

# **Taiga Forestry Module**



**Karelia University of Applied Sciences**

**Autumn semester**

Taiga forestry module is offered to Karelia University of Applied Science's exchange students. The courses are integrated with the Finnish degree students' courses. During the Taiga Forestry Module you will learn about Finnish forestry, how it is practised and the meaning of forests to Finnish people, the economy and the nature. You can choose which courses you want to take and on average the exchange students take 23 ECTS. Finnish forestry has some specific features that differ from forestry practices, for example, in central Europe so each exchange student is expected to take the Introduction to Finnish Forestry online course at the beginning of the semester.

The semester is run in the autumn semester each year, starting in the end of August and finishing by Christmas.

### **About Karelia UAS**

Karelia University of Applied Sciences is situated in a region that provides attractive facilities for living, working and entrepreneurship. The region of North Karelia is renowned for a traditional and active cultural life, as well as unspoiled nature. Karelia University of Applied Sciences Approximately 4 000 students take Bachelor and Master level courses at Karelia UAS yearly in its seven fields of education.

Education in universities of applied sciences offers a practical approach to higher education and emphasises close contacts with the business, industry and service sectors. The degrees are designed to have a strong professional emphasis.

### **About Joensuu**

[Joensuu](#) is a student capital of eastern Finland and all you need is only walk away. Joensuu is also the lively capital of the North Karelia region. Here we have the relaxed and social Karelian lifestyle, the joy of life being its distinctive nature. Approximately 25 % of Joensuu inhabitants are students. Karelia has its own

[Student Union POKA](#) and in town you find also [Erasmus Student Network Joensuu](#), which offers lots of activities.

The student housing company [Joensuun Elli](#) provides students with flats ranging from adorable shared flats to single-room studios. You can easily reach both the city centre and your campus by bike.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Introduction to Finnish Forestry, BIP7028, 3 ECTS** prerequisite for Core Forestry courses

**Lecturer:** Jyry Eronen

The course will introduce you to basics of Finnish forestry. You will get acquainted with Finnish forest resources as well as silvicultural methods practised in Finland. You will understand the different actors in Finland as well as how wood procurement (buying, selling, harvesting) is done. You will have knowledge of Finnish forest technology manufacturers and timber harvesting processes.

**Core content:** Finnish forest resources, silvicultural practices, forestry actors, forest technology manufacturers, timber harvesting

**Implementation information:** Online course, to be done at the beginning of exchange

## CORE FORESTRY COURSES

**Biodiversity in Forest Environment, BIM6017, 5 ECTS**

**Lecturer:** Markus Huhtinen



You will know the structures upkeeping the diversity of forests and their impact on economical forest species and their habitat requirements. You'll understand the significance of diversity on the ecological sustainability. You can recognize key biotopes of the forest and you can anticipate the impact of forestry on water ecosystems.

**Core content:** Structure of forests, Biodiversity, endangered species, Decay tree, Water ecosystems in forest

**Implementation information:** Suitable outdoor clothing required as there are field trips into the forests.

**Forest Industry, BIM6042, 3 ECTS**

**Lecturer:** Esa Etelätaalo

You will understand the meaning of forest industry to the Finnish national economy and can explain the use of raw timber in the Finland. You can explain the most important material flows and you know the

wood quality demands of industry. You are familiar with the most important forest industry products and their use and you know the effects of global forest industry on the Finnish forest industry.

**Core content:** forest resources, use of wood, wood material flows, products and processes of mechanical and chemical forest industry, global forest industry

### **Harvesting Planning, BIM6060, 5 ECTS**

**Lecturer:** Pekka Huotari and Jyry Eronen

Students are able to make a plan for stand marked for cutting, taking into account the economic, technical, safety and environmental considerations. In addition, students know the importance of post-harvest quality and are able to make an inventory of quality issues. Students are able to measure timber with different measurement methods and know timber trade, the principles of round wood pricing and terms of trade. They are also able to work as a wood buyer / seller agent. Students know about the long-distance transportation of raw wood.

**Core content:** key concepts, planning of sites, post-harvest quality, post-harvest inventory, safety, timber measurement, roundwood trade, long-distance transportation

### **Forestry Planning, BIM6031, 4 ECTS**

**Lecturer:** Ari Talkkari

You recognise the aims of a forest owner and can take them into account in your planning work. You can acquire and utilise forest resources data. You can use a forest information system and field computer in your work. You know the forest planning process and you can conduct a forest plan using provided methods and tools.

**Core content:** acquisition and processing forest resource data, inventory and management planning in the forest, transfer of data, aggregation of forest management plan

**Implementation information:** Requires outdoor clothes as the course includes field work

### **Open Source GIS, BIP7004, 5 ECTS**

**Lecturer:** Markus Huhtinen

You will understand relevant concepts of geospatial data and coordinate systems. You will know the common sources of geospatial data and how to access the data. You will be acquainted with the most common open source GIS software. You can manage multi-source geographic data and can prepare presentations based on your mapping.

**Core content:** Concepts of GIS, free and open data, GIS software

**Implementation information:** Online course

**Organising a forestry event, BIM6050, 3 ECTS**

**Teacher:** Esa Etelätalo and Kaija Saramäki

You will organise a forest related event together with the stakeholders. You will work closely with the event organiser in a multicultural and cross-disciplinary team. You will learn scheduling, event management and execution. Your customer service skills will improve. You will have an understanding of the whole process of event management.

**Core content:** scheduling, activity planning, transportation planning, customer service, stakeholder engagement

**Introduction to Forestry English, BIM6008, 2 ECTS**

**Teacher:** Marita Suomalainen

You will know the basic concepts of professional forestry and are able to use them in work related written and oral communication. You can develop your knowledge of forestry by means of English literature. You can give a presentation in English.

**Core content:** basic concepts of forestry: tree species, their properties and uses, forestry in Finland, studying and learning skills, small talk practice, email and other written communication

**Forestry English for working life, BIM6010, 3 ECTS**

**Teacher:** Marita Suomalainen

You are able to communicate orally and in writing in working life situations, for example in negotiations and meetings. You manage documents related to job applications. You will deepen your knowledge of professional forestry English and is able to explain forest management practices in Finland and environmentally friendly forest management principles both orally and in writing. You are able to use forest related literature to increase your professional knowledge.

**Core content:** working environment of forestry, meeting practices, cv and job application

## **STUDYING AT KARELIA**

### **Different ways of learning**

Karelia applies different ways of learning to support the learning process. We like to engage the students in the learning process rather than have you learn from lectures without your own critical thinking and learning by heart. To do this, we use a variety of teaching methods and pedagogical approaches. During the Sustainable bioeconomy and business semester, you will get familiar with (to name a few):

*blended learning*; a combination of e-learning via different e-learning platforms and classroom activities . This requires you to be active, have good time management and responsibility. The online activities can include, for example, group discussions, collaborative report writing and feedback.

*project based learning*; a project given by a working life partner will be assigned to you or your group. You will work together with the working life partner, decide on the way to work, schedule and the output together.

*flipped learning*; you will be given material on the topic before the classes begin and the time used in the classroom is used for discussion, in-depth analysis of the material and solving the problems. You will learn how to control time and practise self-discipline in addition to improving your discussion skills.

### **Learning platforms**

The Moodlerooms learning environment is used at Karelia UAS as means of e-learning. Moodlerooms can be used to deliver study materials, submit assignments to the teacher, take exams and discuss learning with your peers. Moodle also serves as a support for student counselling and recorded lectures can also be stored in Moodlerooms. It is important to log into Moodlerooms regularly as it is the main source of information for the students.

### **Credits**

All Finnish higher education institutes apply the European Credit Transfer System, ECTS. One ECTS is equivalent to app. 27 hours of student work. Student work includes contact lectures, lab work, tutorials, guided distance study, discussions, group work and self-study. One semester comprises 30 ECTS and one academic year 60 ECTS.

### **Assessment/Grading**

The courses are assessed based on your performance and measured against the learning goals. Each lecturer defines the means for assessment for each course. The universities of applied sciences are practically oriented and therefore we value applying the information you have learned instead of learning by heart and memorising the information. We have very few exams and rely on other means of assessment. The assessment criteria will be presented during the first lectures and can include, for example:

- participation in class
- exams
- assignments and reports
- learning diaries
- presentation
- group work
- peer evaluation

Karelia uses a grading scale of 1-5 or pass/fail. The courses are assessed within three weeks from the end of the course and marked in Student Winha.

### **Deadlines**

The lecturer can set certain deadlines for the assignments. The deadlines are set for two reasons: fair and equal treatment of all students and to allow the lecturer enough time to review the assignments. If no specific deadlines are set, the last day of the course is the deadline. If you return the assignments late, the lecturer has the right to reduce the grade.

### **Attendance and participation**

The strength of a multicultural group is learning to work in diverse settings, with different cultural backgrounds and ways of working in groups. You might find it challenging but trust us, you will always learn something! The working methods applied at Karelia will prepare you for your future working life and improve your understanding of cultural issues and working in groups.

Karelia UAS does not generally have mandatory participation in class. You are expected to take responsibility of your studies, including your decision on whether to attend class or not. Although there may not be compulsory participation, the lecturer can set some parts of the course as compulsory. On average, visits, excursions, visiting lecturer lectures, lab work and field work are mandatory.

Many courses have group work in addition to individual assignments. If group work is assigned, all group members should participate equally. Only those group members who participate in the group work in a fair and equal manner, will be graded.

If you are ill or have other extreme circumstances, you should inform the lecturer by email or sms of your absence. The lecturer can give you a substitutive assignment.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism (copying other people's work and presenting as you own without giving due credit), cheating and deceit are strictly forbidden and will end up in failing the complete course. Use appropriate referencing in assignments and ask the lecturer if in doubt. Information on referencing other people's work is available in the Karelia's Student intranet Pakki.

## **Cost**

If your home organisation has a student exchange agreement with Karelia University of Applied Sciences, there are no tuition fees. In case your home organisation does not have an agreement, please contact our International office at [mobility@karelia.fi](mailto:mobility@karelia.fi) .

## **Additional information**

**Ms. Kaija Saramäki**, departmental international coordinator, [kaija.saramaki@karelia.fi](mailto:kaija.saramaki@karelia.fi), +358 50 441 2853 (sms and Whatsapp during office hours), [Facebook](#)

*Karelia International office*, [mobility@karelia.fi](mailto:mobility@karelia.fi)

*Karelia website*, [exchange students](#)

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