



WORLD  
FORESTRY  
CENTER

World Forest Institute

# World Forest Institute *Fellowship Program*

The World Forestry Center was established in 1964 as a private, non-profit educational organization. Located in Portland, Oregon, USA, the World Forestry Center operates three programs: the Forest Discovery Center museum; demonstration tree farms; and the World Forest Institute. The board of directors hail from 20 countries and members represent some of the region's leading forestry corporations, academic and research institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In 1989, the World Forestry Center established a program called the World Forest Institute (WFI), to meet a growing demand for forestry information. As the forestry sector becomes increasingly complex, there is a greater need for international collaboration and exchange of information on forest trade, regulation, management, and forest resources.

In response, WFI created the International Fellowship Program. This Fellowship Program provides a unique collaboration between the research community, private industry, and the public sector.



## FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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.

### Harry A. Merlo Foundation

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.

### For Sponsors

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.

### For Fellows

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.

“A lot of the competitive advantage I have in my job is connected to the people I met during my time at WFI.

- Claudio Ortolan, Brazil



# WFI's Fellowship Program is a blend of research, information training, networking and cultural exchange.

**CONDUCTING A PROJECT** Fellows arrive with a major research/work proposal developed in conjunction with his/her sponsor. Projects may involve information gathering, interviewing, visiting other organizations, or planning a conference. Fellows typically summarize their projects in a report and poster published by the World Forest Institute.

Past projects have included:

- ~ Studies on sustainable forestry initiatives
- ~ Analysis of international timber markets
- ~ Opportunities in plantation investments
- ~ Certification of wood products
- ~ The development of carbon credit systems
- ~ A comparative analysis of regional forest management plans across several nations
- ~ Urban forestry
- ~ Organized trade visits or conferences
- ~ Green building techniques
- ~ Interagency forest fire management
- ~ Use of technology in forest management
- ~ Exploration of forestry revenue from non-timber sources

## **NETWORKING WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FORESTRY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE US**

Networking is largely accomplished by site visits to forestry agencies, research labs, universities, public and private timberlands, trade associations, mills, and corporations. One site visit or meeting per week is scheduled for Fellows. Fellows are also encouraged to arrange their own meetings to suit personal interests.

Typical site visits may include (but are not limited to):

- ~ Nursery, forestland, and harvesting
- ~ Various public management and research agencies, including the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, US Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon State University
- ~ Meetings with key non-profit organizations
- ~ Discussions with key persons involved in forest certification, forest products marketing, consulting, international trade, public planning, and legislation
- ~ Manufacturing and processing facilities for lumber, pulp, paper, engineered wood products, and secondary wood products

**REPRESENTING THE HOME COUNTRY** WFI Fellows should be prepared to respond to questions about their region of the world. Fellows utilize their practical experience and research skills to provide a wide variety of information to various audiences.

Representation opportunities may include:

- ~ Fielding public inquiries regarding the Fellow's region of the world
- ~ Attendance at conferences and workshops
- ~ Promoting WFI through published articles
- ~ Lecturing at area colleges

“My year at WFI was one of the most valuable times in my career. It was the perfect environment to develop a variety of professional and social skills.”

– Mario Angel, Chile





# HOW TO APPLY FOR A FELLOWSHIP

## 1. Develop Project Proposal

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).



## 2. Obtain Funding for Fellowship.

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 Harry A. Merlo Foundation in the form of a matching grant.
- ~ 50% of this cost is paid by sources secured by the Fellow. This amount is due prior to or upon arrival to WFI.
- ~ Due to the high number of requests, WFI cannot help applicants to secure their portion of the fellowship fee.



## 3. After Approval from WFI, Apply for a J-1 Visa

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.

**Important:** You cannot go directly to the embassy for a J1 visa application.

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
65%	Individual research/ practical training
25%	Site visits and meetings
10%	Representing the home country

I gained an invaluable experience at WFI and made lifelong friends.

- Jaakko Rontanen, Finland

## J-1 TRAINEE VISA CATEGORY

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.

## FELLOW BENEFITS AND SALARY

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



# SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

## How to Sponsor a Fellow

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. A sponsor may create a proposal for research in order to gather certain information or data. An independent search for an appropriate Fellow can be made to match qualifications needed for the research.

For consideration, candidates should meet these minimum qualifications:

- ~ Earned a bachelor's degree or equivalent in the field of forestry, natural resources, or other related degree. Alternatively, candidates with at least four years of forest-related work experience may also apply.
- ~ Submit an initial research proposal on a topic relevant to forestry in the country in question. The project should take advantage of resources available in the Pacific Northwest.
- ~ Ability of Fellow to be self-motivated, to work independently towards a clear research goal or output, and to work with colleagues from diverse backgrounds.
- ~ Be proficient in English, both written and spoken.
- ~ Be at least 21 years of age.

## Examples of organizations that have sponsored Fellows:

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



## ALUMNI TESTIMONIES

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

– *Alexandre Battistella, Brazil*  
*Battistella Com e. Ind. Ltda.*

“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.”

– *Guangyu Wang, China*  
*Fujian Department of Forestry*

“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.”

– *Blair Freeman, Australia*  
*Senior Consultant, URS Forestry*

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

– *Kenji Kariya, Japan*  
*Sumitomo Forestry Co. Ltd.*

“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.”

– *Rene Valdez, Mexico*  
*Colegio de Postgraduados*

“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.”

– *Yen-Chang Chen, Taiwan*  
*Taiwan Forestry Research Institute*



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## Further Information

If you would like additional information, please contact:

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Please visit our website:

The World Forest Institute

[wfi.worldforestry.org](http://wfi.worldforestry.org)

### Oregon Facts:

Home to 3.7 million people.

Oregon is 248,632 km<sup>2</sup>,  
45% of which is forestland.

More than half (60.5%) of  
forestland is publicly owned.

Of the remaining 39.5%;  
21.5% is owned by large  
corporate land owners and  
18% is owned by family  
forest and tribal owners.

Oregon was the first state  
in the USA to have a forest  
practices act to regulate  
timber harvest practices.

Primary industries are  
Agriculture, High Tech,  
Forestry, and Tourism.

### Portland Facts:

Portland was rated America's  
"Best Big City" in 2000 by  
Money magazine, and is  
recognized as one of the  
USA's greenest cities.

15,000 hectares of parks are  
located in the metro area,  
including the 2,000 hectare  
Forest Park.

1.8 million people live within  
the metro area and nearly  
510,000 within the city limits.

## PORTLAND, OREGON

The World Forestry Center is located in beautiful Washington Park in Portland, Oregon, USA. Our neighbors include the 70 hectare Hoyt Arboretum, the Oregon Zoo and the Children's Museum.

Portland is a green, friendly and very livable city. It is a city of 1.8 million people living in the metropolitan area, making it the largest city and business center in the state of Oregon. Vibrant, diverse neighborhoods are home to all manner of people, but it is the other things that give a place its soul – the cafes and markets, the art, parks, plazas, vistas and sanctuaries. Portland sits near the confluence of two of the West's mightiest rivers, the Columbia and the Willamette. Recently, Portland was proclaimed as North America's "Best Big City" according to Money magazine. Portland offers natural beauty, and plenty of recreational opportunities. Rivaling the city's man made art are the spectacular masterpieces by Mother Nature.

Crowning the city's skyline is Mount Hood, the tallest peak in Oregon's Cascade Mountain Range. Within an hour of the city one can be on a mountain, at the beach, in the desert or in the middle of a forest.

The forestry sector has long been an integral part of Oregon's history and economy. The state's rich natural resources, changing demographics, and public values make it an ideal location to examine various issues impacting forestry. World War II and the 1970's saw booming development in the timber sector, driving Oregon's economic engine. This would change in the 1980's, when federal regulations dramatically reduced harvesting on public lands in Oregon, so that today more than 80% of Oregon's timber harvest comes from private lands. But even with the recent diversification of its economy, Oregon remains the largest producer of forest products among the 50 states.

