

Short career introduction

Name:

Sebastian

Job title:

Forest engineer

Career:

After school, Sebastian completed a three-year training course at the state forestry office in Bonn to become a certified forester. After his community service at the open-air museum in Kommern he went on to study forest engineering at the University of Applied Sciences in Göttingen, graduating with a diploma. Since 2010, Sebastian is city forester in Bonn.

Responsibilities:

Sebastian is the head of the city forestry and responsible for the employees. He is also involved in the training and education of foresters and interns. Moreover, Sebastian is responsible for the city's game enclosure and the "Haus der Natur" ("House of Nature") museum. He further developed learning materials to educate children about forest-related issues, which he also uses in his teaching.

Essential skills in my job:

- organizational skills
- joy in working with people
- technical understanding of forestry

What I need to know in my job:

- knowledge in Natural Sciences (biology, chemistry and physics)
- knowledge of flora and fauna (botany and zoology); knowledge about trees and the forest as an ecosystem
- knowledge of geology
- mathematics and spatial thinking
- expertise on silviculture and forest protection/conservation
- public relations and nature education

Why I always wanted to work in this profession:

- already as a child interested in forests, lots of "contact with nature" with parents and friends
- back in school huge interest in natural sciences
- working with people
- balance between office work and outdoor activities
- wood as a multifunctional building material
- wood working with machines and tools

Most interesting part of my profession

- witnessing the development of a forest area after wood harvesting; dynamic processes in the forest
- variety of challenges
- providing wood as a raw material
- actively participating in the conservation of nature
- teaching



This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 665100.



Forest Engineer, Sebastian

My name is Sebastian and I am the forester of the German city Bonn. As a matter of fact, I am a forest engineer. After school I completed a three-year training course at the state forestry office in Bonn to become a certified forester. After my community service at the open-air museum in Kommern I went on to study forest engineering at the University of Applied Sciences in Göttingen, which I graduated with a diploma. Since 2010, I am the city forester in Bonn.

The reason why I always wanted to work in this profession is that from an early age on I was always very interested in the forest. As a child I've spent a lot of time with my parents and friends in forests. In school I was always interested in natural sciences. On top of that, I like to interact with people and the balance between office work and work outside is great. Furthermore, I think wood as a multifunctional building material is very interesting and operating machines in the forest is exciting.

I am the head of the city forestry and responsible for its employees. I am also involved in the training and education of foresters and interns. Moreover, I am responsible for the city's game enclosure and the "Haus der Natur" ("House of Nature") museum. I've developed learning materials to educate children about forest-related issues, which I often use to teach children of all ages who come and visit us.

My job requires organizational skills and joy in working with people. It goes without saying that the technical understanding of forestry is very important too. My job also requires a lot of knowledge regarding the natural sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and knowledge about flora and fauna (plants and animals). Knowledge about the forest as an ecosystem and particular trees are important as well. Mathematics and spatial thinking help me a lot in my daily activities. But I also need my expertise on silviculture and forest protection/conservation, public relations and nature education. Knowledge in the field of Geology is important too. One could say my job is very diverse.

A typical work day starts in the office. I read and answer e-mails, file applications about which kinds of work in the forest have to be done and who should do them. Afterwards, I often go on inspection tours in the forest, visiting building sites or meet with contractors or other foresters in order to plan new projects. I also control the game enclosure on a daily basis. Due to the fact that I'm employed by the city of Bonn, I regularly meet with officials and my superiors. Then I'll go for a lunch break. Afterwards, I normally have physical tasks in the forest, e.g. measuring harvested wood and marking specific trees or parts of the forest. Sometimes residents have troubles with certain trees that grow into their garden, so they'll call upon me. At the end of the day I usually check on my mails again. Sometimes, I have to make some more phone calls and write reports about which kinds of work have been dealt with so far. Occasionally I have to continue my work even after the official end of the work day. For example, if there is a discussion about environmental issues regarding the city of Bonn and trees next to the Rhine have to be cut down or machines have to be used, I have to provide information and report on issues.

The most interesting part of my profession is that it's very diverse and every day has some new challenges to it. Moreover, witnessing the development of a forest area after wood harvesting is very exciting. Generally speaking, I enjoy providing a raw material such as wood. I think it's great to be able to actively participate in the conservation of nature, and to provide education for people with regards to the forest and its exciting animals, plants and even the soil itself.