

## **TRANSFOR-M: Transatlantic Master's programs leading to dual degrees in Forestry and Environmental Management**

- Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
- Bangor University
- University of Eastern Finland
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- University of New Brunswick
- University of Alberta
- University of British Columbia

The **above** mentioned institutions ("the Partners") submitted a proposal in March 2010 for the project to the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and to **Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)** under the EU-Canada Program for Co-operation in Higher Education, Training and Youth. Project was accepted and funding **of \$450,000** approved in July 2010.

**Goal: Implementation of 2-year course-based Master's program (1 year in Canada, 1 year in Europe) leading to dual degree in the field of resource and environmental management**

### **Student numbers, funding and eligibility:**

- Total number of students admitted during the 4-year project implementation: **44** (24 from Canada, 20 from Europe). **UBC would send 8 students (2/year)** to Europe and would receive 8 students from Europe (2/year).
- Students must be **permanent residents or Canadian citizens**
- Each student **will pay the normal tuition fees at their home university** for the entire two years, but receive tuition fee waiver (or similar arrangement) at host institution. Student will pay any extra costs required at the host university (medical insurance etc.)
- Each student will get support for their foreign exchange: **\$2000 for airfare** and **\$1000/month for living expenditure for 12 months**
- Students apply to their Home University and are selected by both their Home University and their Host University for which they meet the minimum eligibility criteria for graduate studies.
- Both the **Home and Host universities reserve the right to admit students** where eligibility requirements are met, where there is an appropriate program and courses of study available, and where the acceptance of the incoming student will not place both institutions in a situation where it has a total imbalance within the consortium.
- In each institution the **numbers of incoming and outgoing fee-waived students** will be approximately the same within the project period.
- Students will send their application to a particular course-based Master program leading to dual degrees to the Liaison Officer at their home institution. Students will be selected by both the home and the host institutions Liaison Officers. They will verify that the **applicants meet the minimum criteria for graduate studies at both institutions**. Students will also **follow normal application procedures of host institution**.
- Students will work with Liaison Officers to develop **a learning plan** that will outline courses to be taken at the Host institution and the credits that will be granted at the Home institution.
- Students selected to participate in one of the course-based Master's programs shall **receive a letter of acceptance signed by both the Home and Host institution**, a copy of this agreement and any other Home or Host institution information outlining the general rules governing these institutions.



- Students could also be selected for **thesis-based Masters (MSc) programs**, but this will require close supervisory collaboration between home and host institutions.
- **Recruitment**: existing MF students and Msc. Students, graduating undergraduate students, and incoming professional Masters students (professional forestry, international forestry, 2012-2013).
- Upon completion of the dual degree programs, students will be able to receive **official academic transcripts and be awarded degrees** from both the Home and the Host institution **keeping with the normal commencement requirements of each**.
- Budget available for **Faculty exchange visits** (one 2-week faculty visit/year/each university)
- **Internship opportunities (2/year)** (unpaid) organized by Host institutions

### **Program Structure (conversion factor 1 cr = 2.5-2.7 OCTS)**

<b>Year 1 (Canada)</b>	<b>Year 2 (Europe)</b>
Field Course ( <b>Directed studies, 3 credits/8 ECTS</b> ): organized every second year). 4 weeks (1+ week in each Canadian partner university).	Field Course ( <b>Directed studies, 3 credits/8 ECTS</b> ): organized every second year). 4 weeks (1 week in each European partner university).
Seven 3-credit courses ( <b>21 credits / 52 OCTS</b> )	Six 2-credit (5 ECTS) courses ( <b>12 credits, 30 ECTS</b> )
Final project/paper/thesis ( <b>6 credits, 15 ECTS</b> )	Final project/paper/thesis ( <b>6 credits, 15 ECTS</b> )
<b>TOTAL 30 credits or 75 ECTS</b>	<b>TOTAL 21 credits or 53 ECTS</b>

<b>Year 1 (Europe)</b>	<b>Year 2 (Canada)</b>
Field Course ( <b>Directed studies, 3 credits/8 ECTS</b> ): organized every second year). 4 weeks (1 week in each European partner university).	Field Course ( <b>Directed studies, 3 credits/8 ECTS</b> ): organized every second year). 4 weeks (1+ week in each Canadian partner university).
Six 2-credit (5 ECTS) courses ( <b>12 credits, 30 ECTS</b> )	Seven 3-credit courses ( <b>21 credits/45 OCTS</b> )
Final project/paper/thesis ( <b>6 credits, 15 ECTS</b> )	Final project/paper/thesis ( <b>6 credits, 15 ECTS</b> )
<b>TOTAL 21 credits or 53 ECTS</b>	<b>TOTAL 30 credits or 75 ECTS</b>

### **Next Steps:**

- MoU needs to be signed soon (optimally by the end of December)
- Student recruitment activities could start as soon as possible (unofficially, pending MoU signing)
- Applications due by the end of January
- Student selection in early February
- Partners eager to explore project proposal for PhD level collaboration; joint PhD programs.