Be a “field expert”

In the run-up to the excursion, you choose a topic relevant to the research region, to which you give an introductory lecture, but also commit yourself to represent it spontaneously and depending on the opportunity in the field. In this way, you make the first teaching experiences in a relaxed manner in the quickly familiar circle of your excursion group.

Make it become your own research

In principle, there is the possibility of securing a project work or final thesis (bachelor's or master's thesis) in your respective project and leading it to success together with the lecturers of soil science. This is a great opportunity because it ensures that you have taken your samples yourself and that you know the system you are writing about.

SHARE-X History:

SHARE-X has proven itself on four excursions so far.

- 2018 in Chile. Work within the framework of the DFG project EARTHSHAPE, which deals with the influence of life on the functions and design of the earth's surface along a climate gradient.

- 2018 in a GIZ Project: Identification of Pedodiversity and the Principles of Soil distribution of Mongolian Forests

- 2019 in Israel along a climate gradient from the Mediterranean to the Negev, preliminary work for a new, meanwhile approved, project at the Volkswagen Foundation on the topic of climatic control of biogenic weathering processes

- 2019 in Amazonia (border triangle Peru, Bolivia and Brazil) to increase resilience through increased functional soil biodiversity within the framework of the BMBF project PRODIGY.

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The situation

Which prospective scientist doesn’t know the aha-moment when all the dull theory of study comes together and one finally understands why one had to learn all this? Who doesn’t know at the same time the feeling that essential parts of the new research activity were not the subject of study at all? Usually, this moment only comes with the independent assumption of one’s own research work, usually the Master’s thesis. In very bad, but perhaps not so rare cases, it may be that it is only when you write your dissertation that you realize that you had imagined research to be “somehow different” and that the whole thing was “not for you at all”.

A possible solution

SHARE-X (Students having active research experiences on excursions) is the new excursion concept of the Institute of Soil Science of the Leibniz Universität Hannover. It is a concept which confronts students during their studies with the realities of soil- and ecosystem field research.

Become part of an international research project...

Soil Science Hannover is active worldwide in numerous research projects, which are excellently suited to introduce you to current research by simply working on such a project for a period of time. In the classical learning-by-doing approach, you receive important tools such as experiment design, research logistics and project management. Additionally, you experience first-hand how research concepts have to be adapted iteratively to the constantly changing realities of non-European research projects without weakening the scientific question itself.

...but nevertheless enjoy your excursion at full

Get behind the scenes: the format of the excursion is perfectly suited for observing the ecological and social implications of this research on site, e.g. to make climate gradients tangible in the truest sense of the word, to discuss the consequences of climate change on site with those affected, to look beyond one’s own disciplinary horizon in cooperation with our international cooperation partners, and - of course - to learn so much about "country and people".