

Celebrating our students : the International Forest

International students were invited to leave a legacy of their time with us at Christ Church by planting trees for our new International Forest.



Image: International students gathered with garden tools and saplings ready to plant at the new International Forest.

As part of the University's *Wilder Campus* initiative launched for our Diamond Jubilee year, an International Forest is being established at our Stodmarsh playing fields.

These saplings will mature into a strip of woodland and hedgerow between the road and the playing fields, providing both a carbon sink and a natural habitat for wildlife.

The trees planted at the launch event were a mixture of native British trees, including oak, beech, hazel and birch. The propagation of native tree species is vital for the health of our natural environment and the preservation of biodiversity.

The International Forest creates an opportunity for our international students to engage directly with the climate and biodiversity crisis, whilst joining in the celebration of the University's Diamond Jubilee.

Just the beginning

The launch event on the 18th of May 2022 saw staff and students planting over 50 saplings, which will be added to by more international students at further forest planting events and opportunities over the coming months and years.

Donated by *I Dig Trees* and planted on a 200 metre long bank overlooking the University's sports fields at Stodmarsh near Canterbury, the International Forest creates a fitting legacy that will hopefully extend far beyond our next 60 years of University life.

25+

staff and students
planted saplings at
the launch event

50+

saplings mark the
beginning of an
International Forest

"It was a beautiful day for our international students to each plant a tree sapling – in celebration of their own personal growth and academic success whilst at university and in recognition of their ongoing connection to the Christ Church community."

Laura Spencer, International Development Manager



Image: Students digging the first row of saplings (left), planting their saplings (centre) and showing off their tree (right).

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