

Julia Iwan
NGEA51
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Internship at the ICOS research station in Hyltemossa

I completed my internship at the ICOS station in Hyltemossa during the summer break of 2019. ICOS is an infrastructure that measures carbon fluxes in various ecosystems all over Europe. This data is freely available to researchers and the public. Hyltemossa is monitoring carbon fluxes in a fully managed spruce forest.

All of my tasks were aiming at understanding the ecosystem better. There were four continuous plots (CP) where the majority of the measurements was conducted. These CPs were representative for the whole forest. There were continuous tasks that had to be done in certain time intervals, such as measuring the groundwater table and weighing dried litter. These measurements followed the standard ICOS protocols.

Furthermore, there were new methods and instruments that we got to test. It was very interesting to read up on those methods and find out how those instruments worked.

Additionally, I also assisted a PHD student who conducted her measurements at the ICOS station.

These 8 weeks were very interesting, as it gave me an insight into the research world. I got to meet many people visiting the station and therefore learnt a lot about the different paths that led people to this profession.

I can only recommend this internship as it is very informative and interactive. We could divide our time and were able to choose which tasks we wanted to focus on.