



Summer School
Old-Growth
Forest
Research

September 15. - 21. 2024
Lodano
Ticino, Switzerland

Version 24.05.2024



Goal

Old-growth forests, ancient forests and forest reserves are attractive and rewarding outdoor laboratories to study diverse topics in forest ecology. This summer school offers scientific training for Master and PhD students interested in old-growth forests. The goal is to bring together a group of individuals which are motivated to learn from specialists in forest ecology, remote sensing, animal ecology, biodiversity and data management, and to contribute to an inspiring atmosphere.

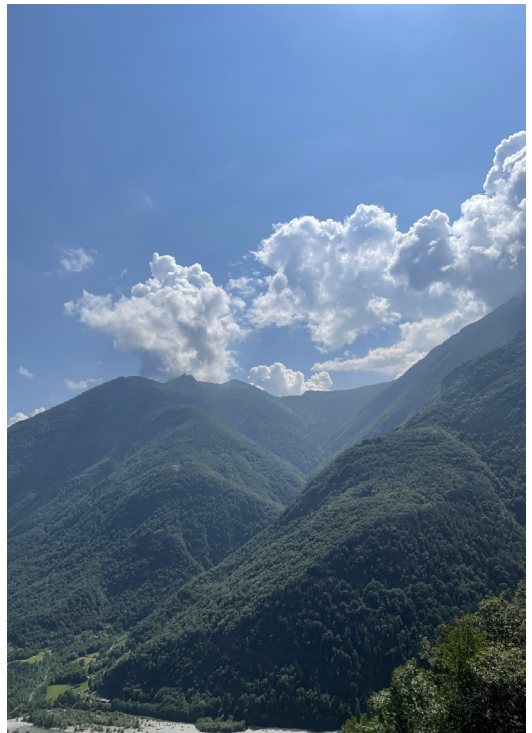
The summer school is organized by the Swiss-Ukrainian research cooperation for primeval forest structures and biodiversity.

Location

The summer school will take place in a comfortable guest house near Lodano in the canton of Ticino in southern Switzerland. Lodano is situated in the lower Vallemaggia close to Locarno.

The Valle di Lodano is a wide valley which opens just above the village and its vineyards and offers a fascinating landscape. It is home to a huge forest reserve, which harbors an ancient beech forest and is part of the UNESCO World Heritage.

The site was selected for Summer School due to its rich flora and fauna and its many similarities to the primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (CBR).





Format

The focus of the summer school is on project work in small groups (about 50% of the time, including some field work). Moreover, the week includes introductory lectures on different facets of old-growth forest research. There will be ample opportunity for discussing your own research with specialists from different disciplines to gain new insight and to acquire new perspectives. The summer school is also a great opportunity for intercultural exchange.

Audience

This summer school primarily targets Master and PhD students in environmental sciences, biology, geography and forestry. At least 5 places are reserved for students from Ukraine. All participants must provide proof of being able to follow a lecture in English, and to express themselves in a discussion. Basic knowledge of the R programming language is a plus.

Attendance is limited to 20 participants

Special offer for Ukrainian participants: You are encouraged to participate. If you need to brush up your English before the summer school, please contact us early so we can check what training you need. We are willing to make arrangements to improve your English, at no or very low cost.

Tentative Program

Sunday, 15.9.24	Arrival in Locarno 4 p.m., in the evening short introductory presentation of each participant
Monday, 16.9.24	Lectures and hike in the Valle di Lodano
Tuesday, 17.9.24	Field work and work on own projects
Wednesday, 18.9.24	Field work and work on own projects
Thursday, 19.9.24	Project work, discussion groups
Friday, 20.9.24	Project work, project presentations, closing party in the evening
Saturday, 21.9.24	Departure

The course fee is 400 CHF for students from outside of Ukraine and free of charge for Ukrainian students. The fee includes food and lodging, course material and the excursions including necessary transports.

Successful attendance of the summer school qualifies for 2 ECTS credit points - however the acceptance of these ECTS-points must be decided by your university.

For any inquiries, contact the main organizer Jonas Stillhard (jonas.stillhard@wsl.ch).

Schedule

23 June: Submission of applications

7 July: Notification of acceptance

Application and registration

To register, fill the form accessible until June 23rd 2024: <https://www.wsl.ch/en/events-and-courses/summer-school-old-growth-forest-research/>

Organizing Committee

Jonas Stillhard, Dr. Martina Hobi, Prof. Dr. Martin Gossner, Dr. Natalia Rehus, Marius Rüetschi
Dr. Lars Waser, Dr. Kathrin Streit, Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Birmensdorf, CH
Prof. Dr. Thibault Lachat, Bern University of Applied Sciences, BFW, Zollikofen, Switzerland



See you in Lodano!

