



# Pottery maker

## Description

Making pottery is one of the oldest crafts. Magnificent products are created by potter's hands. Pottery makers design and make clay and ceramic products. They include vases, mugs/cups, jugs, plates or lamps, but also art objects, sculptures or works exhibited in a public space. Whether individual objects or small series, they create their products by using their own templates or according to customers' orders. Pottery makers make sketches, models or drawings and creates samples, then select a real material and define the shaping procedure for the start of production. They design and sketch models in a traditional way- by hand, or sometimes on a computer. Once the design is placed, they make objects using various shaping and development processes such as: modelling, casting, turning or firing. For decoration of surfaces they use brush painting, paint guns and other techniques.

In addition to creative tasks, one of the essential parts is the workshop organization and management, i.e. administrative work, stock and raw material management, as well as marketing and sale of own products. Pottery makers often run their own production. In order to make the ordered items, it is important that pottery maker discuss all the details and ideas with a customer and to calculate the price. For that reason, good communication, attentiveness and operational ability are crucial.

## Desirable traits/requirements

- Endurance and patience;
- Creativity and sense of shape, colour and form;
- Good perception, an eye for detail;
- Competence;
- Accuracy and responsibility;
- Communication skills and politeness;
- Flexibility.

## Positive aspects:

- Pottery is a combination of craft and art. The pottery maker's job includes creativity, "artistic eye" and "skilful hands". The working tasks may involve design, administrative activities, marketing and sale of products.

## Negative aspects:

- The pottery maker's job includes endurance and hard work. The major part of activities is performed in the seated position. It is difficult to plan a workload as many things depend on sale and customers' orders.

## Career path/ fields of work

The pottery maker's job requires completion of a four-year secondary vocational education. There are trainings and courses for upgrading knowledge and acquisition of additional competences.

Pottery makers mainly work in their art studios or are employed with potter's shops.