Fraunhofer

Join in and be a part of it!
Apply for the 2026 Fraunhofer Science, Art and Design network summer camp and work with an interdisciplinary creative team to design innovative solutions with sustainable, resource-efficient materials!

When and where?
From August 30 to September 5, 2026, at the Fraunhofer Center in Benediktbeuern

SUMMER CAMP 2026

From the Laboratory to the Workbench

Experimental co-creation between material, crafting and research

What materials and methods do we need to shape the future of sustainable construction?

Developing sustainable solutions for construction requires more than just new materials. It requires space to bring together different ways of thinking, methods to enable collaborative experimentation and settings that productively combine research, crafting and design.

In the 2026 summer camp, you will work with other students and Fraunhofer researchers to explore what experimental laboratory and workshop settings of this type might look like.

Whether biobased building materials, historically inspired construction methods or modern manufacturing technologies, the focus will not only be on *what* we work on together but especially on *how*.

For a full week, you will work in an interdisciplinary team, test materials, develop prototypes, reflect on processes and actively contribute to designing a co-creation format that can have a lasting impact beyond the summer camp.

What we offer

- Seven days of creative work in inspiring surroundings
- Meals + lodging + reimbursement of travel expenses
- Presentations by experts + entertainment program
- Interdisciplinary teamwork with students from various fields and researchers from different Fraunhofer institutes

We invite undergraduate and graduate students (including those in architecture, building physics, materials science, sustainable design or related fields) and participants with a background in the trades or other professions, who are passionate about sustainability, materials, practical work and interdisciplinary collaboration.

The working language will be English. The content requires that participants be able to actively participate in English.

APPLICATION

Are you studying in a program that applies to our teams and are you interested in a one-week interdisciplinary workshop? If so, tell us by June 15, 2026, what speaks to you about this task, how you would like to contribute to our summer camp and which team (or teams) you would like to work in.

Please send your cover letter along with your résumé to
camilla.geier@zv.fraunhofer.de

More detailed information and impressions from recent summer camps are available on the Fraunhofer **Science, Art and Design** network website.

1

Team 1: Bauwissen reloaded

How can historic buildings often stand for centuries—and what can we learn from them today? In the *Bauwissen reloaded* team, we investigate how materials, construction methods and crafting contribute to the longevity of historic buildings and how this knowledge can be further developed for contemporary construction. At the summer camp, we will analyze selected historical construction methods, materials and joining methods, test their properties and consider together how they can be adapted to meet today's requirements. The goal is not simply one of replication but of transferring empirical knowledge to new contexts.
You are well suited to the team if you are interested in historical construction methods, can contribute practical experience or believe that historical knowledge holds great potential for addressing current challenges.

2

Team 2: Materials from mushrooms

Mycelium-based materials open up new possibilities for sustainable materials solutions. They are lightweight, offer energy-efficient manufacturing, are biodegradable and can be grown from organic residues. But how can these properties be put to practical use? In the *Materials from mushrooms* team, you will learn about different mycelium-based materials and experiment with their unique properties. We will work together to investigate how these materials can be used to develop components, surfaces or products and in which applications—such as architecture, design or packaging—they can be a true alternative to conventional materials. You are well suited to the team if you are curious about new materials and want to try out sustainable materials concepts in practice.

3

Team 3: Biobased materials

The landscape around Benediktbeuern Abbey offers a wealth of plant-based raw materials such as straw and wetlands plants that offer great potential for bio-based construction applications. In the *Biobased materials* team, we will focus on how such raw materials can be effectively processed and implemented in the construction industry.
At the summer camp, you will work with plant-based materials and agricultural residues and explore their potential uses, such as in insulation, facade or wall elements or for acoustic applications. We will work together to develop initial concepts and prototypes and discuss which manufacturing steps, tools and methods are best suited for the task. You are well suited to the team if you're interested in architecture, construction physics or sustainable materials and want to explore new approaches for future construction.