

# Metsämiesten Säätiö Foundation

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## *An independent player*

The Metsämiesten Säätiö Foundation is a non-profit organization, established in 1948. Our mission is to develop the forest sector and promote the prosperity and well-being of its workers.

Following this mission, we grant about 1,5 million euros a year into forest research, education, well-being, communications and documenting forest culture.

We award scholarships for individuals, who have recently completed their studies, based on the applications submitted by the educational institution. In addition, we offer 20 reasonably priced studio apartments for students studying forest sciences at the University of Helsinki.

We generate the funds for the grants and other activities from our own investments into forest properties, funds generated from real estate as well as various financial investments.

The foundation has a staff of two persons: a managing director and an administrative assistant. The board consists of nine members, experts representing various interests from the forest sector and economy.

The history of Metsämiesten Säätiö Foundation dates back to difficulties encountered after the Second World War. Metsätyömaiden Muonitustoimisto ("Logging Site Catering Office") was established in 1940 in order to cater to the exceptionally high nutritional needs of the forest workers. As times progressed, this trade gradually decreased. Metsämiesten Säätiö Foundation was established

in 1948 in order to serve the forest sector with the funds generated by these activities, altogether about one million euros in total in today's value.

## *Grants once a year*

The application period for grants is once a year, from December to January. The applications are to be submitted in Finnish, via the Foundation website. The current Foundation financing strategy at the time will determine the primary emphasis of the grants:

### *Research*

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The goal of the research projects is to strengthen the future of forestry. We value a cross-disciplinary, pragmatic approach as well as applicability towards practical decision-making in order to create a holistic view. We call for all research projects to focus outside the research community, an ability to apply the results into practice by way of recommendations and communication. The financing of thesis and dissertations will be assessed according to these criteria as well.

- Trends and future development affecting the forest sector, emerging opportunities and their effects
- Socio-economic and forest policy research
- Well-being generated by forests, enhancing the prerequisites for the operating and the profitability of the forest sector
- Research serving other focal areas of the Foundation



## *Education*

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By enhancing and developing education and training we foster current and future expertise both in Finland as well as internationally. For this, a functioning educational system, quality teaching/tuition and up to date pedagogic material are needed.

- The content, quality and volume of forestry education
- Enhancing the international qualifications of forestry students and professionals
- Increasing the forest knowledge and skills of children and youth

## *Well-being*

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In addition to forests, people are an elemental resource for Finland. The focus on the well-being projects is to create motivated employees, good governance as well as a prospering forest sector. In case of shortcomings in society's welfare networks, the Foundation may grant separate social welfare support, based on individual case by case applications.

- Appropriate organization of work, creating capabilities for facing change
- Management and leadership skills
- Social sustainability

## *Communications*

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Communications projects, fostering societal forest dialogue as well as organizing various events will all raise awareness of the importance of the forest sector as well as its visibility and attractiveness as a work place. We strengthen the prerequisites for the operating of the sector by enhancing communication between research/education and forest sector decision makers.

- The significance of the forest sector, its

reputation, attractiveness, appreciation and image

- Communicating the various employment and career opportunities provided by the forest sector
- Fostering societal forest dialogue

## *Forest culture*

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Man and forests unite in forest culture projects - a means to recognize forest history, understand the present, to create new and to advance well-being. We value projects, which promote the attractiveness and secure future of forestry.

- Forest history and tradition
- Wood, forest and forestry in various forms of culture
- Community and professional appreciation

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