



Escuela Técnica Superior
de Ingenierías Agrarias **Palencia**

FOREST INTERNATIONAL SEMESTER PROGRAM

This Program offers a full spring semester (30 ECTS) taught in English at the **School of Agricultural Engineering** (Campus of Palencia University of Valladolid, Spain). It allows foreign exchange students to study **Forestry and Natural Environment** with emphasis on Mediterranean forests.

The courses included in this program will be available to any visiting student, even if they are not registered for the whole international semester.

Proposed structure:

- 12 ECTS corresponding to four courses:
 - FORESTRY AND BIODIVERSITY (3 ECTS)
 - FORESTRY AND GLOBAL CHANGE (3 ECTS)
 - GEOBOTANY/ECOPHYSIOLOGY OF FOREST BIOMES (3 ECTS)
 - FOREST PRACTICUM (3 ECTS)
- 6 ECTS corresponding to a Spanish course offered by the Language Centre of the University of Valladolid.
- 12 ECTS corresponding to the student's final project

FORESTRY AND BIODIVERSITY

The first part of the course focuses on basic strategies in forest management and biodiversity conservation. Special case studies of operational silviculture linked to species or habitat conservation are analyzed and assessed. The second part of the course is focused on the assessment of silvicultural prescriptions to be implemented in different forests and stands.

FORESTRY AND GLOBAL CHANGE

After a brief consideration about the impact of climate change on forests, strategies for forest adaptation to climate change will be described, the role of silviculture on climate change mitigation and adaptation will be analyzed and the adaptive management strategy as a tool to adapt forestry to climate change will be introduced. A project of mitigation through a forestry project will be developed by students.

GEOBOTANY/ECOPHYSIOLOGY OF FOREST BIOMES

This course explores the biogeography and ecology of the world's main forest biomes. It provides an introduction to the earth's biological history and development of regional floras. Topics covered in this course include the distribution patterns of forest biomes, from the poles to the tropics, their ecological adaptations to climate and soil, vegetation dynamics and response to disturbance. Land use and global environmental change will be also taken in account. The scope is global, with secondary emphasis on Mediterranean ecosystems.

FOREST PRACTICUM

The course is considered a real integration of practical knowledge from several subjects applied to a real case study. During the Practicum a forest is assessed in terms of edaphology, botany, ecology, silviculture, wildfire prevention, soil conservation and wildlife. The course takes place in the forests of the Cantabrian Range.