

Master Degree Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management (MEDfOR) (Interuniversitari)

The MEDfOR programme offers a MSc degree that is fully recognised in all the participating countries. It requires the completion of studies encompassing 120 credits (ECTS) over a period of two years in the MEDfOR Consortium universities. This corresponds to 3 semesters of coursework plus a Winter School and 1 semester to prepare the Master dissertation. The official language of MEDfOR is English.

The Master Degree Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management (MEDfOR) is a two-year world-class International Programme on the field of Forestry and Sustainability, implemented in 2012. It is the only program in Europe that simultaneously addresses the economic, ecological and social challenges of sustainable Mediterranean forestry and natural resources management.

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MEDfOR also address specific topics on the field of forestry, with particular emphasis on the Mediterranean area such as:

- forest as a unique world heritage,
- forest management and conservation
- forestry role in the welfare of the society.

Our purpose is to educate the next generation of leaders in forestry and natural resources, and public and private land management, with a special focus on the Mediterranean region. We wish to provide our students with tools to contribute to the solutions of forestry, natural resources and environmental challenges throughout the region and the world.

For that we brought together the best expertise, human resources and facilities of the Mediterranean region. The **Programme** is offered by a **Consortium** of top ranked Universities supported by a consultation panel with several associated partners and stakeholders that come from leading international research and outreach organizations in all scientific areas of interest to Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management.

MEDfOR is a two-year world-class Master Course Programme

The MEDfOR emphasis is on educating the leaders of the future generation of engineers, managers, researchers, and teachers involved in Mediterranean forestry and natural resources management.

MEDfOR equips students with a solid scientific habilitation and the competences for careers in innovative fields of work within the Mediterranean forestry supply chain. It will both provide the basis needed for students to pursue academic opportunities (e.g. PhD program) and the qualifications needed to fill positions in all Mediterranean forestry supply chain segments (e.g. forestry and natural resources organizations, either public or private, either national or international).

Students can study in two or three of the 7 universities of the Consortium and may also have the opportunity to do internships with our Associated Partners.

Mobility

Students will have to spend, obligatory, their first year of studies in one of the three Universities: University of Lleida, Padua or Lisbon. In the second year they may move to any other university of the consortium according to their interest in the different specializations - except back to their first year institution. Then, they may stay in their second university during the entire second year, or still move to another University in the second semester – including going back to their first year university. Notice that in order to obtain the title of Erasmus Mundus students have to study at least in two countries different from the one where they took their previous degree.

1st Year

The first year is spent at the University of Lleida, Padua or Lisbon where the student will acquire knowledge in the full range of disciplines essential to the use and management of Mediterranean forests. These courses have a solid anchor on the scientific areas of (i) earth sciences (ES), (ii) biology and ecology (BE), (iii) mathematics (M), (iv) forest engineering (FE) and (v) social and management sciences (SMS). During the first year the students shall have two online courses: the first "Introductory Course: Introduction to Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources" offered by U of Valladolid in the beginning of the first semester; and the 2nd "E-learning - Research and project development methodology – applications" offered by U of Padua during the 2nd semester. These courses are done by the whole cohort at the same time, and students have to interact with each other.

2nd Year

On the first semester of the 2nd year students have to choose a specialization, among the 7 topics offered by the consortium, where they will acquire cutting edge knowledge in a specialized field provided by one of the consortium universities.

- i) Multiple criteria decision support systems for Mediterranean forest management planning in ULisboa
- ii) Social and Environmental responsibility in Mediterranean forestry in U Padua
- iii) Addressing risks in Mediterranean forest management planning-the case of fire in U Lleida
- iv) Adaptive forestry strategies to provide good and services while coping with global change challenge in U Valladolid
- v) Advanced tools for sustainable management of Mediterranean forests in U Tuscia
- vi) Ecosystem based multi-use forest management planning in Mediterranean forests in U Karadeniz
- vii) Mediterranean Sustainable Forest Management - An Institutional Economics Approach in U Catholic Porto

During the 2nd semester students will develop their thesis. Students are encouraged to develop an important fieldwork component taking advantage of on-going projects being carried out by members of the MEDfOR consortium as well as internships provided by stakeholders. All Associated Partners as well as relevant stakeholders may serve as hosts for the thesis work.

S u m m e r

E v e n t

In the end of the 2nd year, students are invited to attend the Summer Event, a non-mandatory event, in which students may present the work they have developed during their thesis. It is also a Farewell event. This is organized by the University of Tusica, and the event takes place in the Italian Alps in a small town called Pieve Tesino.