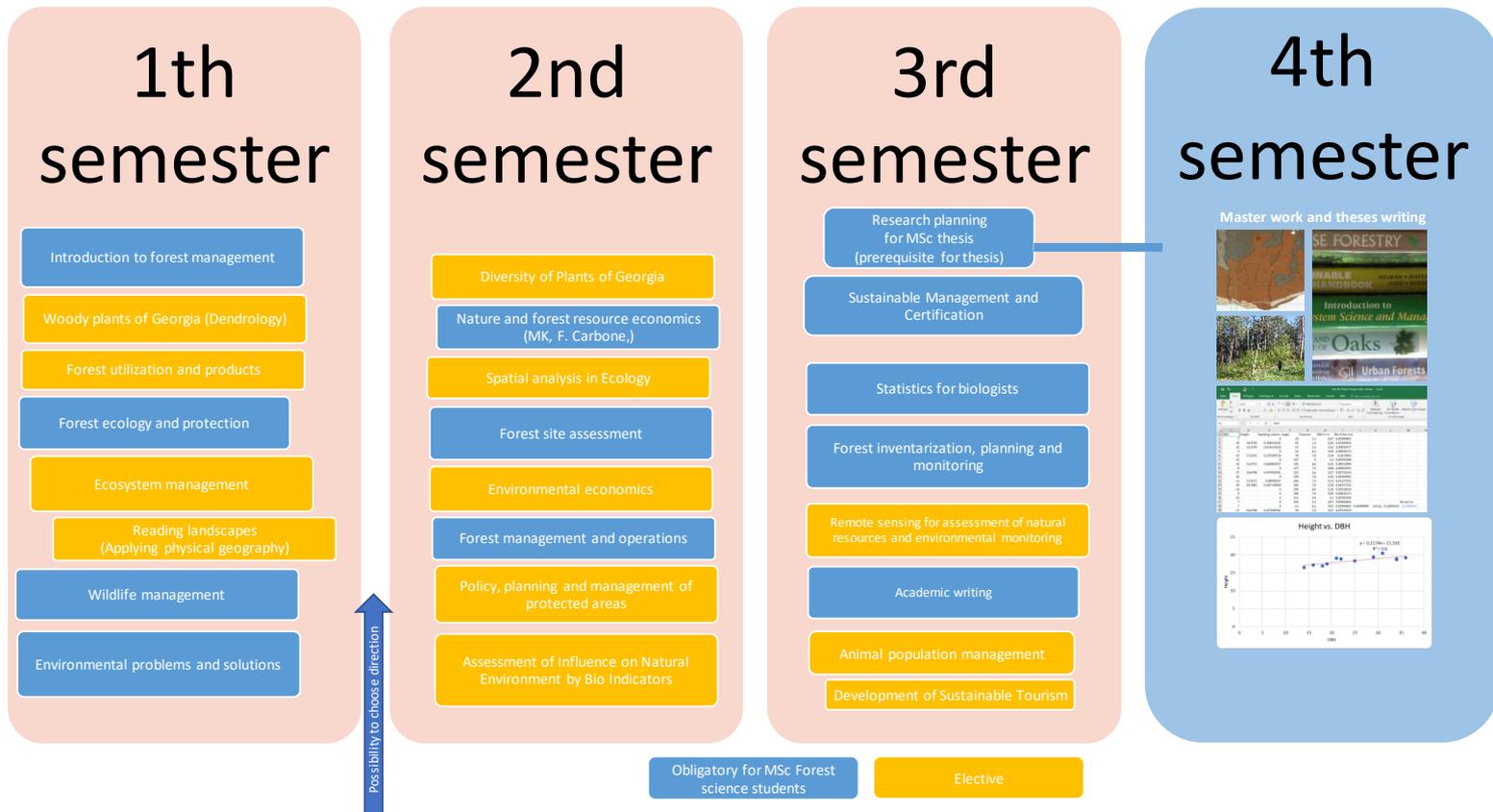


## Master study program in Nature and Forest Management for the Caucasus region

Starting in September 2019, a new MSc program with the study direction Forestry will be taught in English at Ilia State University in Tbilisi (leading research institution of the region, according to SCImago ranking). The study program has a strong management focus with a large proportion of field teaching to enable graduates applying their new knowledge in forestry. With the master courses taught in English, the program aims to teach for the following learning outcomes:

- advanced knowledge and understanding of natural and man-made land ecosystems and options of their sustainable management
- identification of soil types, assessment of site conditions and their influence on vegetation, field methods to assess vegetation and site quality relevant for forest growth
- understanding the complex features of nature-economics interaction, and apply environmental valuation methods to practical problems
- knowledge species-specific and growth-dependent wood properties, wood processing, and different types and purposes of wood products
- ability to carry out forest inventories, monitor long-term forest development, and calculate forest growth to estimate future yield and potential income by forestry activities
- description of forest stands and their degree of naturalness, selection and promotion of site-adapted tree species, natural regeneration in mature forest
- motivation for the management goal based on the functions and services of forest, and consequent silvicultural interventions
- planning of forest access, tree planting, thinning and timber harvest operations, with estimated revenue of those management interventions
- ability to make management decisions at the stand level as well as at the landscape/estate level
- further the knowledge and understanding of the concept of sustainability and its application in management practices as well as certification standards
- also, a basic understanding of descriptive statistics, statistical significance, and the standards and skills of academic writing are required to graduate within this program

## 2 year Master program in Nature and Forest Management, direction Forestry



Equipped with this knowledge, and combined with native language and relevant soft skills, a high demand for successful graduates at estate and National level can be expected when recently written forest policies have to be implemented at estate and stand level. The increasing demand is already reflected by a growing number of job announcements by forest companies, governmental bodies, NGOs and international organizations. Consequently, the university has strengthened the study focus from ecological theory towards sustainable management practices, e.g. by the establishment of long-term forest experiments and a dendrochronological laboratory to conduct growth and yield analyses. Considering future needs, political agendas, and the emerging forest sector especially, it would be a wise decision to study forest sciences in an international context and become part of the next foresters' generation. Now is the time to choose this profession and start a career in forestry.

Lars Drössler, PhD.  
 Program coordinator  
 Professor in Forest sciences  
 Institute of Ecology  
 Iliia State University  
 Email: [Lars.drossler@iliauni.edu.ge](mailto:Lars.drossler@iliauni.edu.ge)