

### Wood Sculptor FCC



Wood sculptors carve a variety of products. These are often custom-made products, but from time to time also smaller and larger series. Figures: animals, people, figures for nativity scenes, articles for souvenir shops. Ornaments: coats of arms, reliefs, period furniture, inscriptions; utility articles, as well as decorative and art objects: frames, wooden bowls, sculptures, etc. In addition, they often undertake restoration work on churches and other old carvings.

They usually receive a direct order from the customer, which they carry out themselves from beginning to end. They design the piece, create a model if necessary, obtain the necessary wood and material and produce the work. They produce the rough form with the help of band- or chainsaws. The detailed elaboration is for the most part purely manual work.

Their works range from handicrafts to artistic handicrafts, sometimes even to art.



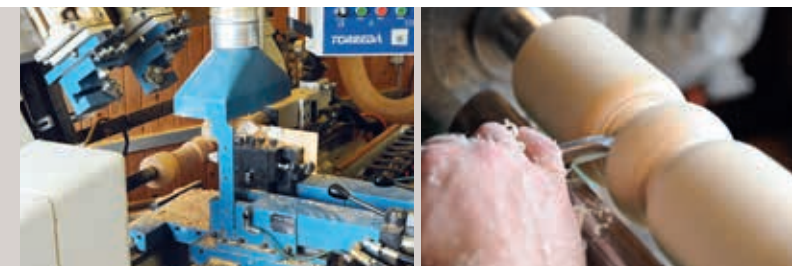
### Woodworker FCC Specialisation Woodturning



The woodturners field of activity is characterised by their manual work with solid wood. Modern, mechanical work and the use of other materials complete the professional field.

Turners know how to refine the material wood to the highest level and to bring it into the right shape. Their speciality are products that stand out with their rounded, curved or curvilinear forms. They work both industrially on automatic machines and manually.

Turners produce turned and milled parts as individual or series products: table and chair legs, rungs for stair railings, columns. They process orders independently, from design to production to sales. They create sketches, technical drawings as well as schedules and material lists, plan production and work processes. Other interior fittings, tool handles, as well as bowls, plates, toys, art objects and many more.



### Woodworker FCC Specialisation White Cooperage



The white-coopers work is characterised by their manual work with solid wood. Modern, mechanical work and the use of other materials complete the professional field.

When making the vessels, white coopers cut the local wood into staves. They join them together to form round or oval dishes. The vessels are bound by wooden hoops, also rarely by metal hoops.

White coopers are engaged in the production of equipment from light colored wood (maple, spruce). They mainly manufacture traditional products for agriculture which are also in demand as gifts: Milk buckets, butter tubs, milking chairs, carrying frames etc. These are often richly carved. Objects for the kitchen and living area are also included.



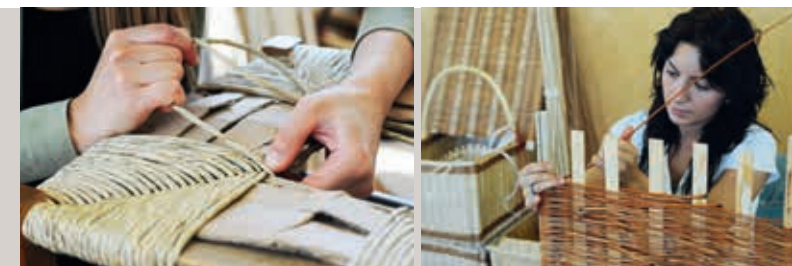
### Basket and Wickerwork Designer FCC



Basket and wickerwork designers weave traditional and contemporary baskets, furnishings for living areas, shop fittings, gastronomy and decorative objects for house and garden, but also construction elements such as privacy screens, fences and pavilions. The orders are either one-off productions or small series. They mainly process willow and rattan, but also other natural materials and semi-finished products. The everyday life of basket and wickerwork designers also includes the repair of wicker goods and chair meshes, as well as the reproduction of baskets according to old models.

Between thousands of years of old craftsmanship and the trends of our time, it is a matter of looking for and finding one's own handwriting as a craftsman or artisan.

Basket and wickerworkers work independently in their own workshops or as workshop manager in a social institute.



### Cooper FCC



Coopers manufacture and repair wooden vessels for agriculture and wine production as well as decorative containers for various purposes.

Machines and equipment are mainly used to process oak wood into vessels. Even today, coopers still produce, above all, large wooden barrels and tubs. In addition to traditional containers, they also produce special products such as outdoor bathtubs (hot tubs), plant tubs, ornamental barrels, wine coolers and bottle cabinets. Coopers are also responsible for the maintenance and

repair of their products. For example, they replace staves or rings. In case of very large wooden barrels, this is done on site.

Coopers acquire knowledge about the pressing and care of wines. They work in cooperies or in wine-pressing and wine trading companies.



Interessengemeinschaft Kunsthandwerk Holz (Wood Artistic Crafts Interest Group / IGKH) is the umbrella organization of professionals of woodcarving, woodturning, basket and wickerwork design, cooperage as well as white cooperage.

It was founded in 2006 by these professional associations in order to jointly reform the vocational training system in accordance with the requirements of the new Vocational Training Law. In the process, the training in these traditional and innovative crafts was transferred to the present day and based on a high standard with federally recognised diplomas.

As an important component for its professions, the IGKH developed a curriculum that respects the autonomy of the professions and at the same time promotes a common educational content. The independently developed qualification procedures also serve other professional associations as a model.

The IGKH represents the interests of the Swiss Confederation and the cantons in the following areas of the member associations as an organisation of the working world. It is responsible for the organisation of the inter-company courses and for continuing education. The vocational school lessons and inter-company courses take place at the School of Wood Sculpture in Brienz, the Competence Center for the IGKH affiliated Professions.

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# A trade with a bright future



Wood Sculptor FCC

Woodworker FCC  
Specialisation Woodturning  
Specialisation White Cooperage

Basket and Wickerwork Designer FCC

Cooper FCC





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**Training workshop for woodcarving**

The School of Wood Sculpture in Brienz is the only institution in Switzerland where the woodcarving craft can be learned. It was founded as the „Schnitzlerschule Brienz“ in 1884. Since 1928 it has been a technical school and training workshop of the Canton of Berne. Today the school offers 24 training places for wood sculptors FCC. It is the backbone of woodcarving in Switzerland and is responsible for basic training, continuing education and for higher vocational education and training.

**Skills Centre for Wood Design Professions**

The vocational school is the only school location in Switzerland for artistic crafts professions in wood sculpture, wood crafts (specialising in turning and white cooperage), basket and wickerwork design and cooperage. In Brienz, apprentices visit four teaching blocks of two weeks each year. During this time they receive vocational and general education. The inter-company courses (ÜK) are also held at the Brienz School of Wood Sculpture.

The students obtain the following Swiss Federal Certificates of Competence (FCC):

- Wood sculptor FCC
- Woodworker FCC Specialisation Woodturning
- Woodworker FCC Specialisation White Cooperage
- Basket and Wickerwork Designer FCC
- Cooper FCC

The violin makers FCC also attend our vocational and general education classes.

**The language of instruction is exclusively German.**

**Schule für Holzbildhauerei**

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