



World Forest Institute



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This WFI program brings young forestry and forest products professionals from around the world to work at the World Forest Institute for 6 to 12 months. Fellows are commonly sponsored by their employer, government institutions, the forest industry, or an NGO, and work on research projects of interest to their sponsors. Over 70 Fellows from 22 countries have participated in the WFI Fellowship Program.

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The World Forest Institute was created through the vision and support of Harry A. Merlo, a pioneer of the forest products industry, and an early visionary of the globalization of the forestry sector. Through the Merlo Foundation, Mr. Merlo continues to champion young people through programs that offer them new skills and opportunities in a rapidly changing world. Mr. Merlo remains an active director of the World Forestry Center Board, and a frequent host to WFI Fellows.

EnqŽRonmnrq Ž

The Fellowship Program provides an excellent opportunity for sponsoring organizations to train employees overseas in practical applications that focus on networking, data gathering and professional exchanges. It is also an excellent way to demonstrate their commitment to young professionals in forestry.

EnqŽEdkknv rŽ

The Fellowship Program offers participants many opportunities such as:

- ~ Conducting practical studies in the Pacific Northwest related to forestry
- ~ Meeting with many different forestry organizations and corporations
- ~ Improving English language skills
- ~ Promoting the dissemination and exchange of information regarding global forest resources and their utilization
- ~ Building a network of forestry contacts

Fellows leave the program with a solid understanding of how the US forestry sector operates and who the key players are. Additionally, Fellows gain invaluable cultural experience and English language skills.



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CONDUCTING A PROJECT Fellows arrive with a major research/work proposal developed





GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Projects submitted to WFI must meet the following requirements:

- ~ The project should take advantage of being located in the Pacific Northwest. Elements of the project must involve collaboration with PNW forest industry, local organizations, researchers, or communities, etc.
- ~ The project should include elements from both the Fellows home country and the US. For example, the project could make a comparison/contrast case study from examples in both countries.
- ~ The project must be able to be completed within the time frame that the Fellow will be here. WFI does not fund work that occurs in locations other than at our center.
- ~ WFI does not fund field trials as we do not have laboratory facilities available at our location. Most Fellows conduct projects that involve collecting qualitative data and involve surveys, interviews, literature review, shadowing, conferences, and networking. The emphasis should be on practical applications.
- ~ The project must have a tangible outcome, such as a report, manual, poster session, or an event (conference).

PROGRAM COSTS

For a full year fellowship (12 months) the Program Cost is \$20,000 USD. The following apply:

- ~ The Program Cost is prorated for shorter Fellowships (for example, a six-month Fellowship costs \$10,000).
- ~ The Fellowship Program Cost is used to pay Fellows' salaries, provide work space, and cover other program related costs (travel, support staff, etc).
- ~ 50% of this cost is paid by the

VISA REQUIREMENTS

WFI Fellows come to the US under a J-1 Trainee visa. It is necessary to use the services of a visa company to obtain this type of visa.

For more information, contact the WFI staff at WFI@WFI.org.

WFI staff will assist you in the application process. There is a cost for the visa. WFI's matching grant from the Harry Merlo Foundation can pay for 50% of the program fee. WFI cannot pay any money towards the SEVIS fee, dependent fees, extension fees or travel. WFI cannot provide full scholarships.



How is a Fellow's time spent?

% TIME	ACTIVITY
54%	Architectural design and construction
14%	Research and development
32%	Operations and maintenance

“The Fellow's time is spent on architectural design and construction, research and development, and operations and maintenance.”

1, OSQ@HMDDŽUHR@ŽB@SDF NOX

WFI Fellows come to the United States under a J-1 Trainee Visa. Obtaining the visa requires both WFI and the Fellow to submit applications and fees. The J-1 Trainee Visa is a temporary 6-12 month visa. It is not a work visa. It is intended to provide trainees with a practical learning experience and skills which will be applied when the fellow returns home.

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Fellows receive a monthly stipend of US \$1,000 after tax withholdings. The Fellowship salary is sufficient to cover basic living expenses such as rent and food. Not all expenses are covered, such as air travel, optional car purchase and insurance. Fellows are encouraged to obtain supplementary funding to cover these additional costs. Visa and health insurance fees are extra and currently exceed \$1500 (50% is paid by the Harry Merlo Foundation).

Fellows receive:

- ~ An all-zone public transportation permit
- ~ Work area with computer, private phone line, and high speed internet access
- ~ Flexible schedule with vacation and sick days
- ~ Support from two full-time staff, the WFI Director and Fellowship Program Manager
- ~ Personal orientation to Portland, including assistance with housing arrangements



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The WFI Fellowship Program has enjoyed sponsorships from a variety of organizations, including corporations, government agencies, research institutions, industry associations, and universities. Sponsoring organizations do not need to be forestry-related. The Fellowship Program is flexible and many diverse institutions can participate in this unique international forestry program.

Here are a few examples of how sponsors can participate in the program:

1. Sponsors may send a current employee to participate as a Fellow.
2. If a sponsor cannot find a suitable employee to send, a local university, non-profit organization, or research agency can send someone in the sponsor's name. The sponsor or WFI can conduct the search for an appropriate Fellow.
- 3.

Battistella Com. e. Ind. Ltda.

Blount Inc.

Chinese Academy
of Forestry

Development Fund
for the Norwegian Forestry Sector

Eagon Industrial Co., Ltd.

Forest and Wood Products Research
and Development Corporation

Fujian Department
of Forestry

G. Siempelkamp GmbH

Gottstein Trust

Harry A. Merlo Foundation

Infor, Chilean Institute
of Forestry

Jaakko Pöyry London

Nichimen Corporation

Oregon Community Foundation

Rimbunan Hijau Sdn. Bhd.

Shelk Foundation

Star Shipping

Sumitomo Forestry Co. Ltd.

Taiwan Forestry
Research Institute

Taiwan Forestry Bureau

Tropical Forest Trust

U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Forest Service

Universidad de Uruguay

VicForests



@KT L M ĤSDRSHL N M ĤDR

“A different understanding of world cultures and a better knowledge about American forestry business have assisted me in marketing our products world wide.”

A B , B
B C . I . L .

“From WFI, my benefit was not only in working experience, but also in changing personal vision. Those are and will be lasting in my lifetime.”

G . y , C
F D Ĥ F y

“My time as a WFI fellow gave me exposure to many interesting developments in the global forest industry and has led to further valuable opportunities in my career.”

B F , A
C , F y

“WFC afforded me not only great experience but also spiritual nourishment.”

K K y , J Ĥ
F y C . L .

“The opportunity of being part of the WFI team positively changed the course of my life. I learned many things that opened the door to become what I am today.”

, M
C .

“There is an old Chinese saying that one can learn more from traveling a thousand miles than reading ten thousand books. Thanks to WFI for giving me such a good opportunity to learn from so many forestry-related agencies in the US Pacific Northwest.”

-C C ,
F y I

