

Call for Application

We invite doctoral students and early-career researchers from Ukraine to apply for a three-month hybrid research in Germany as part of the project *“ConnectED: German–Ukrainian University Network for Empowering Higher Education in Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation.”*

We offer the opportunity to carry out impactful research while building academic connections between Ukrainian and German universities. Participants work closely with scientists from both countries to explore pressing topics in environmental protection and nature conservation.

Main goal of the research stay is to generate evidence-based knowledge, innovative methodologies and real-world case studies that directly contribute to the development of one of two interdisciplinary university courses co-designed by German and Ukrainian lecturers:

- Restoring Ecosystems Resilience (During and After Crises).
- Close-to-Nature Silviculture.

Each research stay follows a hybrid format, combining remote work with an in-person visit to Germany:

- During the two-month online phase, researchers conduct a literature review, analyse existing data, design a research plan, prepare tools and methods for fieldwork, and begin drafting their report and academic publication.
- The one-month on-site phase in Germany includes implementing the research plan, collecting data, and testing hypotheses under the guidance of academic supervisors.

At the end of the stay, each participant submits a final research report and contributes to a joint academic publication based on their findings.

The research must begin no later than October 1, 2025, and be completed by December 31, 2025. The on-site phase in Germany can take place during either the second or third month of the research stay.

Research Topics

Applicants are encouraged to propose their own research topics, that align with the focus of one of the two courses currently being developed within the framework of the project:

1. Restoring Ecosystems Resilience (During and After Crises)

This course explores strategies for restoring ecosystems affected by crises such as war, mining, wildfires, and deforestation. It focuses on practical approaches to rehabilitating landscapes, forests, and water bodies, with particular relevance to post-crisis recovery in Ukraine.

2. Close-to-Nature Silviculture

This course introduces sustainable forest management practices that promote biodiversity, resilience, and long-term ecological stability. It presents Close-to-Nature Silviculture as an alternative to clear-cutting and intensive logging—especially important for Ukraine’s forest sector transformation.

Scholarship

Selected participants receive the following financial support for accommodation (€2,000) and mobility (€350).

Application Process

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be current PhD students or early-career researchers (up to three years post-PhD, or up to five years in well-justified cases).

- Have a minimum B2-level proficiency in English.

To apply, candidates are required to submit the following documents:

- Completed application form.
- Curriculum vitae (CV), including academic background and relevant publications.
- Research proposal (max. 1,000 words), outlining the objectives, methodology, expected outcomes, and relevance to one of the two courses mentioned above.
- Motivation letter, explaining the relevance of the proposed topic to the focus of the selected course.
- Proof of English proficiency.
- Endorsement letter from the applicant's home university.

The application deadline is **22 August 2025**.

All documents must be submitted as a single PDF file via email to

✉ Marianna.Matviichuk@hnee.de

Only complete applications that meet all eligibility criteria will be considered. A selection committee will review all submissions. Applicants will be notified of the results via email within two weeks after the deadline.

We look forward to receiving your application!