

## Crafts, professions of excellence

### Blacksmith

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Workshop: **L'Artigiano, Ascoli Satriano**



The first traces of the ancient and fascinating blacksmith craft date back to the Neolithic era (600 BC), in fact, during those years, the first artisans, thanks to the use of ovens, learned first to melt and then to forge metals, making tools useful to facilitate and speed up people's daily and domestic chores.

In the years to come, the ability to model metal, through forging, made the figure of the blacksmith one of those professional categories (Equal to doctors and astrologers) in need of divine help, thanks to which they were able to perform their duties in the best possible way. , denoting a direct and mystical relationship with the Gods to this ancient craft.

Greek mythology, with Hephaestus, God of fire and the underworld, also feared by Zeus, father of the gods, gave the figure of the blacksmith and his art a magical aura that has accompanied him up to our times.

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### ***What are the skills and expertise of professionals in this profession?***



The blacksmith knows how to work iron, creating metal structures, with the use of tubulars and sheets, starting from simple metal bars or sheet metal, in order to create finished products, ready for sale.

Using various metals, blacksmith knows how to create: Gates, Driveways and Sliding; Metal frames / doors; Metal stairs, with a square base, and spiral; Railings, Barriers for Fences; Security Grates, Openable and Fixed; Gazebo and Dehor; Design furniture; Restoration of historical metal artifacts; Welds.

### ***Some materials used in this craft?***

The blacksmith is a craftsman who specialized in metalworking: iron, steel, bronze, aluminium, brass, and copper. He uses tools such as electronic welders, an anvil and a hammer.

### ***What markets are related to this profession?***

Interior design market architecture and art. Both individuals and the public turn directly to the craftsman to create their works. For interior design and architecture and arts, these will be collaborations related to the creation of objects used in living and/or office spaces or personal ornamental objects.



### ***Where to learn the profession.***

At one time, almost all the blacksmiths in Italy learned their trade simply by facing a period of coaching with an already-established professional. In all respects, this coaching was an exchange between the two parties: those who learned the trade received the advice and experience necessary to start working on their own, while those who were assisted received the help of an assistant. Of course, this method did not allow for professional training. Today there are training courses organised by competent bodies. There are several professional training courses for anyone who intends to undertake the blacksmith profession; depending on the organizing body, different topics are dealt with, and skills are acquired at different levels. Some of these courses, for example, provide a basic preparation, ideal for those who are thinking of approaching the profession of assistant and also for those who intend to try to start their own business and make their way without an apprenticeship period; other courses, on the other hand, allow those who already possess the basic knowledge to go further and acquire new ones, improving their skills and specializing in new techniques and new technologies that need to be known if this work is carried out.



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