

MEDfOR - Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management

Introduction

MEDfOR is a two-year world-class Erasmus Mundus Master Course Programme.

The Erasmus Mundus Programme is a co-operation and mobility programme in the field of higher education that aims to enhance the quality of European higher education and promote intercultural understanding. MEDfOR is part of the Erasmus Mundus Programme initiated by the European Commission.

MEDfOR focuses on the integrating theme of sustainability in Mediterranean forests and woodlands – which cover 9 % of the Mediterranean region's land area - to address topics that are specific to the Mediterranean forestry and that require special attention such as: forest as a unique world heritage, forest management and conservation and forestry role in the welfare of the Mediterranean communities.

Mediterranean forests are seriously threatened by drastic and rapid climate and land use changes, which add to long-standing problems related to desertification processes and forest fires. Other problems are associated with the over-exploitation and over-grazing of forest lands.

The main objective of the Programme is to bring together the best expertise, human resources and facilities to educate the next generation of leaders in forestry and natural resources and public and private land management throughout the Mediterranean region and to contribute to the solution of forestry, natural resources and environmental challenges throughout the region and the world.

MEDfOR is the only program in Europe or elsewhere that simultaneously addresses the economic, ecological and social challenges of sustainable Mediterranean forestry and natural resources management.

MEDfOR is offered by a Consortium of top ranked Universities supported by a consultation panel and sixteen associated partners that come from leading international research and outreach organizations in all scientific areas of interest to Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management.

The Consortium includes the following Universities:

- University of Lisbon, Portugal (UL)
- University of Padova, Italy (UP)
- University of Lleida, Spain (UdL)
- Karadeniz Technical University, Turkey (KTU)
- University of Tuscia, Italy (UT)
- Catholic University of Portugal, Portugal (UCP)

Course structure

The MEDfOR programme offers a MSc degree that is fully recognised in all the participating countries. It requires the completion of studies encompassing 120 credits (ECTS) over a period of two years in the MEDfOR Consortium universities. This corresponds to 3 semesters of coursework plus a Winter School and 1 semester to prepare the Master dissertation. The student will obtain a Double, Multiple or Joint Degree. The official language of MEDfOR is English.

The MedfOR Master design complies with the Bologna qualification standards (2nd Cycle). Students are required to spend at least one semester to complete 30 credits (ECTS) in two or three institutions in two or three different countries. The first semester is spent in University of Lleida, Padova or Lisbon where the students acquire knowledge in the full range of disciplines essential to the use and management of Mediterranean forests. In the second year the students acquire cutting edge knowledge in a specialization provided by one of the consortium universities.

1st Semester 30 ECTS	2nd Semester 30 ECTS	3rd Semester 30 ECTS	4th Semester 30 ECTS
Coursework in UL	Coursework in UL	Multiple criteria specialization courses for Mediterranean forest management planning in UL	Social and Environmental responsibility in Mediterranean forestry in UP
Coursework in UP	Coursework in UP	Addressing risks in Mediterranean forest management planning in the case of fire in UL	Adaptive forestry strategies to provide goods and services while coping with global change challenges in UP
Coursework in UL	Coursework in UL	Adaptation for sustainable management of Mediterranean forests in UT	Ecosystem based multi-use forest management planning in Mediterranean forests in UT
Coursework in UL	Coursework in UL	Mediterranean Sustainable Forest Management An Institutional Economics Approach in UCP	

Specializations at University of Lisbon/
Catholic University of Portugal in Oporto:

Multiple criteria decision support systems for Mediterranean forest management planning

This specialization provides students with advanced knowledge on domains that are key to address current Mediterranean forestry challenges. For that purpose, it integrates multidisciplinary knowledge on forest models, on forest management planning models and on methods to assess and manage wildfire. Technological platforms (e.g. decision support systems) to facilitate this integrative approach to Mediterranean forestry are further addressed. Students will further acquire competences for conducting and communicating research in this field.

Mediterranean Sustainable Forest Management
An Institutional Economics Approach

Some major features of Mediterranean forests make institutional factors very relevant to their sustainability: positive and negative externalities and institutional mechanisms for their internalization, regulation of land use

conflicts, institutional management of forest and woodlands, institutional diversity within Mediterranean areas. This specialization is designed to train students in learning the economic concepts appropriate to analyse situations where collective action is needed to cope with social conflict and to promote sustainable development, and in applying these concepts to Mediterranean forests.

Further Specializations in the other consortium universities:

- Social and Environmental responsibility in Mediterranean forestry - University of Padova, Italy
- Addressing risks in Mediterranean forest management planning the case of fire - University of Lleida, Spain
- Adaptive forestry strategies to provide goods and services while coping with global change challenge University of Valladolid, Spain
- Advanced tools for sustainable management of Mediterranean forests, University of Tuscia, Italy
- Ecosystem based multi-use forest management planning in Mediterranean forests, Karadeniz Technical University, Turkey

Career Opportunities

The MEDfOR emphasis is on educating the leaders of the future generation of engineers, managers, researchers, and teachers involved in Mediterranean forestry and natural resources management! MEDfOR is involved with the professional sector and aims at increasing the professional student's opportunities.

Students get equipped with solid scientific habituations and the competences for careers in innovative fields of work within the Mediterranean forestry supply chain. Students may thus take advantage of further academic opportunities, such as enrolling in PhD programs. The MEDfOR background will be influential further for the development of a successful international career. Students will qualify to fill positions in all the Mediterranean forestry supply chain segments.



Conditions of access:
For more information about courses,
Conditions of Access, Career
and ISA, consult www.isa.ulisboa.pt/candidatos

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KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

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