The Bruce and Barbara Zobel Endowment for International Forestry Studies was established in 1998 to provide sustained recognition for the Zobels’ contributions to production forestry. The broad objectives of the endowment are to instill an international sense in forestry students and to enable them to obtain first-hand experience with forestry in diverse environments around the world. The endowment supports student activities in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, College of Natural Resources, North Carolina State University.

Since 2003, the endowment has provided mini-grants to undergraduate and graduate students in the department for travel to other countries. The purpose of the travel may be research, workshops, field tours, conferences, internships, or other activities related to the students' program of study. The travel should be related to or have a component addressing production forestry, including forest genetics, silviculture, and/or forest management. Students receiving support should be in good academic standing and making progress towards a degree in DFER. Specific criteria are: 1) intensity and quality of the international experience, 2) leveraging of the endowment funding with other sources of funding, 3) opportunities for increasing student knowledge of production forestry in an international context, 4) financial need and 5) academic potential.

In 2017, we plan to award grants of up to $8000 each (for activities in calendar year 2017). The committee is also willing to award one large grant of up to $15,000 for up to two years (March 2017 – February 2019) for a proposal of truly exceptional quality. Funding in smaller amounts (up to $1500) can be requested to support participation in workshops, field tours, conferences or internships. We anticipate that requests for more than $1500 will support dissertation or thesis research on production forestry. Participation in study tours sponsored by NCSU is not eligible for any funding. Applications from previous recipients of Zobel or Laarman grants will receive lower priority. A one-page report, suitable for publication on the departmental web page, must be submitted within one month of completing the international activity.

For priority consideration for the 2017 calendar year, apply by January 16, 2017 (5:00PM ET). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until March 31, 2017 or until funds are exhausted. For 2018 applications, we intend to move the deadline to December 1, 2017. This earlier date will give recipient(s) of the funds more time to better plan for summer research.
Students should apply for either a Zobel or a Laarman grant (not both, although the international committee reserves the right to fund grants from either source). Application should include:

a) cover page with your name and contact information, title of your proposal, total amount requested, and name of your academic advisor (indicating your advisor’s approval of the proposed international activity);

b) a one-page proposal describing the international activity and how it meets the criteria outlined above;

c) a detailed budget, indicating other sources of funding already secured and other funding proposals submitted; and

d) a printout of your (unofficial) transcript.

Please submit applications to Steve McKeand by email (Steve_McKeand@ncsu.edu), with cc to your adviser indicating that s/he supports your funding request.