Summer School
16 – 21 August 2026
Monte Verità, Ascona, Switzerland

Forests for the Future: Strategies for Carbon Sequestration

Aim of the Summer School

This interdisciplinary Summer School, organized by the ETH-Domain Joint Initiative SCENE, the TriNational ForestLab, the SwissForestLab and the NFZ.forestnet, provides a holistic view on the strategies for carbon sequestration in forests, wood products and biochar. Experts share in-depth understanding of the novel concepts, approaches, and available data. Modelling and assessment approaches will be discussed considering the expectations for future forests from technological, forest management, and socio-economic perspectives. The following main questions will be addressed during the Summer School at the Congressi Stefano Franscini at Monte Verità:

- ✓ **Which climate change and carbon sequestration services can forests provide?**
- ✓ **How can we promote timber construction and thus store more carbon in buildings?**
- ✓ **How can biochar be produced and applied in various sectors – and how can we certify carbon sequestration via biochar?**
- ✓ **Which policies and market designs can enable biomass carbon sequestration?**

Who should attend?

This Summer School is designed for early-stage researchers (Academia: PhD students and early PostDocs; Industry: young R&D engineers) working in various fields, including climate, materials, energy, social, political, environmental and economic sciences. The program features keynote lectures by internationally renowned experts, with plenty of time for discussions, poster sessions, and workshops. To demonstrate the significance and integration of these research questions in practice, we will conduct two half-day excursions. One afternoon will focus on regeneration, climate-friendly species and invasive species, while the other afternoon will provide detailed insight into the production and processing of valuable chestnut wood.

The participants will reflect on their own work with respect to other disciplines and discuss possible benefits of interdisciplinary approaches in their field. Ultimately, the participants will get to know the interfaces of their own research with other methods and approaches. All participants are expected to prepare an elevator pitch with one slide and present a poster of their research, providing an opportunity to discuss their work with peers and experts.

Confirmed lecturers for keynotes and workshops

Nadia Malinverno (Empa, Switzerland)	Lukas Fehr (Stiftung Risiko-Dialog, Switzerland)
Sebastian Rüter (Thünen-Institut, Germany)	Eva Lieberherr (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)
Ingo Burgert (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)	Julia Selberherr (Wüest Partner, Switzerland)
Sonja Keel (Agroscope, Switzerland)	Marc Hanewinkel (University of Freiburg, Germany)
Nele Rogiers (Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland)	Boris Pezzatti (WSL, Switzerland)
Robin Mutschler (Empa, Switzerland)	Cyril Brunner (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)
Björn Niesen (Empa, Switzerland)	Esther Thürig (WSL, Switzerland)

Application Deadline: 30 April 2026

The Summer School can accommodate approximately 35 highly motivated participants and is open to early-stage researchers (Academia: PhD students and early PostDocs; Industry: young R&D engineers) from around the world. The program will be conducted in English. The registration fee is 1'000 CHF, which covers accommodation (shared rooms) at the Congressi Stefano Franscini at Monte Verità, vegetarian meals from dinner on 16 August to lunch on 21 August, course materials, and the excursions. Participants are responsible for their travel expenses. For your application, please send your CV, a motivation letter (one A4 page) and an abstract of your PhD/MSc thesis or your current project as **one single PDF file** to swissforestlab_summerschool@wsl.ch. Decisions will be communicated to applicants by the end of May 2026.

This Summer School is organized and supported by:

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