Wood Centre Member Application Form

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of community at the Sylva Wood Centre. Applications are welcomed from people who work with wood and who are interested in our dedicated commercial units, incubation spaces, and Start-Up facilities. Users are referred to as 'Members' of the Sylva Wood Centre community. All applications will be assessed by a panel led by Sylva Foundation and applicants will be notified within two weeks of any advertised deadline if they have been shortlisted.

Your application should demonstrate:

1. understanding and appreciation of the Sylva Foundation's aims at the Sylva Wood Centre
2. active commitment and use of home-grown timber in your working practice
3. positive approach to sustainability in your working practice
4. knowledge of your craft, materials, and processes
5. awareness of your craft and its place in the sector
6. appreciation of how the Sylva Wood Centre can support the development of your practice
7. articulation of how you can support the vision of the Sylva Wood Centre
8. ability and willingness to contribute to the community at the Sylva Wood Centre

How we will assess your application:

- your commitment to the ethos and vision of the Sylva Wood Centre
- quality of your work and craft
- professional approach
- entrepreneurial business approach
- presentation of submitted work via provided images
- collaborations and connections in the sector
- how you believe securing a place at the Sylva Wood Centre would benefit you

Sylva Foundation welcomes applications from any person among groups that are under-represented in the wood industry, for example candidates who identify as female or non-binary, or who are from any ethnic minority. Whilst the charity will not positively discriminate, 'positive action' will be used in any tie-break situation, where there
are two equally qualified and suitable candidates for membership. In this
way, when choosing between two people who are both suitable for membership,
positive action will be used to select the person from a legally-protected
characteristic group with a view to diversifying our business community.

Regardless, all applicants will be rigorously assessed and scored objectively against their experience and qualifications.

In addition, if you are an alumnus of our Wood School or an existing member of the Sylva Wood Centre community, we will consider the length of time you have been with us and the spaces used by you during that period. Any existing relationship will count in your favour as the charity seeks to support the progression of business users. However, if there have been negative issues experienced during your time with us, such as late payment of rent or lapses in health and safety, then obviously these will not count in your favour.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

Your Details

2. Full Name *

3. Mobile *

4. Landline

5. Company or Trading Name *

6. Website

7. Instagram

8. Other social media

If you are unable to provide links to view your work please email images to wood@sylva.org.uk

Main Application

9. Personal Statement *

Please introduce yourself and provide a clear and informative summary of your practice. Explain how you intend to use the space at the Sylva Wood Centre. (about 200 words)

10. Education & Training *

Please list any qualifications and/or training you have undertaken that has helped to establish and develop your practice. Please include dates and name of university/college/course. Describe any relevant work experience. (about 200 words)

11. About Your Business *

Please summarise your business activities. In your answer, please also address the following: When was the business established? Is it a partnership, limited company, or are you a sole trader? Do you have any employees? (about 200 words)

12. What are your plans and goals for the next three years? *

How will you develop and grow your business / practice? For example – product development, exhibitions, commissions, new markets etc. (about 200 words)

13. How will Sylva Foundation support the development of your practice and how can you contribute to the work of the community? *

Please outline how joining the Sylva Wood Centre will make a difference to you and your practice. How do you think you will be able to contribute to the development of our community? (about 200 words)

14. How does your practice address sustainability and aspects of the circular economy? *

Sylva Foundation is passionate about home-grown timber, and expects businesses at the Wood Centre to be supporting sustainability by sourcing home-grown timber where possible (GIB), and at a minimum to source materials under FSC and/or PEFC standards. A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. Please explain how your business addresses sustainability. In addition, how might Sylva Foundation support the development of your sustainability practice? (about 200 words)

15. Do you belong to any other networks, trade bodies, professional associations or organisations? *

If so, please provide details below. (about 200 words)

16. Please add any additional information that you feel supports your application.
(about 200 words)

17. How did you first hear about the Sylva Wood Centre?

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