

Training as a carpenter

Interview with Desirée Schmutz, one of our two vocational trainers.

What makes training as a carpenter attractive?

The training as a carpenter with a federal vocational education and training certificate (Eidgenössisches Fähigkeitszeugnis EFZ) is a demanding basic education. It provides successful graduates with good employment and further education prospects.

What does this training at Strasserthun entail?

Our apprentices learn at three different educational locations: the company, the vocational school, and the inter-company training center. This makes the training very diverse and varied. Additionally, the association regularly organizes carpentry competitions, providing our apprentices with the opportunity to showcase their skills.

You mentioned three educational locations – the first being the company. You mean Strasserthun as the training company?

Yes, exactly. Most of the time during the training is spent learning the trade in our carpentry workshop. We are a large company with around 75 employees, including 8 apprentices. We specialize in custom-made products for our customers, ranging from high-quality interior fittings to so-called bespoke products. Various materials such as wood, stone, glass, leather, textiles, and more are used in production. In our carpentry workshop, we have a modern machinery park and utilize various specialized techniques, including laser processing. Our apprentices benefit from a truly cool and exciting platform with a wide range of experiences in an innovative company with a great team.

The second training location is the vocational school – "back to school" might be what some think?

Yes, absolutely. I wasn't the biggest fan of school at the age of our apprentices either, but without education in a classroom setting, a crucial theoretical aspect of the training would be missing. Our aspiring carpenters attend vocational school at the Holzzentrum in Frutigen one day a week, where the subjects naturally differ from those in basic school. The learning, closely linked with practical experience, consists of two main categories: Manufacturing + Assembly ("HM") and Preparation + Planning ("VP"). Both areas require mathematics, so a good understanding of numbers is a must. Also included in the curriculum is general education known as "ABU" (Allgemeinbildender Unterricht).

And the third and final part consists of the inter-company courses – what exactly is done there?

During the inter-company courses, our apprentices learn about the current rules and latest regulations to consider when operating small machinery. In the "ÜK" (überbetrieblicher Kurs), they also learn in smaller groups about important aspects in the company and the working world. Various carpentry techniques are taught in a practical and hands-on manner during these courses.

Second training

Assuming someone wants to pursue a second training as a carpenter, does Strasserthun support this?

For individuals opting for a second training, it's a conscious decision that brings clear added value. We have had the privilege of guiding several individuals through a second training in recent years. In such cases, there is the possibility of completing the carpentry apprenticeship in an accelerated manner. This means that the first and second training years are completed in the same calendar year, with two half-days of vocational school in Frutigen, provided that the initial training has been completed. Subsequently, the third and fourth training years follow, during which interim exams take place in the inter-company courses, and the IPA (Individual Productive Work) is conducted in the company. The training concludes with the final examination for the Swiss Federal Vocational Education and Training Certificate.

«Job shadowing»

And if you want to find out in advance whether the profession of carpenter is right for you?

Then at Strasserthun, we gladly offer the opportunity to 'try it out.' The trial apprenticeship provides a first impression of the world of carpentry in two days. During the two trial days (Mon. to Tue.), the interested individuals go through a station rotation throughout the entire Strasserthun operation (including the showroom and office spaces) and gain a detailed insight into our company. The versatility of the carpentry trade can be learned optimally in this way. The 'interested individuals' do not remain unproductive. Everyone is allowed to test their own craftsmanship and create something themselves. This way, they see the entire production process from A to Z and get to know the diversity of carpentry and the operations of Strasserthun.

Application Process

To apply as an apprentice at Strasserthun, we require the following information or documents:

- Current resume
- Completed application form – the PDF can be found on our website
- Cover letter
- School transcripts for 7th and 8th grades (most recent report card)
- School progress reports for 7th and 8th grades
- Passport-sized photo

Please note: Only applicants who have completed two trial days with us will be considered.

You can send all documents to the following address:

Strasser AG Thun
Désirée Schmutz
Bierigutstrasse 18
3608 Thun

We look forward to receiving your application!