

Stellenbosch University, Department of Forest and Wood Science

The Department of Forest and Wood Science at Stellenbosch University aims to be the preferred supplier of world-class education, research and outreach in Africa for the benefit of all peoples, industries and societies at large, with a primary focus on sustainable management of tree-based natural resources and the processing thereof.

The Department is the only tertiary institution in South Africa offering courses in [Wood Products Science](#) and [Forest and Natural Resource Management](#).

Undergraduate programmes:

The Undergraduate Programme in Forestry and Natural Resource Sciences is subdivided into the following fields of study:

Forest and Natural Resource Management (4 year) [Detailed information](#)

Wood Products Science (4 year) [Detailed information](#)

Entry Requirements:

To be admitted for the BScFor degree the following minimum admission requirements are necessary:

Forest and Natural Resource Management

Matriculation Exemption with 50% (D) average in final examination

Mathematics HG (E) or SG (D)

Science SG (E)

Wood Products Science

Matriculation Exemption with 50% (D) average in final examination

Mathematics HG (C)

Science HG (D) or SG (C)

Postgraduate programmes:

In addition to its 4-year undergraduate programs in Forest and Wood Science, the Department offers the following postgraduate qualifications:

- BSc Honours
- MSc
- MFor
- [MFor - Bioenergy Systems](#)
- PhD
- DSc

These degrees are offered in each of the following directions: Wood Product Science, Community Forestry, Forest Engineering, Forest Management, Remote Sensing and Silviculture (also see the department's [research focus areas](#)).

The aim of these programs in the Department is to develop the candidate's ability to handle independent scientific and technological investigations, and to analyse and interpret the results. The programs cater for a wide variety of interests and attract increasing numbers of candidates from other African countries.

Download the Prospectus to read more about Forest and Wood Science Post graduate studies programmes: [PDF](#) (192 KB)

Research

The Department of Forest and Wood Science covers the entire value chain with its research output. Although there are certain gaps in our offering, e.g. genetics; the Department has put certain initiatives in place to address these challenges (refer below)

The major research focus areas addressed by the Department of Forest and Wood Science concentrating on plantations and natural forests and woodlands are the following:

- Silviculture: Silviculture, Genetics, Forest Ecology, Sustainable forestry development
- Forest Management: Management, Planning, Finance and Economics, Growth and Yield Sciences, Geo-Informatics
- Forest Operations: Supply Chain Management, Logistics, Ergonomics and sustainable forestry operations
- Social Forestry: Community Forestry, Agro Forestry, Forest Policy
- Primary Wood Processing: Sawmilling, Drying
- Furniture Construction & Design
- Composite Materials: Particle-/Fibre-boards, Pulp & Paper, Wood Plastic Composites
- Quality Assurance: Wood Preservation, Weathering/Ageing studies

Besides these more conventional research areas, we are also focussing in the directions of:

- Bio-energy/-fuels: Production, Conversion
- Knowledge Management: e-learning, Training
- Nanotechnology: Manipulation on of fibrous materials on a cellular level