

EUROPEACTIVE STANDARDS OCCUPATIONAL DESCRIPTORS

REFERENCED TO THE EQF AND USED BY THE EUROPEAN REGISTER OF EXERCISE PROFESSIONALS

For: European Skills Competencies Qualifications Occupations Referencing (ESCO)

Fitness Instructor and Group Fitness Instructor

Definition

The role of a fitness or group fitness instructor is to build fitness participation of new and existing members through fitness experiences that meet their needs. An Instructor delivers fitness instruction to individuals with the use of equipment (Fitness Instructor) or to a group through fitness classes (Group Fitness Instructor). Both types of instructor have the same purpose of promoting and delivering safe and effective exercise but depending on the specific situation, some additional knowledge, skills and competences may be required.

Scope

This occupation is referenced to the European Qualification Framework level 3. A group fitness instructor supervises and instructs more than 1 person at a time.

Essential skills

Maintain the exercise environment	Help to provide a safe, clean and friendly fitness environment
Customer care	Observe clients/members at all times and inform them where necessary about health and safety requirements and emergency procedures and be able to deal with foreseen accidents and emergencies
Customer service	Welcome clients/members, keep records and bookings of their activities, and direct them for further technical assistance or to other appropriate members of staff for guidance and support
Customer objectives	Identify individual motives and resulting short, medium and long term fitness goals
Collect information	Identify client information which is to be collected and advise clients of correct procedures, protocols and risks prior to commencing physical assessment and exercising
Safe instruction	Provide safe and effective fitness instruction
Integrate Exercise Science to the design of the programme	Apply the knowledge of the musculoskeletal system, biomechanical concepts as they relate to movement and exercise, the knowledge of related physiological concepts, the knowledge of the cardio-respiratory system and energy systems, to programme design.
Observe and correct	Observe customers who are exercising and suggest corrections and adaptations as necessary to ensure techniques and procedures (posture, range of motion, control, timing and form) are safe and effective

Adaptation of exercising	Suggest relevant exercise adaptations or options to allow for individual client differences or needs and provide participants with advice on intensity and how to progress their individual performance and results
Offer motivation	Positively interact and motivate clients/members using appropriate strategies in order to promote adherence to exercise.
Promote a healthy lifestyle	Provide information about the role of physical activity, modes of exercise and related services and the importance of healthy activities for daily living to clients
Customer referral	Promote customer referral: invite customers to bring friends and family along and promote their fitness activities in their social environment
Professional conduct	Work within the parameters given at Level 3, recognising the standards and professional limitations that this provides, and ensuring essentials personal skills and knowledge to be a fitness instructor are maintained and updated