



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Experiences on International MS Programs at University of Helsinki

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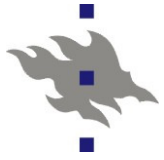
29 August, 2007



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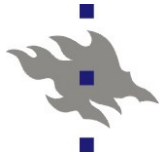
Viikki Campus

- Development of Viikki into a university campus began in 1946
- Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences and Home Economics moved to Viikki in the 1960's
Also the experimental farm and student housing was established
- Construction of the Viikki Science Park began in 1993
- Forestry sciences were transferred to the Viikki Campus in 2001
- Faculties of Bioscience and Pharmacy moved in in 2004
followed by Veterinary Medicine
- Governmental research institutions related to agriculture, food and veterinary medicine are also located in Viikki
- The Viikki Campus in 2007
 - 6,000 students and 1,500 teachers
 - One of the largest concentrations of biosciences in the world



Viikki Campus

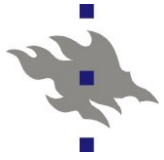




Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

- 3200 students (2600 undergraduate)
- appr. 330 new students per year
- appr. 600 researchers, teachers and other staff
- 9 departments
- 39 disciplines



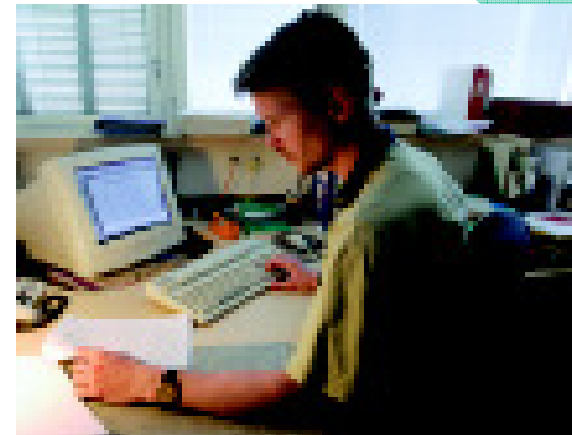


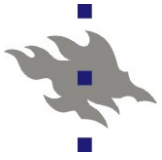
Three Forestry Departments

Department of Forest Ecology and VITRI

Department of Forest Resource Management

Department of Forest Economics





Three Forestry Departments

■ Staff

- Professors: $8+5+5 = 18$
- Lecturers: $7+5+2 = 14$
- Researchers: $55+12+11 = 78$

■ Budget (approximately)

- Budget funding 2.5 million € (excludes facilities and faculty & campus level services)
- External funding 3 million €





Finnish BSc & MSc Programmes

- Department of Forest Ecology (22 students/year)
- Department of Forest Resource Management (22 students/year)
- Department of Forest Economics (30 students/year)
- Students enter the BSc programme and are entitled to the MSc programme, as well
- Additional Finnish MSc students enter the Departments (about 10 in total)
- 80 % of students complete the degree



International Master's Degree Programmes

Master's Programmes in English

- [Atmosphere-Biosphere Studies](#)
- [Bayesian Statistics and Decision Analysis](#)
- [Bioinformatics](#)
- [Biotechnology](#)
- [Forest Sciences and Business](#)
- [Geoinformatics](#)
- [Plant Production Science](#)
- [Space Sciences](#)

Joint Degree Programmes

- [Advanced Spectroscopy in Chemistry](#)
- [Economy, State and Society](#)
- [Forestry and Environmental Engineering](#)
- [History](#)

International Programmes



The University of Helsinki is a multilingual institution providing education in several languages. In addition to the two national languages – Finnish and Swedish – programmes are being developed and offered also in English. Students in these programmes will find themselves in a truly international learning environment with a mixture of students from Finland and across the globe.

The University of Helsinki is a research-intensive institution. This orientation is reflected also in the master's programmes taught in English. They provide students with skills needed in demanding professions and give a solid foundation for doctoral studies.

Admission procedure

- [General application information](#)

Studying at the University of Helsinki

- [Studying, services and student life](#)

Finland & Helsinki info

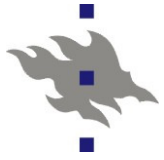
- [Helsinki.fi](#)



International MSc Programmes in Forestry

- An earlier temporary international MS programme in connection with development aid and forest industry in late 1990's
- Usually international students have entered the Finnish MSc programme with adjustments for courses taught in Finnish
- MScFB - Master`s Degree Programme in Forest Sciences and Business, 2006 – (target is 20 students/year)
- An International Cross Border University Master`s Degree Programme in Forestry and Environmental Engineering, 2007 – (target is 4 students/year for UH)



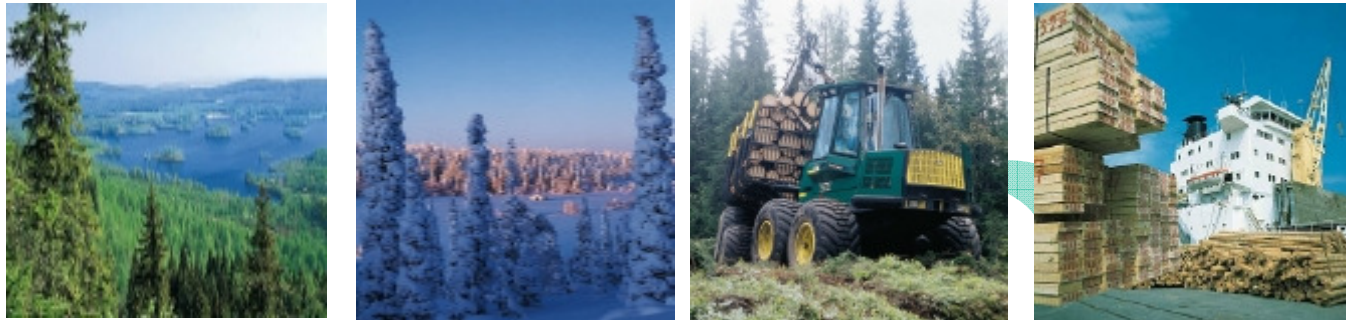


MScFB - Master's Degree Programme in Forest Sciences and Business

- The MSc in Forest Sciences and Business (MScFB) Programme aims to promote the sustainable use of forest resources and human well-being through education based on scientific research
- The two-year programme emphasizes an international and multidisciplinary perspective on the forest sector



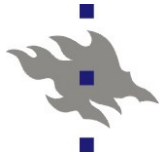
MScFB - Master's Degree Programme in Forest Sciences and Business



Major subjects:

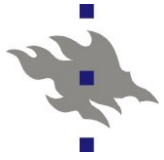
- Forest Ecology
- Forest Resource Science and Technology
- Forest Economics
- Forest Products Marketing

Provides the required background for possible PhD studies in the major subject



Specialization Lines

- Forest Ecology: Forest Soil Science, Forest Tree Ecology, Peatland Ecology and Forestry, Silviculture, Tropical Silviculture, Forest Pathology, Forest Tree Breeding, Forest Zoology, Wildlife Management
- Forest Resource Science and Technology: Forest Resource Inventory, Forest Planning, Forest Technology, Wood Technology
- Forest Economics: Forest Economics and Policy, Forest Economics and Management
- Forest Products Marketing



Programme Structure

Major subject studies (30 ECTS)

Thesis (40 ECTS)

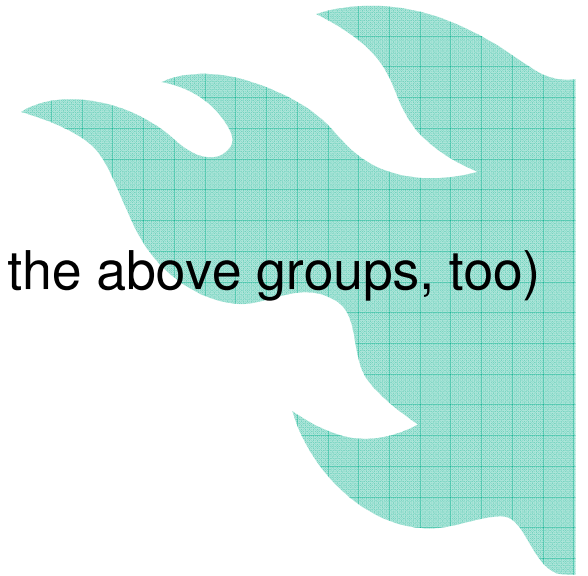
Specialized studies (25 ECTS)

General studies (15 ECTS)

Electives (10 ECTS) (room for selection in the above groups, too)

TOTAL = 120 ECTS

(1 ECTS = 27h of work/150 pages of English literature)





Special Features

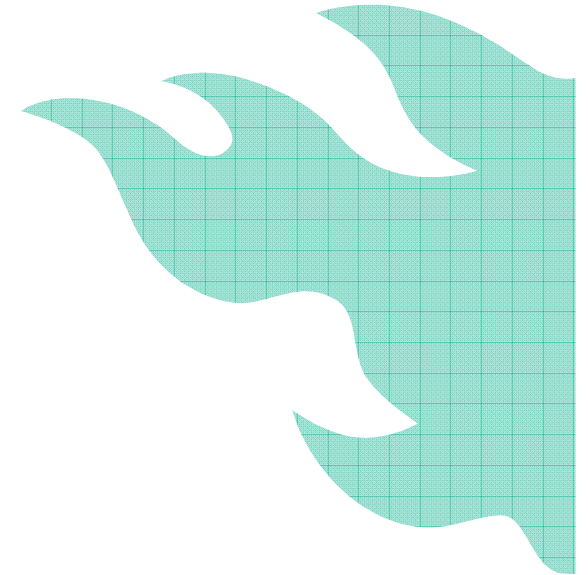
- Multicultural, interactive learning environment
- English is the language of instruction; students can practise their English at a professional level
- Science-based specialized studies or theme-based, multidisciplinary specialized studies available
- Special courses for the programme students in
 - Academic English writing
 - MS thesis research
 - Statistical methods





Science Based Specialized Studies

- Consist of theoretical and methodological studies in chosen subject major





Theme Based, Multidisciplinary Specialized Studies

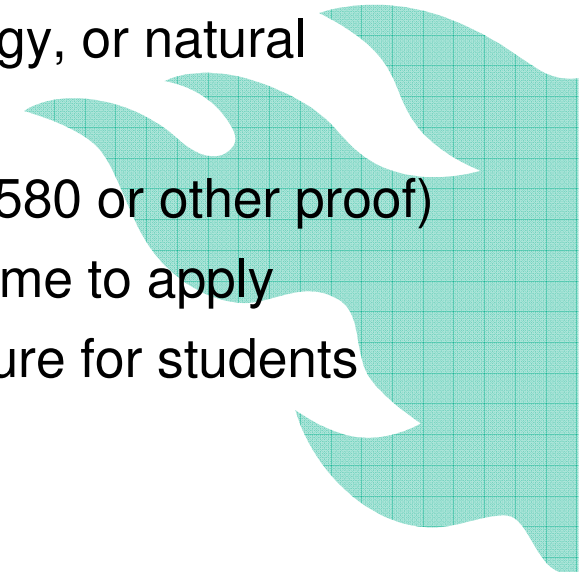
- Themes: Sustainable Forest Resource Management or Global Forest Enterprises
- Within each theme, students perform a group investigation which considers ecological, economic, and social aspects of the problem at hand
- Under each theme, students participate in courses organized by each department

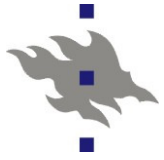




Admission Requirements

- A Bachelor's degree in forest sciences, ecology, economics, social sciences, technology, or natural resources related sciences
- Proficiency in English (TOEFL score 580 or other proof)
- Students of all nationalities are welcome to apply
- No tuition fee, may become in the future for students outside the EU





Experiences of the First Years

	2006	2007
Enrollment		
Ecology	1 (2)	7
Resources	1	1
Economics	2 (4)	3(1)

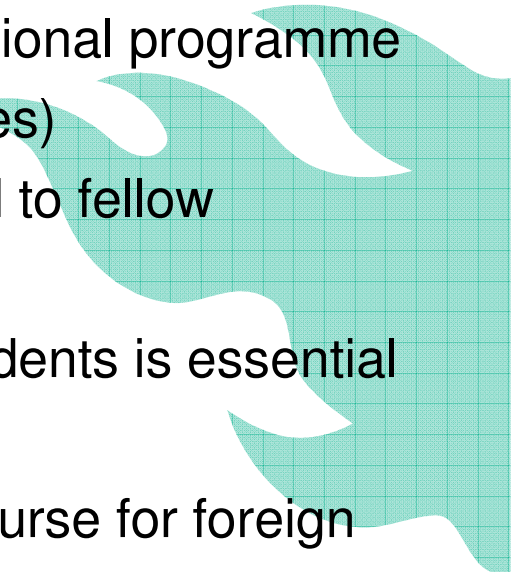
()= Begun studies with a visiting student status

New students in 2007 from Bangladesh, Canada, China, Congo, Finland, Latvia, Portugal, USA



Experiences of the First Years

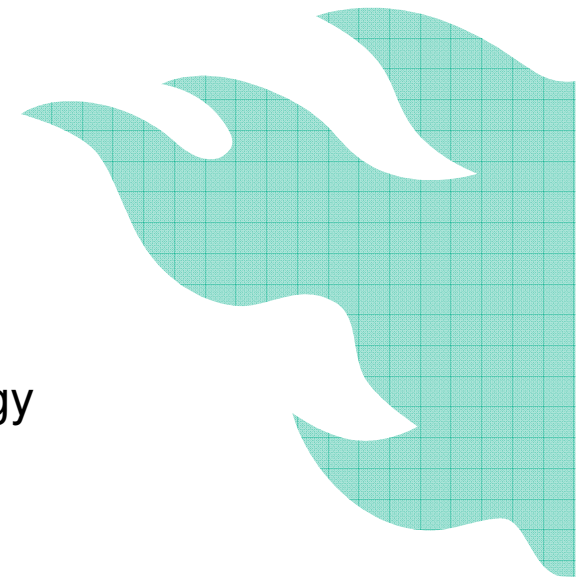
- Separate programme has improved student performance (in the academic year 2006/2007 all international programme students completed a good amount of studies)
- Cultural adaptation to host country style and to fellow international students are important issues
- Integration of foreign students with local students is essential
- Sufficient English language skills are crucial
- Custom courses, such as the MSc thesis course for foreign students, have been beneficial
- Real changes take time: enrollment, transition to courses in English (some differences between the departments in stage)
- Internships for international students remains a problem

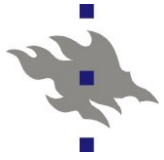




CROSS-BORDER UNIVERSITY

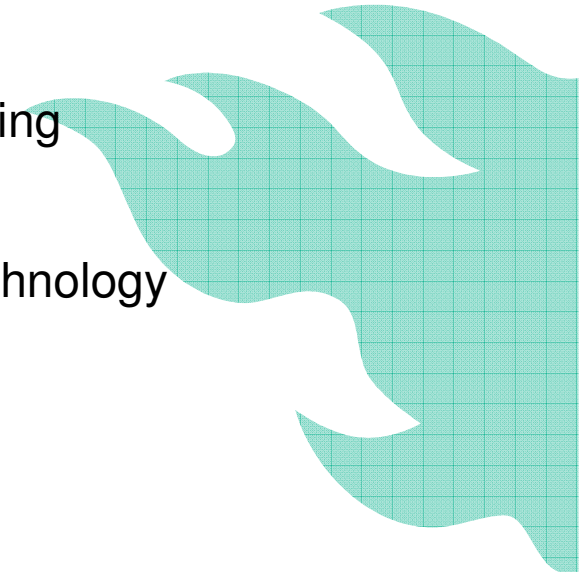
- A two-year MSc programme in Forestry and Environmental Engineering
- Starting in autumn 2007
- Nine partner universities:
 - University of Joensuu
 - University of Helsinki
 - Lappeenranta University of Technology
 - University of Kuopio
 - University of Tampere
 - Petrozavodsk State University
 - St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University
 - St. Petersburg State University
 - European University at St. Petersburg





Cross Border University

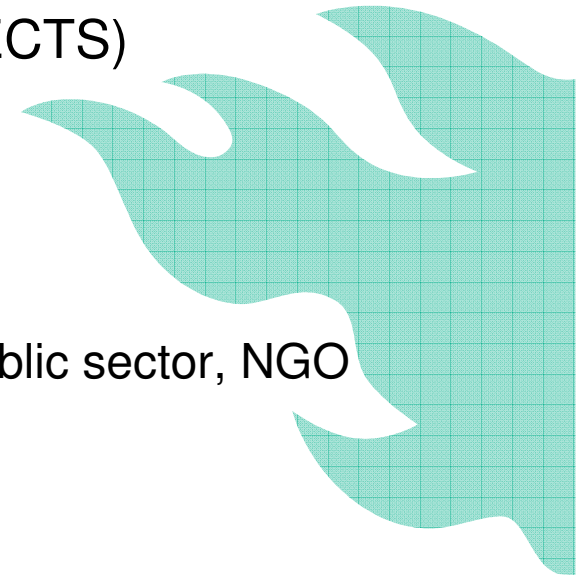
- The six CBU study fields are:
 - Business and Administration
 - Forestry and Environmental Engineering
 - History
 - Information and Communications Technology
 - International Relations
 - Public Health





CBU Studies Structure

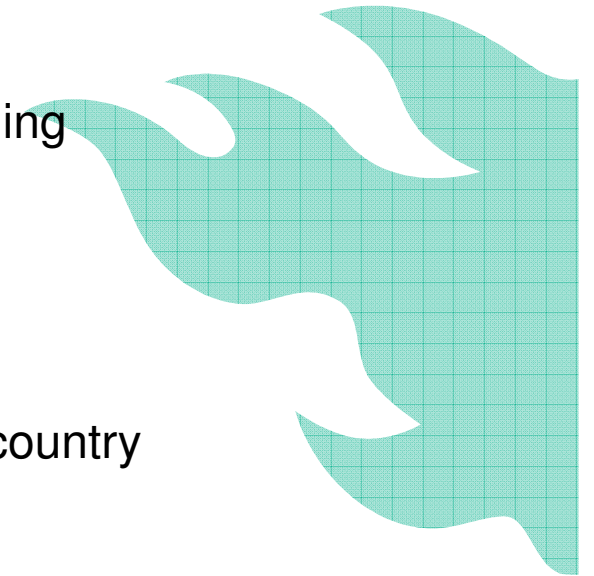
- Courses in home university (48 – 62 ECTS)
- Joint, compulsory CBU courses (23 ECTS)
- Elective courses (6 – 28 ECTS)
- Applied period (12 ECTS)
 - Project work or internship
 - Home or visit university, company, public sector, NGO
 - Preference for foreign work
- Thesis (30/40 ECTS)
 - Joint supervision from two universities recommended
 - Topic should be relevant in both countries
- A minimum of 60 ECTS with a CBU element





CBU Studies Characteristics

- CBU element characteristics
 - Courses in another country
 - Virtual mobility through distance learning
 - Visiting instructors
 - Joint intensive courses
 - Supervision from another country
 - Project work or internship in another country
- Instruction in English or Russian
- More info: <http://www.joensuu.fi/cbu/forestry.htm>





Final comments

- New approaches to international studies at UH have started, both in Forestry and at the University level
- Strategic questions need to be re-asked:
 - What, **why**, to whom, how
- Takes time to get established
- Program has increased co-operation between the three forestry departments
- Linkages with Helsinki Summer School
- Linkages with Global Industrial Forestry Network
- Problems
 - Internships
 - Mobility arrangements
- Tailored programs with tuition a future option

