



Berner Fachhochschule
Haute école spécialisée bernoise
Bern University of Applied Sciences



Das sagen unsere Absolvent*innen Paroles de diplômé-e-s

Interviewsammlung aus dem Book
MSc Wood Technology

Collection of interviews from the book
MSc Wood Technology

Das sagen unsere Absolvent*innen

What our graduates have to say

Was bewegt Menschen dazu, ein Studium an der BFH zu beginnen – und wie verändert es sie? In den folgenden Interviews erzählen unsere Absolvent*innen von ihren ganz persönlichen Wegen: Wie sie auf ihr Studium aufmerksam wurden, welche Erfahrungen sie im Studienalltag gemacht haben und was sie aus dieser prägenden Zeit mitgenommen haben. Ihre Geschichten geben authentische Einblicke, inspirieren zum Nachdenken und machen Mut, den eigenen Bildungsweg mit Neugier und Offenheit zu gestalten. Neugierig geworden? Besuchen Sie eine unserer Infoveranstaltungen und lernen Sie unsere Studiengänge kennen. Wir freuen uns darauf, Sie persönlich zu beraten!

Zu den Infoveranstaltungen



What motivates people to start studying at BFH, and what impact does this experience have on them? In the following interviews, our graduates talk about their personal journeys: how they heard about the study programmes, their experience during their studies and the benefits they derived from this formative time. Their stories provide authentic insights and will encourage other people to reflect and shape their own course of education with an open mind and curiosity.

Would you like to find out more? Visit one of our information events, where you will discover in detail our degree programmes. We look forward to advising you in person.

Our info events



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Victor Paganini Cintra

Why did you choose this programme?

After completing my studies in Civil Engineering and learning the impact of buildings on global greenhouse gas emissions, I made the decision to contribute to a more sustainable construction sector. Here, designing with timber showed up as a promising way to make a real impact in this field. Since I was already acquainted with structural engineering from my studies, the Master of Science in Wood Technology with a focus on Complex Timber Structures was the perfect fit.

What did you like best?

This programme is extremely hands-on. The lectures were primarily given from a practice-oriented perspective, which encouraged me to seek solutions that were both impactful and realistic, taking into account the current market constraints. In addition, studying with people from all over the world really inspired me to learn about new cultures and languages, which helped me integrate in Switzerland.

How was your daily schedule during your studies?

The flexibility of studying part-time allowed me to explore new hobbies and join a trainee programme at a well-known timber construction company in the country. I would spend half of the week at the office and the other half at BFH. Next to classes and work, I used my free time to try different sports, attend city events and socialise with my classmates. I also used this period to improve my language skills, dedicating myself to learning German and French.

Did you work during your studies? (during the semester/holidays)

Throughout my studies, I had the opportunity to work three days a week at Renggli AG. My work and my studies complemented each other in a natural and efficient way. In the classroom, I was able to share insights gained from real-world projects, which helped me integrate even more and develop a practice-oriented mindset. Furthermore, I would bring

ideas and solutions discussed at BFH to the office, which helped strengthen the partnership between Renggli AG and the institution.

What were the major challenges during your studies?

Coming straight from my undergraduate studies in Civil Engineering had its pros and cons. While I was already used to the student routine and capable of handling intensive study sessions, I lacked real-world industry experience. However, due to the programme's strong focus on solutions from a practical perspective, I was able to quickly develop a professional mindset.

What are your career plans after graduation? What is your current occupation?

After my studies at BFH, I plan to work on other timber projects across Switzerland and in Europe. My goal is to drive post-and-beam timber projects to market and help establish timber as a primary building material. My main objective is to make timber a competitive building material and to expand its applicability in the Swiss construction sector. I am currently working as a project engineer at Renggli AG.

How could you leverage what you have learnt during the programme?

During my studies, I was consistently encouraged never to settle for the first solution, but rather to evaluate and come up with alternatives. Engineering solutions were iteratively tested and compared, requiring an organised and practice-oriented thinking process. Now, in my own projects, I tend to take the same approach, reflecting on different versions of connectors, assemblies and production methods. As a result, I now have much more confidence in the solutions' feasibility.

What are your recommendations for future students?

Make the most of the many experiences offered by the programme. Don't be afraid to start discussions involving innovative ideas, or simply to admit when you feel lost. Beyond the classes, the programme provides a supportive network that helps you navigate many career and life challenges. Finally, never forget to enjoy the journey! Learn new languages, eat plenty of raclette, go hiking and definitely take a dip in the lake of Biel!

Interviews mit Studierenden

Interviews with students



Johannes Crux

Why did you choose this study programme?

After my Bachelor in Rosenheim and six years of working in the R&D, I decided that I would like to develop sustainable building material. This master programme gave me an ideal opportunity to learn exactly what I aimed for. A big advantage for my decision to go to Biel was the very close exchange of material development and wood construction, which is both taught within the Master Programme in different specialisations. Furthermore, the intercultural exchange really appealed to me, it is so interesting to be in an exchange with students from all over the world and learn how the wood sector looks like in other countries. The part-time studies gave me a good opportunity to work on the side.

What did you like best?

The intercultural exchange during studies and leisure time. It is so exciting to meet friends with a totally different background but a similar passion. Study wise, a major part of the programme is group work with direct relations to industries. So we were able to learn the theoretical background during lectures and directly apply this knowledge by working on real-case industry challenges.

How was your daily schedule during your studies?

I worked 50% alongside my studies (2.5 days).

The master's programme consisted of two full days of attendance, which were mainly used for lectures, but it was also possible to sometimes do group work during that time. Apart from that, I spent 0.5 to 2 days a week studying and working in groups. This extra study time depended on the workload, the time left before the next exams and the weather. The studies were so varied that I cannot give a specific daily schedule.

Did you work during your studies? (during the semester / holidays)

Yes, I worked 50% as a research assistant at BFH, which is very common for master students. I got employed in a project that matched very well with my professional objective to develop sustainable building materials.

What were the major challenges you faced during your studies?

The group work in a team is very fulfilling when it works out well. It can be challenging when team members have very low motivation for group work or studies in general. The rest of the team suffers as a result.

What is your career plan after graduation? What is your current occupation?

My long-term career goals are to invent and develop a new product and start my own company or be in a leading position

in R&D for sustainable building materials. Currently, I am employed as a scientific researcher at BFH, working on the project that I started alongside my master's studies.

How could you leverage what you have learnt on the programme?

For me, one of the biggest learnings was to see the field of sustainability from a completely different and more realistic perspective. Sustainability and ecological approaches surround us everywhere and are highly emotional themes. In subjects such as ecodesign, I was able to learn to strengthen my scientific perspective.

What are your recommendations for future students?

If the description of the master's programme sounds interesting to you, go for it, it's a unique experience! For me, one of the greatest experiences was the intercultural exchange, not only during the studies, but also after or on the weekends. It is nice to explore Switzerland together, to visit its cities, to go hiking, skiing or just to have a beer or a swim in the lake after studying. In my opinion, this intercultural exchange works better when you live in Biel than when you are a commuter.



Joel Karolin, MSc Wood Technology

Why did you choose this degree programme?

Throughout my civil engineering studies at ETH Zurich, my exposure to wood was very limited. However, during the final year of my bachelor's degree, I had the opportunity to volunteer with a smart response organisation abroad. We were involved in the restoration of roofs and schools in the Caribbean after the devastating hurricanes of 2017. The reconstruction work involved woodworking, and I developed a fascination for this versatile material. My interest in wood led me to delve deeper into its physical properties and the latest technological advancements in this field.

What makes the Master of Science in Wood Technology so unique?

The BFH degree programme inspires a diverse group of international students to come together and to work collaboratively and exceed expectations. By sharing their unique perspectives and backgrounds, exceptional group work and case studies can be created. BFH also connects the studies and practical work, allowing students to learn directly from leading wood engineering companies and experts.

What was your daily schedule like? What was the best part of your studies?

Two days a week were dedicated to classes, where I got to learn from experts in the classroom and conduct experiments in the labs. The remaining three days were dedicated to work. During the evenings and weekends, I devoted a lot of time to training and collaborating with colleagues on exciting projects and case studies. I appreciated the diversity and the flexibility of the curriculum, which allowed me to include sports and leisure activities into my daily schedule.

Did you work during your studies?

As a dedicated student, I pursued a Master's degree in Wood Technology while working part-time in the management team of an educational institute. Along the way, I also served as a research assistant at BFH, exploring various fields. My interest in numerical simulations, including CFD, led me to specialise in this exciting area. I included it in my work at BFH as well as in my master's thesis.

What are your plans after graduation?

Upon completion of my master's degree

programme, I had the privilege of joining a team of exceptional engineers and entrepreneurs who shared a common vision: to design the cycle lanes of the future. Our goal is to revolutionise traffic management and enhance the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in urban areas. This opportunity has allowed me to merge my professional expertise with my passion for cycling, and I am genuinely motivated by the work we are doing. I am excited to pour my heart and soul into this project and make a significant impact on the world.

What is your advice for prospective students?

If you are seeking to remain up to date with the newest developments in the wooden building industries and aspire to apply the knowledge you gain in the classroom directly to your work, then this master's degree programme is an excellent opportunity for you. Your level of effort will determine the outcome of your studies, so if you have high aspirations and a thirst for knowledge, this programme is exactly what you are looking for.

Interviews mit Studierenden

Interviews with students



Daniel Dinizo, MSc Wood Technology

Why did you decide to study this programme?

My family has a long tradition of working with wood, so it was natural for me to orient myself in this field. After working in the industry for a few years, I realised that to truly understand and unlock the full potential of wood as a material, I needed to deepen my knowledge and skills. This motivated me to become a student again. Joining this program felt like a calling, as it allowed me to not only follow in my family's legacy of working with wood, but also to discover my roots and develop a true passion for sustainable materials.

What makes the Master Wood Technology unique?

Our program brings together a diverse group of international students, which

creates a vibrant and dynamic environment both in and outside the classroom. As a leading institute for wood technology, BFH emphasises sustainable practices and has allowed me to specialise in innovation management. The program also offers opportunities for students to work part-time as research assistants, which ensures hands-on experience and the opportunity to visualise the latest developments in the field.

You founded the start-up NaturLoop during your time at BFH. What is the business idea behind it?

Together with a former student, I was offered the opportunity to transform a research project into a spin-off company. This led to an exciting journey! At NaturLoop, we apply principles and

methodologies of the wood sector to develop wood-like materials from underutilised resources. Our first product, Cocoboard, converts coconut husks and a natural adhesive into a fiberboard suited for furniture and interior architecture.

What knowledge and skills from the master's programme help you in your everyday work at NaturLoop?

The program has given me an overview of the entire wood industry and has allowed me to dive deep into a few topics that I am most interested in. This inspired me to focus my thesis on measuring the environmental performance of our product. The whole journey of founding and developing NaturLoop has felt synchronistic, and it has been incredibly rewarding to apply what I have learned in the master's programme to my everyday work.

In what ways did BFH support you in starting and developing your business?

BFH has provided us with invaluable support. The infrastructure and equipment have allowed us to efficiently test and improve our product, while the quality office space and collaboration opportunities with external colleagues provided a productive work environment. We have also been fortunate to be part of the BFH network, which has facilitated valuable connections with partners and customers. By having these resources provided, our team has been able to stay focused on our primary goal of developing a high-quality, environmentally friendly product.

What is on your agenda after graduation?

After graduating, I am most excited to dedicate all of my focus to NaturLoop and help it thrive. We are close to launching Cocoboard on the European market and I am confident that if we succeed in this next step, the door to creating a sustainable impact will be unlocked.

Interviews mit Studierenden

Interviews with students



Tomaz Scheliga, MSc Wood Technology

Why did you decide to study this programme?

In the beginning, I was intrigued by the possibility of building anything else than small wooden houses. How could it be done? I was hooked from then on. Everything about this material is enticing: aesthetically, mechanically, in terms of innovation and sustainability. You have to be insane not to appreciate the huge potential in this field.

What makes the Master Wood Technology unique?

The possibility to work on real-world case studies by the people who made it possible! State of the art education from the best in the business.

How was your daily schedule during your studies? What did you like best?

My first semester was intense. Me and a friend were basically thrown in a foreign country with which we had absolutely no ties. In our solitude, we saw a great opportunity to help one another. We would regularly go to the University even during weekends to study. Of course, we also

made use of the infrastructure there to enhance the learning experience. For me, personally, the best about the program was to meet and befriend great personalities from all over the world with whom I proudly share strong friendships.

Did you work during your studies?

After my fourth semester, I worked for 6 months in my professor's company, Design-to-Production, in Zurich. Truly a life-changing experience! It also inspired me to write my master's thesis on the topic of freeform timber structures. Fascinating!

What is your career plan after graduation? What is your current occupation? How could you leverage what you have learnt during the programme?

Thankfully, it was rather easy to find work after finishing my studies. I moved to Munich at the end of April to work in an engineering office specialised in timber construction. Actually, they are pioneers in Germany in terms of timber engineering. Such a privilege!

What are your recommendations for future students?

To learn at least one of the languages spoken in this country would be a start. German has been a great challenge, but it is also very rewarding. That is why I was given the opportunity to work in Munich. It would not have been possible otherwise.

Also, to give yourself the chance to explore the enormous variety of subfields involved in the main subject, not to limit yourself to the input given by the lecturers. That is, after all, the only way to learn. Be very curious and respect the time needed to learn.

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