

Guidelines for the
obligatory practical training, part two
of the Technical Forestry High School (Försterschule)
(8 weeks **between the third and fourth grades**)
(one week courses at both FAST Ossiach and FAST Ort and 8 weeks practical
training in a company)

1. Legal Foundations:

According to the changes in the curriculum of the Technical Forestry High School (Försterschule), BGBl. II 331/2004, a ten-week practical training between the third and fourth years is obligatory. During these 10 weeks, one week will be dedicated to learning harvesting techniques of fallen timber at the FAST Ossiach and a one week course in specific mechanical timber harvesting methods at the FAST Ort is mandatory. Then an 8-week practical training at a company is also required.

2. Educational aim:

The aim of the practical training is to improve and complement acquired knowledge and skills in accordance with job requirements. The students should gain their first understandings about company policies, procedures, and organisation structure. From this experience (synopsis) a student can implement what they have learned in the classroom and practical trainings in a professional setting.

This collaboration should refer to the job aspects and the processes in the enterprise which the students are assigned to. Furthermore this should involve management and planning as well as the involvement of the enterprise with outside institutions. It should also include discussions with the market, the governmental departments and public authorities, as well as other professional organisations.

3. Table of contents:

The practitioners should be confronted with the following scope of duties within the frame of the organisational facilities:

- Seedling nursery
- Crop establishment
- Tending of stocks
- Forest protection and treatment of problem areas
- Wood processing and timber grading
- Dimensions, marketing strategies, handing over and haulage of round wood
- Facilities supporting the hunting grounds and forest ranges; hunting in general
- Valuation survey for forest management and evaluation of damage
- Various paper and office work
- Participation in negotiations and meetings

4. Didactic fundamentals:

Students should be given necessary instructions and explanations beforehand. They are required to wear protective equipment and clothing. Emphasis should also be given to manual work carried out by the student. Nevertheless students should not do one-sided jobs only, but they should be given the possibility to gain an insight into as many different activities and working processes as possible.

5. Report:

5.1. Diary:

Students are required to keep a diary in which they document the daily routines (date, place of work, tutor and a detailed description of the jobs, weather and other observations). Sketches, prints, images or photographs, brochures and similar things should complement and visualize the written report. There should be a minimum of one page a day. In case the activities do not change over a certain period of time there could reports up to and including three days per page.

5.2. Practical Essays

The students have to write three essays in the scope of their studies with direct implications with the activities of their experience. Each essay will deal with something that the student learned while at the enterprise. The report will be checked by the school and can be referred to and used during the school lessons.

The report has to have a minimum of 4000 letters with photos/graphics and so on.

6. Organisation:

Every student is assigned to an enterprise with whom they have to make an agreement as far as mutual obligations are concerned during the practical training.

The work briefings and planning are to the wishes of the manager, or his respective substitute. During the complete duration of the practical training the students are obliged to abide by the school's rules and regulations. In case of complaints contact the principal of the Technical Forestry High School (Försterschule) or one of the tutors.

At the beginning of the fourth year the students are supposed to hand in a letter of confirmation to the school. Should students be away from their practical training for more than a fourteen days the teachers' conference will have to decide whether the training is to be recognized (if the absences are justified, this will be considered).

7. Changeover from one enterprise to another:

An unanticipated changeover within the four weeks can only take place after the consultation and agreement of the Technical Forestry High School (Försterschule). The changeover can only be agreed to if all the requirements have been attended to.