



# Global Student Networking & Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

A Joint EFI-IFSA-IUFRO Capacity Development Project (2018–2022)

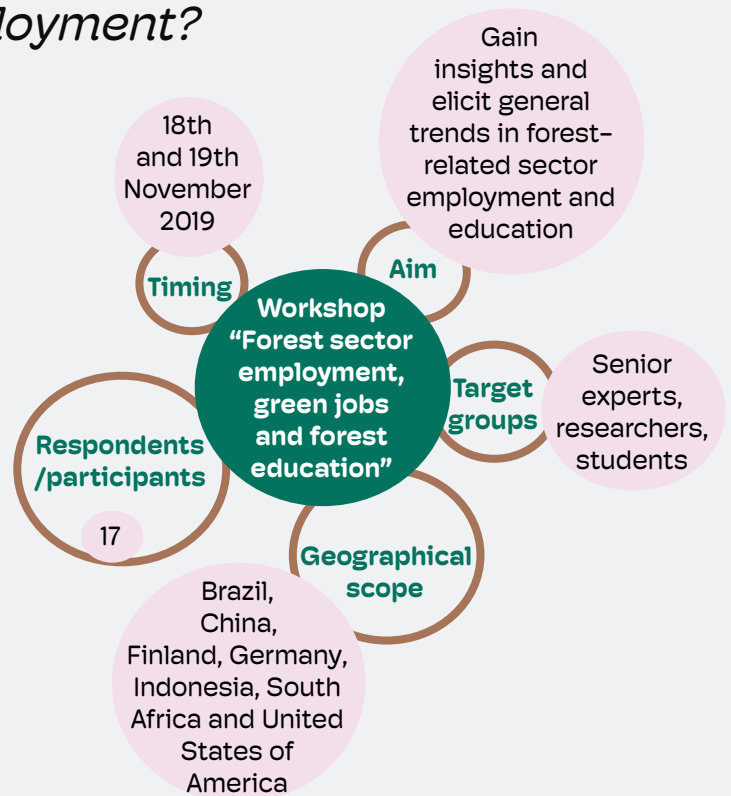
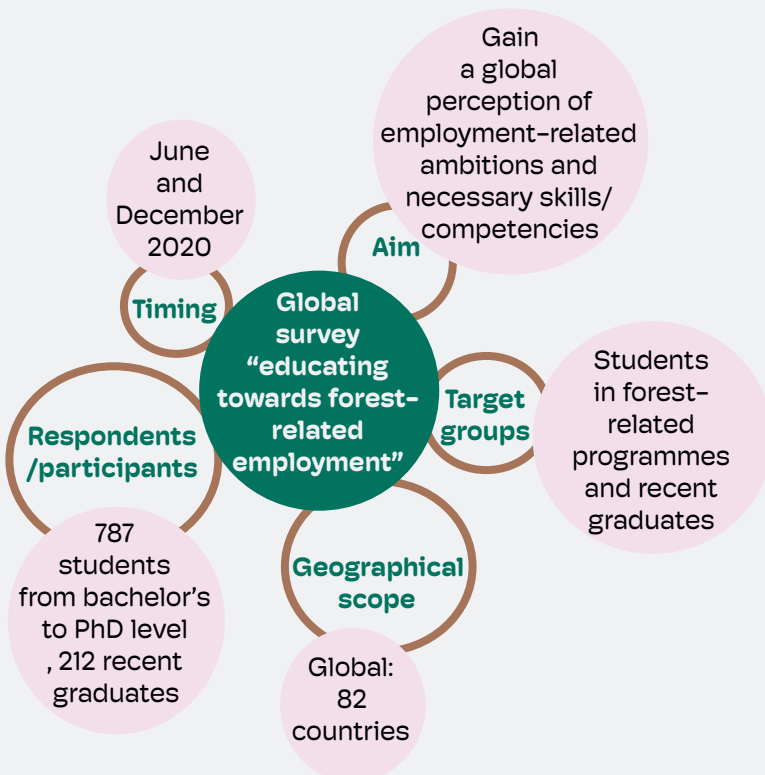
Website: <https://ifsa.net/efi-ifsa-iufro-project/>

*What do **students** in forest-related programmes need to know about forest-related education and employment?*

## Background

Students play a central role in university education reforms. If we want to enable them to serve society and be prepared for future challenges resulting from the changing nature of the sector, we need to understand the expectations of forest-related employers regarding skills and experiences that these students should possess.

## Data sources



With support from



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# Perceptions of forest-related employers

## Skills of the future

- Forest economics, forest management and planning, and environmental protection are the top three subject-specific skills considered essential by employers.
- The top-three generic skills required by the employers are communication, problem-solving, and creativity.
- Employers are more satisfied with the level of preparedness of students for subject-specific skills compared to generic skills.
- Skills of the future include leadership skills (conflict resolution) and general academic competencies (willingness to learn, open-mindedness, holistic view of the sector).

## Importance of traineeships

- Majority of employers consider internships/traineeships important during the hiring process because it:
  - helps employers prepare the graduates for permanent positions and to identify the fields of specialization they are interested in.
  - helps employers evaluate the graduate's ability to fit in their organization before offering long-term employment.
  - demonstrates the graduate's proactivity and ability to apply what they have learnt at university.
  - shows that the graduate has experience with the work environment and is flexible.

- The demand for university graduates with forest-related degrees (Bachelor to PhD) by companies/organizations has been on the rise recently
  - Graduates with bachelor's degrees are hired for part time positions and by employers who were willing to train them on the job
  - Graduates with master's and PhD degrees are preferred for positions that require in-depth knowledge and expertise as well as for permanent positions
  - Some employers prefer to hire graduates from universities outside their countries because they have international experience
- The scope of many organizations has been expanding in the last decade hence the changes in generic and subject specific skills that employers look for in graduates with forest-related degrees

