

# Specialization in Tropical Forestry

## More on Tropical Forestry

**Tropical forests are not just the lungs of the world, they're also home to enormous biodiversity – vital, for example, to the development of new medicines. And, as more and more tourists are finding out, they're a fascinating destination for travellers.**

At the same time, however, tropical forests are being felled at an alarming rate. In principle, it's perfectly possible to extract their timber sustainably. In practice, this happens all too rarely. So what can be done to treat them as valuable long-term resources and not as disposable commodities?

Good question. Luckily, you can find the answers by specialising in Tropical Forestry, in which Larenstein has nearly a century's experience. The legacy of a distant colonial past, our expertise now finds new and urgently relevant expression in all manner of major forestry projects round the world.

## The Programme

**In this Bachelor's degree programme, Larenstein addresses all the essential questions about tropical forestry: sustainable forest management, reduced-impact logging and its certification, plantation forestry, social forestry and the management of protected areas.**

By itself, however, such specialist knowledge does not equip graduates to work successfully in this dynamic field. That's why you'll also devote considerable attention to a range of other skills, such as communication and adaptive management, or the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to translate data into visual output.

Designed to develop your management skills by stimulating high levels of interaction, the programme involves a mix of modules and project-oriented teaching methods. The theory you learn in lectures and literature study will immediately be applied in project assignments, where, in small international teams, you'll work on solving precisely the kinds of problem you're likely to encounter in your future career. To our mind, this is the quickest route to professionalism.

## Course Structure

**Tropical Forestry is a two-year final-phase Bachelor's programme.**

### First year

You and your fellow students will spend the first two periods at Larenstein. The very first assignment involves drawing up a reforestation plan that would qualify for a loan from a development bank. You'll derive the knowledge you need from four modules: investment analysis, forest ecology, plantation forestry, and wood utilisation.

The second period is devoted to producing a land-use map using GIS, and to drawing up a production plan for a designated piece of land. There are five supporting modules: forest policy, silviculture, nature management, social forestry, and forest utilisation.

Activities during the second half of the year will depend on your previous level of practical experience. Those with less will spend this period performing a practical placement in a tropical country. Those with more will remain at Larenstein to complete a number of specific modules and assignments.

## **Second year**

The first period will be spent working on extension, GIS, and soil and land use. You'll then work on two projects: project-cycle management and natural forest management.

These will give you all the tools you need to complete the final assignment: the research project, which will be commissioned by a tropical forestry organisation, and the thesis, in which you'll report your results.

## **The Work**

**Graduates in Tropical Forestry qualify for a wide range of jobs. On the one hand there are all kinds of development programmes, such as community forestry, forestry extension, agro-forestry and nature conservation.**

Graduates are involved in the more technical aspects of the profession, such as plantation forestry, natural forest management, and forest exploitation. One such graduate is now the manager of a tropical timber production company in Southeast Asia; another is responsible for a tree nursery in South America.