

# Visualizing forest management and forestry practices through blended learning

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An increasing number of students in the Faculty of Forestry are from urban backgrounds and about one-third are international students, with English as a second language (ESL).

Larger classes of students make it difficult for everyone to practise field use of basic measuring instruments, and some students start with little practical knowledge of geometry.



Photo credit: Chengyi Wen



## The direct short-term and sustainable benefits of the videos will be:

- Students will be able to use specific field techniques safely, confidently and accurately.
- Instructors in the UBC Faculty of Forestry will have readily available / on the shelf a range of instructional materials.
- Employers at UBC will have an increasing pool of qualified and capable graduates who can be trusted to carry out field-based work safely, accurately and reliably, and who have access to field-usable visual aides.
- Partner universities and institutions will have access to the videos which will provide tremendous benefit to students who are enrolled in the joint programs.
- The transfer students from Chinese Universities can learn the field-based-related terminologies and techniques through the videos and be better prepared before they transfer to UBC.
- Valuable teaching materials and learning resources for use in joint educational and research projects, such as APFNet educational projects, group training for missions from China and India, visiting scholar programs, etc.
- Availability for other universities, community colleges and the British Columbia Community Forestry Association (BCCFA). This will enhance the reputation of UBC as a supplier of relevant and reliable instructional materials.



With support from TLEF and The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), our Faculty of Forestry team is creating sets of videos on four themes covering specific forestry techniques.



## Over 100 students have viewed the trial videos produced so far and have submitted feedback.

The videos will be accessible by September 2016 to users globally through the Cultivating Forest Stewardship (CFS) website, <http://cfs.forestry.ubc.ca/>.

The first set of videos is ***TAPING TREES, DISPLAYING DIAMETERS, HOISTING HEIGHTS***. Each short video shows simple steps in field measurement of trees and logs using basic handheld Instruments. Variations are demonstrated for abnormally shaped trees and logs. These training videos allow students to see and learn basic measuring skills at their own pace and in their own time.

### OTHER THEMES BEING FEATURED IN THE VIDEOS:

- How to assess timber quality
- How to select trees for harvest
- Making the most of machines

### PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

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## Teaching and Learning Innovations

- The videos include an interactive learning activity module for use in the classroom, online courses and on mobile devices.
- These components will extend undergraduate teaching of field forestry and allow a blended learning experience and enhance undergraduate and graduate teaching and learning in classroom presentations and exercises for at least 10 Forestry courses.
- All students will benefit from accessing these tools, which will also make it easier for instructors to 'flip' the classroom and dedicate more time to discussions.



To see an example video:



Scan the QR code to download the free Layar App



Scan this poster

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