

The apprenticeship to a metalworker

Metalworkers work in the production, maintenance and assembly of metal and steel constructions, metal objects and forged products, of vehicle constructions and conversions as well as in the assembly, start-up, fault finding and maintenance of control systems.

Field Construction:

In the structural engineering specialist area:

- assemble, test, monitor and eliminate faults and malfunctions as well as repair control systems and components and write down the results,
- set up workplaces at building sites,
- produce components as well as assemble and dismantle metal and steel constructions,
- maintain metal and steel constructions,

In the metal design specialist area:

- produce surfaces and bodies by beating,
- handle a forge and select forgeable material,
- produce forged parts by manual and mechanical forging,
- make and repair tools and aids for forging,
- produce components and assemblies to plan as well as own designs and assemble and dismantle utility articles,
- shape surfaces,
- restore components and assemblies,

In the commercial vehicle construction specialist area:

- assemble, test, monitor and adjust, eliminate faults and malfunctions, maintain and repair control systems and write down the results,
- produce bodies, vehicle frames and superstructures, carry out conversion work, install accessories and special attachments as well as test total functioning,
- test and repair bodies, vehicle frames and superstructures,
- test, process and protect surfaces.

Occupational skills

Metalworkers carry out their work independently and as part of a team on the basis of technical documents and work orders, taking into account relevant provisions and safety regulations. They procure information, plan and co-ordinate their work, discuss and agree it with superiors and colleagues as well as with other areas, using German and English technical terms, and document their work. In doing so, they take measures to ensure quality and work safety as well as health and environmental protection.

Metal Workers

- plan and control work processes, monitor, document and evaluate work results,
- apply standards and guidelines for assuring product quality and contribute to the continuous improvement of work processes in the company,
- measure and control mechanical and physical quantities,
- make separable and inseparable connections,
- produce parts and components by various manual and machine manufacturing processes,
- treat and protect surfaces,
- secure loads, transport components and assemblies and use lifting gear,
- dismantle and assemble components and assemblies,

Duration of traineeship

3,5 years

The venues for training are company and part-time vocational school (Berufsschule).

They earn in there training years following money:

1. Training year: 453 €
2. Training year: 495 €
3. Training year: 559 €
4. Training year: 612 €

Future perspectives and further qualifications

The job of a metal worker needs regular further education.

For example new techniques in proceeding, production and control ask for a permanent job-based further education.

After having finished the apprenticeship there's the option of becoming a master forman of metal work or to become a qualified technician. Students that passed the A-level can add studies at university in the field of steel and metal work.

The three fields of a metal worker have to be assessed in a different way. Today the metal worker specialised in metal design is of less importance in industry and also in vehicle construction other jobs have taken over the job as a metal worker.

The best future prospects can be found in the field of structural engineering. New opportunities for metal workers can be found also in the development of solar technology and the introduction of the energy-pass for buildings. Furthermore the work of installation and restoration will increase massively in the future.