

Best Practice cases in VET - Switzerland (Partners: BFH)

Post degree study in business management - Bern University of Applied Sciences, Higher Technical Schools HF Wood Biel

The course is offered by the higher technical schools HF Wood Biel. It is integrated in the Swiss VET system as a post degree study for professionals. It is recognised by the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology OPET. The level of this post degree study is such as a level 5 to 6.

It is offered for Master Craftsman, Technicians with diploma and Professionals with a comparable curriculum. It is mainly for professionals with the necessary qualification from the wood sector, mainly cabinet makers, joiners and carpenters.

The study is extra occupational. It is aimed to technicians having a position in lower to medium management. The aim is to give them management qualification.

The objective is to give the participants theoretical and practical knowledge in the following fields:

- Market and leadership
- Economy and finances
- Strategy and manpower

Learning Outcomes:

The learner will be able to get in a medium or higher management positions or to be an enterprise owner. The lessons are focussed on the 6 key fields described before.

Teaching Methodology: It is based on Class room, Workshop, Field work, Study trips, Group work

Duration: 580 lessons (45 minutes) or 435hours (within one year), 310 lessons are class room lessons
270 lessons are used for workshops and excursions

Assessment methods/Assessment criteria:

The candidates have to pass written tests in each course and final test in form of a case study. Assessment criteria are worked out from the study management and monitored by a group of external experts from industry

Learner/Employer motivation: This post degree study is the only post degree study in management on this level in Switzerland with a close connection to the wood and timber industry

Student retention: Student retention is on a level of ~90%

Funding: Funding is obtainable from some of the professional associations in Switzerland as the www.vssm.ch or <http://www.schweizer-holzbau.ch>

Why this is an example of Good Practice:

Course provider's view: this course gives unique offer for technicians and comparable qualifications.

Participant's view: this post degree study at the only Swiss competence centre for education in the field of wood industry, joiners and carpenters. Beside the management qualification there are very good possibilities for networking

Industry's view: There is a lack of qualified persons on this level, from this point of view the study helps to form qualified managers for this sector

Course Evaluation: In each course the learners can give feedback in form of an anonymous feedback which is interpreted from the teacher and discussed with the study management

Quality Assurance:

There are several activities in quality assurance.

- Teachers expertise exchange groups
- Participants course evaluation

The higher technician Schools are surveyed from the accreditation organisation Aquin.