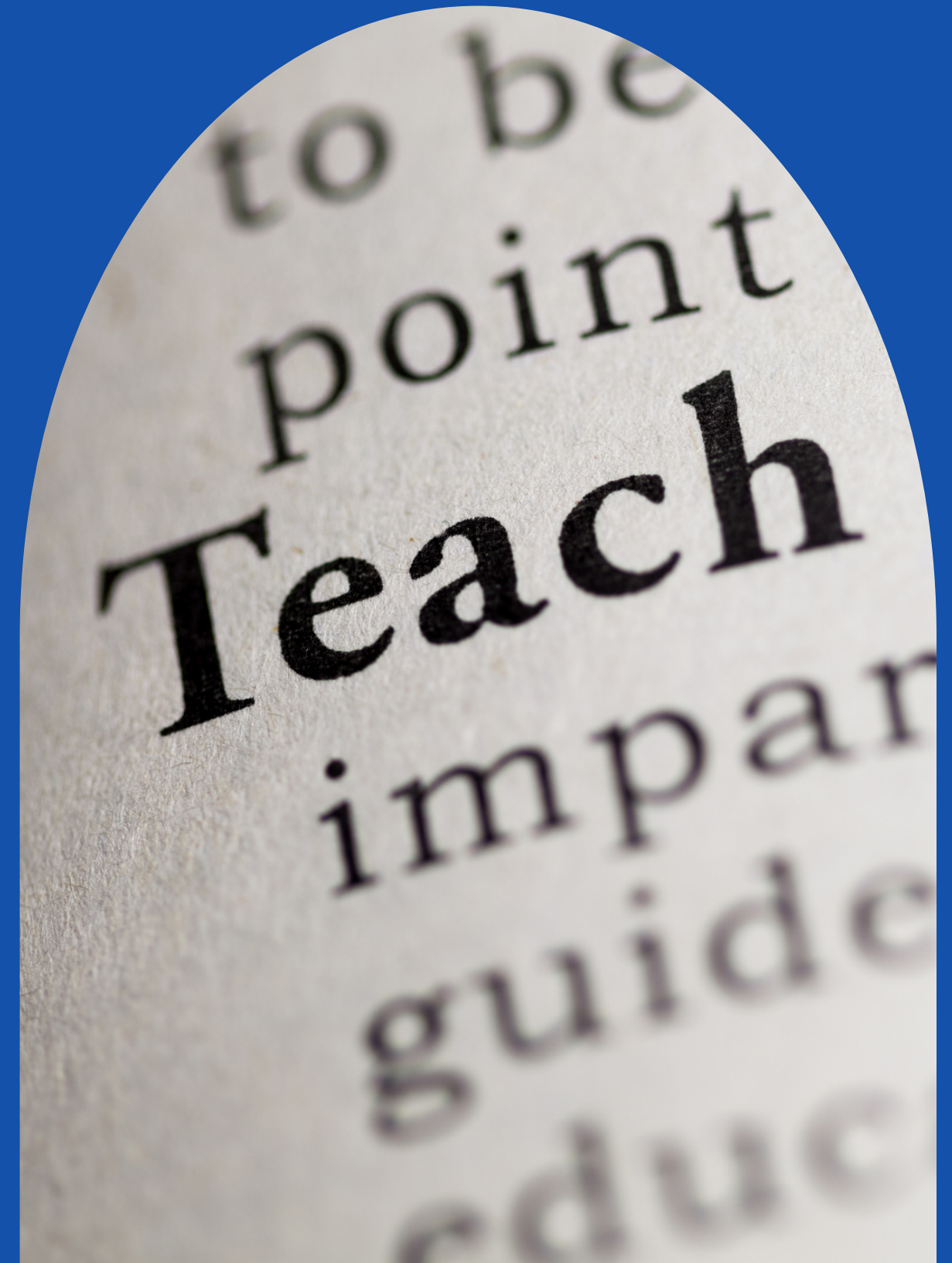
Next Steps

Recruiting Tutors

- We are continuously looking for tutors to deliver courses
- Courses are structured and standardised, with a comprehensive course handbook and assessment guidance
- Tutors = skilled members who want to pass on their craft and share their expertise

Encouraging Members to Participate

- Members can express interest in upcoming courses via the SWI website.
- By participating, members can develop skills, earn SWIFTS credits, and progress toward judging qualifications in their chosen subject area.
- Members are also encouraged to provide feedback after courses, helping us improve the programme and plan future sessions.



“If you know a good thing, pass it on”



Together, we can keep skills alive and thriving.

Stay in the loop:

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www.theswi.org.uk

[@ScottishWomensInstitutes](https://www.instagram.com/ScottishWomensInstitutes)

