

Dear students, participants of the field mycology course in Białowieża,

we are excited to deliver to you the first series of practical information and important dates!

The field course starts on **Saturday, September 20th in Białowieża** (Poland). The classes will take place in [Białowieża Geobotanical Station](#), University of Warsaw (ul. Sportowa 19, Białowieża) and we will be accommodated in the same building. The first introductory lecture and some get-together activities will start at **4 p.m. on Saturday**. There will be not coordinated transportation to Białowieża, so individually you are in charge of finding the option which suits you best. You can check train connections to Hajnówka (the nearest railway station from where we will be able to pick you up) on: <https://portalpasazera.pl/>.

This year we expect almost 40 students mainly from University of Warsaw (Poland), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), Heidelberg University (Germany), and University of South Bohemia (Czechia). The course will be organized by university teachers, experienced mycologists and volunteers.

During the course, we will be accommodated in multi-person rooms in Białowieża Geobotanical Station ([see description](#)). You will receive bed linen, so sleeping bags are not needed. However, remember to take your own towel. We will have access to laboratory, lecture rooms and social space. This year, we will not organize common kitchen or meals in a restaurant, so you are in charge of preparing food for yourself. In Białowieża Field Station, there is well-equipped common kitchen available for everyone. Białowieża is a tourist area, so there are some restaurants and shops in the village too. In the building you can use edurom Wi-Fi network. However, please note that Białowieża is very close to Polish-Belarusian border and you may expect limited access to a mobile network in the forests. Also, remember to set up manual network selection on your mobiles to avoid being extra charged. Finally, **remember to have your ID with you**.

During the field course, you will work in groups on your own projects. These projects will focus on identification, ecology and taxonomy of selected fungal taxa. You will experience field trips with demonstration of fungi in field, you will have workshops on microscopy, data handling, preparation of herbarium specimens, and will experience evening lectures. You will also amplify selected molecular markers from your collections and work with fungal DNA sequence data obtained during the course. This year we will introduce you to nanopore sequencing technology. The course will end with your project presentations planned on Friday, September 26th in the afternoon. The course ends on Saturday morning. This year, we will not organize an on-line introductory workshop. Instead, we would like to ask you to

1. Register as user on Plutof biodiversity data management platform: <https://plutof.ut.ee/>
2. Install PlutofGO app on your mobile phones (use the login from Plutof to login)
3. Install mBDL app (mobilny bank danych o lasach) on your mobile phones

For work on projects, we recommend that you take your own laptops. You will also need writing accessories and notebooks. For the field trips, you will receive collecting boxes and hand lenses, but do not forget waterproof boots and clothes.

This year the course is organized without specific external funding, so please contact specific offices at your home institutions to check for options (e.g. Erasmus short term internships opportunities). For Polish students the rules are the same as for other field courses.

More information will be available soon on course webpage: <https://ibe.biol.uw.edu.pl/dla-studentow/lista-zajec/mykologia-terenowa/>

You will receive further information no later than the beginning of September.

If you have any questions, let me know (julia.z.pawlowska@uw.edu.pl or +48600327503).

Kind regards,
Julia Pawłowska
on behalf of course organizing team