

BLUE SKY YOUNG RESEARCHERS INNOVATION AWARD FOR THE GLOBAL FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR

1. The idea

By using the angle of innovation, we aim to stimulate competition between students and young researchers carrying out projects relevant to forest-based industry using process improvements or other innovations throughout the value chain. The Blue Sky awards will take place every two years and grant up to three awards to the most attractive submissions during each global CEO Roundtable promoted by the International Council of Forests and Paper Associations (ICFPA). The first award will be awarded in June 2017 in Berlin.

The award is not only about research and development; it is about innovation and about being inspirational, interesting and green.

2. The International Reward

After a transparent and objective selection process, the winning submissions will have the opportunity to present their project in front of an audience of global forest products industries CEOs at the occasion of the CEO Roundtable. Travel expenses to Berlin and accommodation will also be sponsored by the Blue Sky Award. Only three students will be selected to the international reward. Each country will nominate a candidate to compete internationally after going through the national selection. Prior to the final selection, the finalists would be invited to submit a short video in which they would describe briefly their project.

3. National Award – Brazil

Applications shall be submitted until April, 2016. The national phase of the award will be divided in two stages: first will be the pre-evaluation of the application, which should be done until June 2016. Then the best projects will be considered to the final selection and 5-10 candidates will be taken to live presentation in front of an examining board that will assess and choose the winning project. The examination board will be composed by executives and scholars from IPEF (Forestry Science and Research Institute/ESALQ/USP) and SIF (Forest Investigation Society/UFV) from the following fields of expertise:

- Forest Economics and Planning
- Forest Management and Silviculture

- Industrial Manufacturing
- Timber Manufacturing
- Environment

An award of BRL 8,000 will be given to the young researcher and BRL 5,000 will be given to the project supervisor.

4. Eligibility

Young researchers: students or other researchers under age 30. Carrying out research and innovation projects relevant for forestry, forest products processing technologies and forest products in an academia, public or private research center, company research and innovation department.

5. Theme

“Game Changing Technologies for the Forest and Paper Industry — Unfolding the Potentials of Forest, Paper and Wood-Based Products”. The theme includes 2 sub areas and research lines that can be found below:

- a) Future Generation Forestry
 - Forest tree breeding and biotechnology
 - Precision forestry
 - Measurements and inventory

- b) Innovation in the Wood-Based Industry
 - Analysis and properties of pulp and paper
 - Facilities, instrument and process control
 - Bioproducts and wood chemistry
 - Recycling, deinking and environment
 - Timber for construction
 - Material substitution with wood

6. Schedule

PERIOD	ACTION
Mar/Apr 2016	Announcement and call for applications
May/Jun 2016	Regional pre- evaluation of applications
Jul/Oct 2016	Regional final evaluation of applications
Dec 2016	Presentations and regional definition of candidates
Jan/Mar 2017	Global pre-selection
Mar/Apr 2017	Global Final Selection
June 2017	Presentations and international reward

7. Application

Applicants are invited to submit their application containing the following documents:

- Short CV (maximum one page)
- Statement of purpose, including:
 - 500 words; double spacing; font Calibri 12
 - Objectives
 - Description of the project
 - Summary of Methodology
 - Expected results
 - Why is it relevant for the forest products industries
 - What makes it innovative
 - How is it fitting with the selected theme
- Additional Requirements:
 - Advanced English Skills (writing, listening and speaking)
 - Young adults, both researchers and students, candidates must be under age 30

Applications should be submitted by April to natalia.canova@iba.org. Application after the deadline will not be accepted.