



Sylva Scholarship ~ *healthy trees & productive forests*

The Sylva Scholarship was launched in Autumn 2010 in partnership with the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford (PLS). This is an important initiative under our Science programme, aiming to advance sustainable forest management through research and communication by supporting a research studentship at the Department.

The theme of the scholarship is *healthy trees and productive forests*. This reflects a joint vision between the Sylva Foundation and PLS to foster a robust tree and forest resource in the light of projected environmental change. Changes in the frequency and occurrence of pests and pathogens are seen as significant potential threats to our tree resource. Increased stress on tree health is anticipated with environmental change, further increasing tree susceptibility to pests and pathogens. Impacts in the forest ecosystem as a result of changes to management practise and environmental variability are also poorly understood. Maintaining a healthy and functioning tree resource is critically important to support the delivery of a wide range of sustainable outputs, including wood products for a low carbon society.

How does it work?

The Sylva Foundation provides sufficient funds to cover both University and College Fees. The subject of the research will be agreed with PLS, and any other partners, and will be central to Sylva's mission and goals. The research programme will be at DPhil level, therefore taking a minimum of three years. It is likely that a Sylva staff member will act as an external supervisor.

Funding

The minimum funding level made available will be c. £5,500 per year, covering University fees (£3,390) and College Fees (£2,208). Over three years this will amount to c. £16,500, or £22,000 if over four years.

The Sylva Scholarship will be paired with external funding when available, with a view to providing a full scholarship. Examples include National Environmental Research Council (NERC) CASE Studentships, and possibly with other University of Oxford scholarships.

How to apply

Applicants will apply direct to the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford, by meeting the usual Graduate Admission Criteria. [See details.](#)

Future development of the Sylva Scholarship

If further fundraising is successful, additional scholarships may be awarded, possibly before the first is complete. An ultimate goal is to raise funds sufficient to endow the scholarship.

[Read more](#)