

International Programs Policy

The primary aim of international programs in the College of Forestry (COF) is to enhance our ability to serve the people of Oregon, the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere through education and research about the international dimensions of forest resources and forest products trade. In meeting this aim we can provide assistance to colleges and institutions in other nations and engage in projects of mutual benefit. We also can better prepare OSU students for a changing and interdependent world, and can expand the knowledge and skills of faculty who serve Oregon through instruction, research, extension, and continuing education activities. The quality of our graduates, usefulness of research information and educational programs, and the stature of our faculty and the college will be enhanced by our involvement in international activities.

Through efforts of its faculty, students, and alumni the college is involved in international education, research, and institutional development pertinent to forest resource management and utilization. This involvement reflects growing concern for global forest resource issues and their effects on people, developing international trade, near instantaneous world-wide communication capabilities, and changing political, cultural, and educational patterns. It also reflects a desire to increase our cultural understanding, help others develop conservation and economic development programs, learn from others how they solve forestry and environmental problems, and share our knowledge with others who need it. International awareness and involvement are important priorities for the College of Forestry and its faculty and students, and opportunities and needs in international forestry are increasing at a significant rate.

Within the COF, international programs are complementary to the College's four major functions of resident instruction, research, extension, and continuing education; there can be international aspects to each of these functions. International programs enhance our ability to meet various goals specified in college plans. Our involvement in international programs also complements Oregon State University's goals for enhancing and strengthening OSU's role in international education, research and development.

International programs and activities come in many forms, including resident instruction for both domestic and international students; faculty and student travel and study exchanges; collaboration with international faculty; international research and development; meetings and tours for international visitors and for faculty, students and domestic clients; institutional development activities; extension training; continuing education; and exchanges of scientific information. The COF will be involved in different aspects and intensities of international programs at different times but it will consistently have an international presence through activities of its faculty, students, and alumni.

Goals

Eight broad goals guide development of international programs in the College of Forestry. They are the following:

- To assist universities and other institutions in foreign countries to develop the academic infrastructure to conduct educational and research programs in forestry and related natural resources.
- To enhance international recognition of the COF as a premier educational and research institution.
- To gain educational and scientific benefits for college faculty and students from activity in the international arena.
- To foster the conservation and stewardship of sustainable forest ecosystems that contribute to global well-being.
- To enlarge global economic opportunities in forest resources for Oregon businesses.
- To enhance cultural understanding among citizens of Oregon and other countries.
- To increase international content of both graduate and undergraduate courses.
- To enhance research and educational opportunities through access to environments, facilities and communities of scientists not available domestically.

Benefits and Costs

Benefits to be achieved by involvement in international programs are several, including the following:

- Understanding worldwide forest resource issues, scientific principles, institutions and policies, and the role of Oregon in these concerns.
- Broadening and enhancing scientific, managerial, and technical expertise of faculty and students.
- Understanding cultural diversity and its relationship to forest resource use and policy, and to human relations.

- Securing national and international recognition of the quality and capabilities of the college, leading to additional projects, students, and interactions with the international scientific community.
- Providing leadership in this area of education and research, and through these, in the management of international forest resources and the welfare of human communities which depend upon them.
- Stimulating the Oregon and Corvallis economies by, a) hosting international students and visiting faculty, bringing international research and education program funds into our economies, and participating in educational and research initiatives which influence our economies, and b) providing information and advice to Oregon forest businesses about forestry opportunities elsewhere in the world.
- Obtaining financial support for faculty and students engaged in international programs.

Costs can be involved in enhancing international programs in the college. While they will depend upon specific program direction and the level of involvement, some likely impacts are the following:

- Reducing the college's current focus on Oregon and the Northwest by diverting some faculty and student attention to international programs at the expense of domestic programs.
- Increasing absence of faculty from campus for extended periods requiring adjustments in assignments or temporary reductions in services.
- Reallocating existing discretionary funds to support international activities.
- Increasing demands of time and effort of faculty to work with international students and visitors, potentially reducing their capacity to advise domestic students and interact with domestic visitors.
- Reducing efficiency associated with conducting research and educational activities due to varying procedures and communication problems in the international arena.
- Increasing risks to the health and welfare of faculty and students studying, lecturing and doing research abroad.

Priorities and Limits

If managed properly, the benefits of strong international involvement can outweigh the costs. The following two lists contain criteria for college involvement in specific international programs:

1. The college will emphasize participation in those international programs that satisfy the following:

- Effectively utilize the college's strengths and expertise in instruction, research, extension, and continuing education.
- Enhance educational and research programs in the college and provide employment and learning opportunities for students (both domestic and international). Those programs which encourage conducting thesis research in the home country with on-site visits by the major professor are particularly desirable.
- Enhance the college's future involvement, contributions, and leadership in the international arena through activities, such as:
 - Developing college faculty
 - Educating foreign faculty, students, scientists, and managers
 - Hosting visiting scientists, scholars and officials
 - Designing and developing foreign institutions and their programs
 - Organizing and hosting symposia and workshops
 - Cooperating in other OSU sponsored international activities
- Affect positively Oregon's and the Pacific Northwest's economy and culture.
- Have educational, scientific, environmental, and ethical merit.

The college will minimize participation in programs that do the following:

- Require extensive absences of tenure-track faculty (excluding sabbatical leaves).
- Require substantial diversion of time away from important domestic projects.
- Require OSU support of international students who cannot make contributions equal to or greater than domestic students.
- Require cooperative agreements which are not the outcome of active participatory programs, and where there are not clear mutual benefits and sharing of costs from the agreements. Exceptions to this might occur

where the benefits of a wholly new alliance are deemed substantial and a cooperative agreement is necessary.

- Require involvement in countries and institutions where risks to individuals, programs and OSU are excessive.

Administration and Coordination

International programs of the College of Forestry are primarily administered at the departmental level. Departments will coordinate their activities with associate deans in Research, Instruction, Extension, and Continuing Education. Overall program coordination and oversight is provided by the Dean's Office, through an associate dean, with responsibility for international programs. Planned international activities of the individual departments should be documented in department plans and on-going activities communicated by memoranda, copies of letters, etc. to the associate dean. Cooperative agreements with foreign institutions are administered at the college or university level.

The associate dean with responsibility for international programs will provide leadership for program development (in cooperation with faculty and department heads), will apprise departments of international opportunities and of relevant developments in the international area, will maintain international files, will be the college liaison to central international offices on and off campus (OIRD, OIE, Vice President, other campuses, Chancellor, etc.) and to international forestry organizations (IUFRO, FAO, USDA, CID, etc.), and will assist departments in program development and evaluation, and with technical, financial, and other arrangements.

At the time an international project or program is being considered, a meeting with the associate dean should be arranged to discuss the proposal, including assistance needed from the college and liaison with university-level or external offices. This meeting will provide notification to the college, and allow for development of a plan for coordination and assistance. Notification regarding arrival of visiting faculty, scientists and delegations also should be given to the associate dean.

Notification should be given by faculty to their Department Head and the Associate Dean, when external cooperators contact them about potential international activities, in which they might be interested. This notification should occur before any commitments are made.

College-level international programs will be evaluated on the same schedule as departmental programs to actively determine if program goals are being met and continue to remain appropriate.

Finances

Since international activities are integral to the college's instruction, research, extension, and continuing education functions, their budgeting and financing are identical to domestic activities in the same function.