

Fund helps students visit APF

Senior instructor **Callum Crawford** reports on a visit to the APF Exhibition by a group of students from Barony Campus SRUC. Some of the students give their feedback

A group of enthusiastic first year forestry students were recently given the opportunity to travel down from SRUC Barony to Warwickshire, to visit the APF Exhibition at the Ragley Estate.

Following an overnight stay at YHA Stratford-upon-Avon, the group arrived at the event, well rested and ready to go, early on the Friday morning. On arrival at the Ragley Estate the student group were taken aback by the scale of the event and the potential learning to be had from attending. They were all encouraged by SRUC staff to ask plenty questions and speak to as many exhibitors as they could during the visit.

The student group all thoroughly enjoyed their visit with the APF Exhibition once again living up to, and in many cases, exceeding their expectations. On the journey home there was a definite buzz of enthusiasm for what had been seen and plenty of thought provoking discussion ensued.

As the feedback suggests, I know that every student took away valuable experiences from their visit, some have made very firm industry contacts and all had their eyes opened to the breadth of opportunity that exists within the sector. This is something that can be difficult for school leavers to imagine without seeing it for themselves.

The visit was made possible by Confor, through the Forest Industries Education and Provident Fund, which helped meet the cost of accommodation and entry tickets for the student group. We are very grateful for the help to make this visit possible.



What the students said

- “ Nearly every stand was welcoming and enthusiastic... I joined BHL and Confor, coming for two days next time... Thanks to Confor for help with our funding!
- “ I expected the APF to be good and it lived up to my expectations, I learned a lot about Forest Industries.
- “ Seeing the machinery and technology available made me certain that forestry is the industry that I want to be involved in.
- “ The visit gave us 'newbies' a clearer insight of the sectors within the industry... Allows us to see the relevance of our training at Barony.
- “ It helped me get contacts for a future career; I was offered training by a potential employer!
- “ When I was there I saw a manufacturer demonstrating battery-powered equipment and explaining what the future holds for this type of technology.
- “ Impressed by the layout of the show and the sheer size and value of the equipment displayed... I hope to spend a fair amount of time planting in my career, thanks to encouragement from Forestry Commission staff.

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