

# Interested in becoming a Gym Instructor?

As a gym instructor you will be designing individual gym programmes and encouraging gym users to work out effectively and safely. You will also have the opportunity to improve customers' overall health and fitness levels, raise their confidence and help them train for specific sports or events. Many gym instructors will often progress to become personal trainers.

Find out more about what the job is like



## Working hours

As a full-time gym instructor, you would usually work up to 40 hours per week, often on a shift or rota basis covering early mornings, evenings and weekends. Some instructors also work part-time or on a casual basis. You could work in gyms, health clubs or leisure centres.

## Salary

The average salary for this position will depend on location but starting salaries are usually around £14,000 a year. This can rise to between £15,000 and £20,000.

## Qualifications needed

YMCA awards Level 2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing (Gym-Based Exercise)

To find out more about becoming a gym instructor visit [ymcaawards.co.uk/qualifications](http://ymcaawards.co.uk/qualifications)

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I am a personal trainer and I am my own boss working from home with the focus of my training on fitness, muscular strength and weight management and nutrition. I previously worked in a gym as a gym instructor. I have completed the YMCA Awards Level 2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing – Gym-Based Exercise and the YMCA Awards Level 3 Certificate in Personal Training.

## **Why did you decide to pursue a career in health and fitness?**

I decided to pursue a career in this industry because I had always loved physical activity and wanted to train in what I really loved. Being self-employed was also an attractive concept as I could earn money around my family commitments. I spoke to other fitness professionals and they were very positive about the job saying that you could go in any direction and it can be tailored 100% to your own interests and needs.

## **What skills/qualities do you need to be a gym instructor?**

Most importantly you must be able to listen and ensure you understand your client's goals. You have to ensure you are training your clients in the right way to ensure they get the results they want. You need to care about your work and be considerate to the client's condition. It is important that you take care of your own appearance and fitness, no one wants to be trained by someone less fit than themselves. Finally you need to be driven, organised and up to date with the industry trends.

## **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I work from home so I enjoy the fact that I can run my business around the rest of my life and family commitments. I enjoy people

trusting my opinions and coming to me for professional advice. Also I like people knowing that I am both fit and healthy.

## **What advice would you give to someone looking for a career in the health and fitness industry?**

My advice would be to learn at a college or venue where you will interact with other learners, as you learn from others too. You can bounce off people and learn a lot from their opinion and knowledge so you get a greater education than from just reading a book. Also you get to see how other people organise training sessions and pick up tips; it is also a lot of fun!

## **Would you recommend YMCA Awards qualifications to others?**

I carried out a lot of research to see what would be the best qualification for me. YMCA Awards was the most affordable and was available at Oaklands College where I studied. It is also well recognised and respected throughout the industry.