

PROFESSOR IN MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION

DEPARTMENT OF WOOD AND FOREST SCIENCES FACULTY OF FORESTRY, GEOGRAPHY AND GEOMATICS UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

A privileged living environment in the heart of Quebec City and the first French-language university in North America, Université Laval is a major university open to the world and recognized for its culture of excellence in teaching and research. Thanks to the Department of Wood and Forest Sciences of the Faculty of Forestry, Geography and Geomatics, Université Laval is the only university in Quebec to offer undergraduate programs in forestry and wood engineering leading to the Quebec Order of Forest Engineers or to the Quebec Order of Engineers. The Department of Wood and Forest Sciences is also responsible for the integrated multi-faculty bachelor's degree in natural and managed environments and the only graduate program in agroforestry in Canada. It has 35 full-time professors and lecturers, five research chairs, a teaching leadership chairs, a research consortium, two research centers and over 500 undergraduate and graduate students. Collaborations with the Departments of Geography and Geomatics, as well as with other faculties at Université Laval, offer interesting opportunities for multidisciplinary research.

Job Description

In accordance with its development plan and to support a key sector of Quebec's economy, the Department of Wood and Forest Sciences is seeking a professor in maple syrup production. This field, at the intersection of economic, environmental, and cultural considerations, represents a strategic area for sustainable forestry.

The successful candidate will be expected to teach in French at all levels and contribute to the various departmental programs, in particular the bachelor's degree in Forest Management and Environment, Forest Operations, and Natural and Managed Environments, as well as those in Agroforestry, Agronomy, and Agroeconomy. The candidate will also be expected to develop an innovative research program aimed at addressing the current challenges of the maple syrup industry. More specifically, the teaching and research activities will focus on the following areas:

1. Tree physiology and ecophysiology, particularly of maple trees, and fundamental mechanisms of sap flow.
2. Impacts of global change on the health of sugarbushes and the dynamics of sap flow.
3. Biotic and abiotic factors affecting maple syrup yield and sap quality.
4. Sap collection systems aimed at optimizing efficiency and reducing losses in maple syrup production.

Responsibilities include:

1. Teaching maple syrup production and related subjects (e.g., ecophysiology, tree physiology, forest ecology) in French at the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels.
2. Development of pedagogical and instructional materials.
3. Securing research funding from granting agencies and external partners to support research activities.
4. Conducting research and supervising graduate students on topics related to the areas listed above.
5. Development of teaching and research activities at the Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures forest station, a privileged site dedicated to research and teaching.
6. Collaboration with existing research groups, notably the Canada Research Chair in Silviculture Adapted to Climate Change and the Research Chair in Maple Syrup Production and Sugarbush Management.

7. Participation in departmental, faculty, university, and multi-stakeholder committees.

Selection Criteria

1. Hold a bachelor's degree in forestry, in biology, in agronomy, or in a related discipline, as well as a doctoral degree from a recognized university in a relevant field (or be near completion).
2. Demonstrate specific expertise in the first area listed above, as well as in at least one of the three other areas.
3. Possess in-depth knowledge of technical, ecological, and economic issues related to maple syrup production in Quebec.
4. Demonstrate strong abilities in university-level teaching and knowledge mobilization.
5. Demonstrate the ability to secure the funding required to establish a research program from public or private funding agencies.
6. Demonstrate the ability to design independent research projects, articulate a coherent research vision, and exercise scientific leadership.
7. Present a vision for the position in terms of university teaching and research, and propose concrete actions to implement that vision.
8. Eligibility for membership in the Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec (OIFQ) is considered an asset.

Salary and conditions: According to the collective bargaining agreement.

Posting period: December 19, 2025 to February 27, 2026

Expected Start Date: July 6, 2026

The university values diversity and invites applications from all qualified candidates, particularly women, visible and ethnic minorities, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities. However, priority will be given to those with Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status.

Université Laval being a francophone university, Appendix B of the collective bargaining agreement stipulates that a professor whose mother tongue is not French must, within a prescribed period, demonstrate functional proficiency in oral and written French.

Interested candidates are urged to send a letter of interest, a one- to two-page document describing their vision and philosophy of undergraduate and graduate teaching and research, a curriculum vitae including a list of publications, and the names of three references by February 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. to:

Director
Department of Wood and Forest Sciences
Faculty of Forestry, Geography and Geomatics
Université Laval
Québec (Québec)
Canada G1V 0A6
Telephone: 1-418-656-3025
Email: direction@sbf.ulaval.ca