

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PFG0062 International forest operations: understanding the reasons for the variety, 4.5 credits

Syllabus approved

2018-03-06

Subjects

Forest Management

Education cycle

Third cycle

Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

Language

English

Prior knowledge

The course is specifically aimed at PhD students within the field of forest management, forest operations and related subjects. Students are expected to have good knowledge of forest operations within a specific country or region. Good knowledge in English is vital to be able to follow the course.

Admitted as PhD or Licentiate student.

Objective, including learning outcomes

The course aims to contribute to the students' understanding of the reasons to why international forest operations vary around the globe. The course also aims to improve students' skills in problematizing how and why forest operations issues are addressed differently under specific contexts. By this, the students will train to collect, analyze and compile scientific information.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify and describe general international forest operations issues,
- collect and compile information on specified forest operations issues in specified regions,
- describe and discuss how selected forest operations issues are handled in specified regions, as well as the reasons for the occurring similarities and differences between the specified regions.

Content

Forest operations practices vary greatly around the world. Current practices adapt to complex, locally variable conditions in, for example, geo-physical conditions (terrain), management regimes, tree properties, climate, ownership structure, industrial infrastructures, labor availability and capacity, and societal rules for acceptable practices. This course aims at highlighting this variety, and providing the students with the capability to understand the reasons for the variety. The course aims to progress from theoretical definitions of forest operations issues to practical examples from different global regions.

The bearing components of the course are an individual assignment, and an international excursion. The assignment will be to identify, problematize, compare and discuss a delimited aspect (of the student's choice) of how forest operations are performed internationally. The international excursion will provide hands-on and on-site input and experience to the assignment work.

The course starts with a self-study period of course literature, formulation of topic for the individual assignment, collection of assignment relevant literature and preparation for the international excursion. The course literature is discussed in a literature seminar during the international excursion. The scope and plan for the individual assignments are presented and discussed during a separate seminar during the international excursion.

Aside from the seminars, the international excursions will consist of visits with forest operations organizations (industry and/or research) in order to providing information for the individual assignments. Being the course's group activity and requiring that students are together during a long consecutive period of time, it

will also provide plenty of possibilities to discuss and exchange ideas with fellow students and teachers.

After the excursion, the literature and information from the excursions are compiled into an individually written report which is examined.

Requirements for examination

Examination is performed through active participation and attendance, and by producing individual assignments.

Attendance in the international excursion and seminars are mandatory.

Additional information

The course is given on half time study pace (50%) during six weeks, but the pace varies during the course. Time wise, the general structure of the course contains three parts:

1. ca 12.5 days of self-study and assignment work with 40% study pace (i.e. 5 course days)
2. ca 5 days of international excursions and assignment work (100% study pace)
3. ca 12.5 days of assignment work with 40% study pace (i.e. 5 course days)

It should be noted that the exact distribution and duration of the course parts might vary, depending on where the international excursions will be held.

The course might be cancelled if there are not more than 5 SLU students who have applied and is accepted to the course.

The students are expected to cover their own expenses related to the international excursions (e.g. travels, housing and food).

For more information, see (web link to be inserted)

The right to take part in teaching and/or supervision only applies to the course date to which the student has been admitted and registered on.

If there are special reasons, the student may take part in course components that require compulsory attendance at a later date. For more information on this, please refer to the regulations for education at Bachelor's and Master's level.

Responsible department

Department of Forest Biomaterials and Technology