Profile
The Center of Forestry Weihenstephan – Europe’s unique forest competence center with three independent partners: the School of Forest Science and Resource Management of the Technische Universität München, the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, and the Bavarian State Institute of Forestry which is part of the Bavarian Forestry Administration.

By pooling their individual competences and resources in one place the Center covers all forest and timber related disciplines and topics.

It combines basic research to understand how forest ecosystems function, applied research for their sustainable use and protection of their functions, future-oriented academic and in-service education, and comprehensive consultancy for the entire forest sector.

Acting as interface between science and practice the Center serves foresters, forest owners, forest industry, politics and society as central contact in all forest and timber related questions and enquiries.

From forests grows the future: Securing the forests’ ecological, economical and social functions for future generations is the Center’s ultimate goal.

Sponsorship Association
The Förderverein (Sponsorship Association) ‘Zentrum Wald Forst Holz Weihenstephan e.V.’ supports especially the Center’s research and knowledge transfer activities. Members receive free all LWF leaflets, flyers and specials and get reduced admission to the Center’s events and conferences. Forest Cooperatives like regional Forest Owners Associations or Forest Management Cooperations benefit from designing and hosting their individual web sites at reasonable prices.

Cluster Forest and Wood in Bavaria
The Förderverein is also the sole associate of the state promoted ‘Cluster Initiative Forest and Wood in Bavaria gGmbH’. It cross-links the sector’s regional potentials in business and science to mobilize its intrinsic economic forces, activate innovation, and enhance productivity and competitiveness.

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By assembling the strengths of three institutions, the Center of Forestry Weihenstephan creates an unmatched constellation of competences.
Research creates knowledge, knowledge allows teaching and consulting. The linking and mutual stimulation of basic and practice-oriented research is our key to diversified and attractive study courses, offerings and an effective knowledge transfer through consultancy and training.

Our competence in research, education and knowledge transfer extends to all forest disciplines and processes along the timber supply and value chain:

- Afforestation, Natural Regeneration
- Atmosphere/Biosphere Interactions
- Biometry and Statistics
- Ecology of Woody Plants
- Environmental Monitoring
- Forest and Environmental Policy
- Forest Ecology
- Forest Economics
- Forest Education
- Forest Genetics, Biodiversity
- Forest Growth and Yield
- Forest Hydrology
- Forest Management and Sustainable Use
- Forest Nutrition and Matter Cycles
- Forest Protection
- Geobotany, Forest Vegetation
- Landscape Planning and Development
- Natural Forest Reserves
- Nature Conservation
- Pathology of Forest Trees
- Plant Ecophysiology
- Protection Forests, Natural Hazards
- Remote Sensing, GIS
- Silviculture and Forest Planning
- Soil and Water Protection
- Soil, Site and Climate Conditions
- Timber Acquisition and Transport
- Wildlife Biology and Hunting
- Wood Energy
- Wood Physics, Chemistry & Biology
- Wood-based Composites
- Work Science and Forest Engineering
- Zoology, Animal Ecology

Research

Forests are essential for our welfare. They supply raw material and wood energy, protect the soil against erosion and dehydration, improve air and water quality, give shelter to plants and animals, and provide recreation space for man. Environmental changes affect these functions.

Forestry and society need scientifically sound information and recommended courses of action to protect and save them for future generations. We therefore combine basic and practice-oriented research to understand and quantify forest ecosystems functioning, develop strategies to address climate change effects, and produce approaches and solutions of practical relevance.

We study the forest's ecological goods and services, analyse and improve its productive and protective functions, identify threats from pests and diseases and work on efficient methods to fight them. Based on data of our 143-year-old sample plot network and numerous experimental trials we develop forest management decisions support tools, and evaluate and optimise all steps in the timber supply and transportation chain. Our wood research focuses on the physical, chemical and biological properties of timber and timber-based composites to ensure their optimal use and develop industrially applicable high-tech products. Our research teams are made up of forest scientists, experienced foresters, and specialists from other disciplines. They collaborate with colleagues from around the world, run field studies all over Europe as well as in Africa, Asia, North, Middle and South America, and host international experiments at the Center’s field research sites.

Academic Education

Differentiated bachelor and master programs lead our students to a comprehensive understanding for ecological, economical and technical methods and processes and provide them with versatile skills and knowledge to identify, analyse and resolve complex problems.

To give them insights into forest practice, hands-on seminars, in-house and external training periods and excursions are an essential part of all study courses.

Our graduates are offered excellent opportunities on the job market and a wide career-choice spectrum. They are in special demand in forest enterprises and industry, administration, science, research, and the ecological and socio-educational business. In the State of Bavaria the forest, wood and paper-based sector ranks 2nd in employment and provides work to more than 180,000 people.

The international master program „Sustainable Resource Management“ takes qualified postgraduates from all over the world well beyond the boundaries of forestry. It addresses the full spectrum of natural resources, provides the respective management concepts and techniques, and prepares our students with professional leadership skills.

Our research teams are made up of forest scientists, experienced foresters, and specialists from other disciplines. They collaborate with colleagues from around the world, run field studies all over Europe as well as in Africa, Asia, North, Middle and South America, and host international experiments at the Center’s field research sites.

Knowledge Transfer

Have questions? We have the answers! Consultancy and knowledge transfer belong to our key competences.

We inform and advise foresters, forest owners, forest industry, politics and the public and provide them with a wide spectrum of professional information on all forest and timber related aspects.

Our publications range from scientific papers to booklets, brochures, manuals and leaflets, in which we inform our clients on general forest issues, advise on practice-relevant current topics, and provide target group oriented recommended courses of action.

Of particular importance to us is the direct contact with our clients. We provide them personal advice in workshops, seminars and training courses, discuss with them their problems during exhibitions and road shows, and answer their questions by phone, internet or directly on site. Special care is taken to train ‘Natura 2000’ and ‘Wood Energy’ advisors.

The intensive dialogue with forest practitioners is our strength. Our annual conventions like the ‘Forest Owners Day’ or the ‘Forest Entrepreneurs Day’ are well-established platforms to present the latest research findings and discuss practical solutions for the daily job routine. Vice versa, the feedback we get from forest practice stimulates our further research, teaching and knowledge dissemination activities.

Studying in Weihenstephan at Germany’s largest Green Campus - Internationality and Bavarian lifestyle!

Our study courses:
- Forest Engineering (B.Eng.)
- Forest Science and Resource Management (B.Sc.)
- Management of Renewable Energies (B.Sc.)
- Forest and Wood Science (M.Sc.)
- Sustainable Resource Management (M.Sc.)