

Fitness centre manager

Fitness centre managers need great people skills and business acumen to run a sports club or leisure centre.

In the role of fitness centre manager, you'll generally work in a centre or club that contains a fitness suite or gym, and often some or all of the following: swimming pool/sports halls or courts/spa, sauna or therapy area. You may also be known as a health club manager, leisure club manager, gym manager or sports centre manager.



Skills:

You'll need to show you have:

- an interest in physical fitness and sport
- good interpersonal, time management and organisational skills
- good teamworking skills and the ability to lead and motivate a team
- business acumen, creative thinking and problem-solving
- energy and resilience
- flexibility and multi-tasking skills

Qualifications:

University

You could do a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in: sports and leisure management/leisure studies sports science/recreation management/business management. Entry requirements = 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma/2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree.

College

You could take a college course, which would teach you some of the skills and knowledge you need in this job. Relevant subjects include: leisure management/sport and exercise science/coaching. Entry requirements for these courses vary.

Apprenticeship

You could get into the leisure industry through a Team Leader or Supervisor Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship. This usually takes around 1 year and 6 months to complete. You'll do on-the-job training and spend time with a college or training provider. Once you have completed the apprenticeship, you can take further training on the job to move into trainee duty management positions. Entry requirements = You'll usually need: 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship.

Working hours:

Working hours are typically 40 per week and include regular unsocial hours, with early and late shifts and weekend working. Fitness centre managers may be called in to cover events or staff absences.

Salary:

- New entrants to the profession are likely to start as assistant or trainee managers, on salaries of around £22,000 to £25,000.
- As a fitness centre manager, with experience and having completed further training, you can earn in the region of £25,000 to £35,000.
- With significant experience, working for a large leisure or health club that has a large turnover (e.g. over £2million) you may earn £35,000+.

