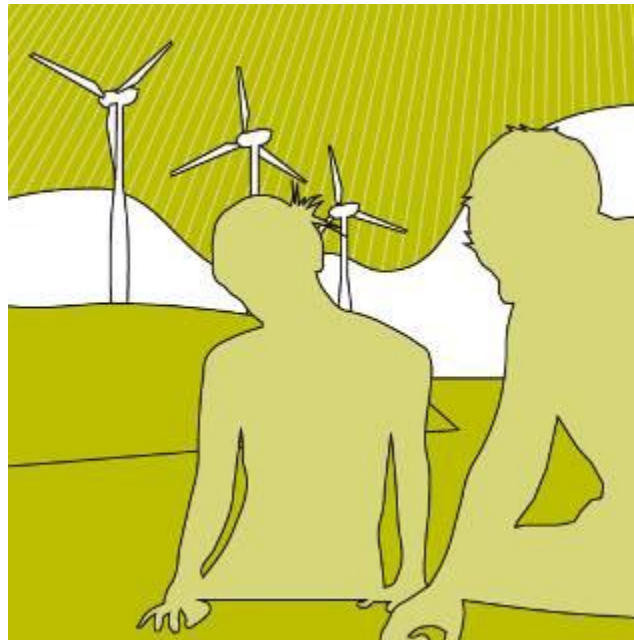


Welcome/Course Guide

International Joint Master's Programme in Sustainable Development

2017 - 2018



Universities: **GRAZ**, University of Graz, Austria/ **VENICE**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy/ **LEIPZIG**, Leipzig University, Germany/ **UTRECHT**, Utrecht University, The Netherlands/ **BASEL**, Basel University, Switzerland/ **HIROSHIMA**, Hiroshima University, Japan/ **STELLENBOSCH**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa/ **NEW DELHI**, Teri University, India.



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Preface

Welcome to the International Joint Master’s Programme in Sustainable Development!

This Joint Master’s Programme was developed by a consortium which consists of Utrecht University, University of Graz, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, and Leipzig University. Basel University, Hiroshima University, Stellenbosch University and Teri University are associated partners in the programme.

The International Joint Master’s Programme in Sustainable Development is a prime example of a programme where sustainability issues are approached from an inter-disciplinary perspective. The focus is set on applying competencies to the question of sustainable development and the needs and possibilities of societal transformation. It combines the specialisations in teaching and the research excellence of eight partner universities, thereby offering you a comprehensive qualification recognized by the countries of the consortium partners and the possibility of going on to PhD studies as well as increasing the employability in the private, public, and semi-public sector.

On behalf of faculty and staff we wish you an inspiring, pleasant and successful new academic year!

Prof. Dr. Robert Holländer
Dr. Thomas Brudermann
Prof. Roberto Pastres
Dr. Paul Schot
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3 Contact Information: Student Advisors

You can contact the student advisors for a (confidential) talk about everything that concerns you in the course of your studies such as course schedules, information on facilities and student unions, an analysis of your study progress, etc. Your advisor can also help mediate possible conflicts with teachers, staff, or fellow students.



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4 Introduction

This chapter introduces you to the concept of sustainable development, which is of course the core subject of the Joint Master's Programme. It explains what a joint programme is and defines home and partner universities. The last part focuses on your mobility semester.

4.1 Sustainable Development

Since the global environmental conferences in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and Johannesburg in 2002 'sustainable development' – i.e. development that is environmentally accountable – has become an internationally recognised principle that most nations are now committed to achieve. The main ways to do so are by shifting from fossil fuel based energy towards renewable energy, recycling materials, using natural resources prudently, making consumption patterns more environmentally accountable, paying attention to the quality of the man-made environment, and conserving and restoring the remaining natural habitats. Sustainable development is the expression of a desire to attune economic and social development to the carrying capacity of the physical environment everywhere, now and in the future.

The issue of sustainable development has high priority in the international political and scientific agenda. It is also a trans-boundary issue, since environmental problems will not stop at a country's borders. The concept of sustainable development has far-reaching significance. There is an international obligation to carefully weigh the benefits of economic development against the environmental and social costs.

The International Joint Master's Programme in Sustainable Development intends to produce graduates who wish to work towards an environmentally accountable society. At its core is the analysis of the changes needed to achieve such a society (research methodology) and the question of how these changes can be steered locally and globally in both the short and the long term.

4.2 What is a Joint Degree Programme?

Here is everything you need to know about the nature and advantages of joint degree study programmes. The following 6 key-points define a joint programme:

- the study programme is jointly developed and recognised by several international partner institutions
- students choose one partner institution as their entrance university
- students spend part of their studies at another partner institution
- the periods of study and examinations (credit points), which were completed at a partner institution, are automatically recognised in full at the students' entrance institution



- the teaching staff of the participating institutions works together on the curriculum, formulates regulations for admission, examination conditions, and participates in teacher exchange programmes
- upon completion of the study programme, students receive either multiple degrees or a degree which is jointly conferred

4.3 Consortium and Partner Universities

The International Joint Master's Programme in Sustainable Development combines the teaching specialisations and research foci of eight high profile partner institutions. The universities work together to guarantee a high quality international curriculum with regional aspects.

You can choose any one of the following partner universities that forms the consortium to be your entrance university: University of Graz, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Leipzig University, or Utrecht University. Basel University, Hiroshima University, Stellenbosch University and Teri University are associated partners in the programme. You can choose to spend your compulsory mobility semester in Basel or Hiroshima and still earn the recognized joint/double degree.

4.4 Entrance University and Mobility Semester

The 'entrance university' is defined as the university where you are enrolled as a regular student, at which you start the programme and spend at least the first semester and last semester.

The Joint Master's Programme comprises 120 ECTS credits corresponding to a period of study of at least four semesters or two years. 60 credits have to be earned at your entrance university. You are required to complete at least 30 credits at one of the partner universities (except TERI and Stellenbosch). "European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System" points are based on the total time investment a course or module requires in principle, including both classroom contact hours and individual study. You can find out more about the ECTS system at http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/ects_en.htm

You have to spend the specialisation track in the 2nd semester at a partner university. The mobility semester can be spent at any of the degree awarding partners as well as at the associated partner universities Basel University and Hiroshima University. You may also spend an additional study period at Stellenbosch University and Teri University or use any other mobility programmes available at your entrance university.

Note: additional fees may be charged. You have to go through regular procedures.



5 Joint Master's Programme SD: General Information

This chapter provides some general information concerning the Joint Master's Programme in Sustainable Development. You will get to know the mission statement, the competence profile, and occupational perspectives. An overview of the academic calendar at the different universities is given as well as information regarding language conditions and optional language courses.

5.1 Mission of the Joint Master's Programme

The aim of the Joint Master's Programme in Sustainable Development is expressed in the following mission statement:

To educate scientists who will be able to make a substantial contribution to the transition to a sustainable society through their scientific research and their skills in the area of societal interventions.

Sustainable development requires a process of change in which a balance is achieved among ecological, technological, economic, and socio-cultural values, from the local to the global scale, in both the short and the long term. Academics play an important role in this transition by integrating and applying their specialised knowledge. First of all, the integration of knowledge is needed to be able to analyse, describe, and explain sustainability issues (in terms of cause and effect) and place these issues in their societal context. Secondly, knowledge integration plays a role in the generation, assessment, and implementation of measures that make the transition to a sustainable society possible.

5.2 Competence Profile and Occupational Perspectives

Scientific occupations

The Joint Master's Programme qualifies you for subsequent PhD studies, ultimately leading to professions in scientific research. This is how the master's programme prepares you:

- the programme devotes extensive attention to scientific theories (paradigms), theory building, theory testing and methodology
- you will learn to apply the body of scientific instruments that is available for analysis, evaluation, and design in an intensive and critical manner
- you will develop a research attitude, based on accuracy, originality, critical thinking, and creativity
- assignments will give you the opportunity to learn how to work in multidisciplinary teams
- you will become acquainted with practical intervention strategies
- you will write a master's thesis that is intended to generate new scientific knowledge



Private, public, and semi-public sector

The societal orientation of the master's programme makes it also a good starting point for positions that do not directly involve scientific research. As a graduate you might seek employment in the private sector, the public sector (national, regional, and local government), consultancy firms, and NGOs.

In the course of their career, graduates should be able to fill managerial positions, notably with respect to the integration of knowledge and policy and in the field of change management (particularly of complex processes of societal change). The Joint Programme prepares graduates for jobs with international organisations such as EU, UN, or various relevant NGOs.

5.3 Academic Calendar

The start of the semester can vary within the Joint Master's Programme depending on your chosen entrance and mobility universities. Here is an overview of the academic calendar for 2017/2018:

	<i>Semester 1</i>		<i>Semester 2</i>	
	Semester 1a	Semester 1b	Semester 2a	Semester 2b
Utrecht	Sept 4 – Nov 10	Nov 13 - Feb 2	Feb 5 - April 20	April 23 - July 13
Graz	Oct 2- Feb 3		March 5 –June 30	
Leipzig	Class: Oct 9 – Feb 2		April 9 - July 14	
Venice	Classes: Sep 18 - Dec 22 2017 Exams: Jan 8 - Feb 3 2018		Classes: Feb 5 - May 12 2018 Exams: May 21 – Jun 16 2018	
Basel	Check here		Check here	
Hiroshima			April 9 – August 10	
Stellenbosch*	Feb – Jun		Jul – Dec	
TERI	Jul 28 – Dec 5, 2013 (III Sem)		Jan 7 – May 17	

* Stellenbosch courses are not offered on a semester basis. They comprise of one-week contact periods and eight weeks of independent study.

5.4 Language

The Joint Master programme is entirely offered in English.

However, in the course of your studies you are encouraged to improve your language skills, particularly of the national languages of your mobility university. You can do so at various university language institutes. Please check with your entrance/mobility university or ask your student advisor for more details. Information will be also provided on our website.



6 Programme, Qualifications, and Tracks

This chapter will give you detailed information on the programme, qualifications, and tracks as well as an overview of the general structure of the joint master's programme.

6.1 Programme Highlights

The programme consists of two general modules (1st and 3rd semester) which follow the same structure at all consortium universities, and of specialisation tracks (2nd semester) which specialise in a particular area of sustainable development.

In the general part the challenges of sustainable development are examined and discussed from various vantage points. You will become familiar with both the natural sciences and the social sciences approach to sustainability. You will form research teams and work on the confrontation and integration of knowledge and insights.

Each specialisation track pays attention to the theoretical background, appropriate research methodology, and intervention methods of a specialised field within the framework of sustainable development. You can deepen that basis by attending further optional courses from the curriculum. For your optional courses you may choose additional courses from your own specialisation track or courses that are part of other tracks. Please note that your choice of optional courses may be restricted. This will be clearly stated in the 'letter of admission' which is based on your academic background (BA) in social or natural sciences. Some specialised courses cannot be attended without previous academic knowledge in that particular subject area.

The programme culminates in a master's thesis. A research traineeship may be part of the final thesis project. After the thesis has been completed, you will present and defend your research results to faculty, staff, and students.

6.2 Elements of the Joint Master's Programme

Find an overview of the structure and elements of the joint programme here:

https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/projekte/jointdegree/SD/SD_Programme/JMiSD_Structure.jpg

You will attend 'Basics in Sustainable Development' in your first semester and the 'Integration Module' in your third. These courses intend to place disciplinary insights and approaches in their proper context while learning to work in teams on assigned projects.

Each track of the programme has a required amount of coursework that will give you theoretical depth and a firm foundation in research methodology, techniques, and skills. The optional subjects expand further upon that knowledge.



The independent final research master's thesis counts 30 ECTS credits. A research traineeship may be part of this final thesis (to be discussed with the academic coordinator and/or supervisor)

6.3 Qualifications

The following requirements have to be fulfilled in order to be awarded the joint degree:

- you must have successfully completed the required number of theoretical courses in your field of specialisation
- you must have completed an independent research project and/or a research traineeship

The following profile of qualifications applies to the Joint Master's Programme in Sustainable Development as a whole. As a graduate you will be able to:

- analyse the issue of sustainable development from the perspectives of natural sciences and social sciences
- engage in a scientific debate on the issue of sustainable development
- design and carry out scientific research on the issue of sustainable development in a creative and independent way
- formulate fundamental critique on the scientific work of others
- communicate successfully knowledge in natural sciences or social sciences on the issue of sustainable development verbally and in writing to a wide audience
- put the results of a scientific investigation in the form of a scientific report, article or similar kind of publication

6.4 General Courses

The main focus of the master's programme is the scientific analysis of complex processes of change related to the pursuit of a sustainable society. Besides a critical analysis and evaluation of these processes, the programme also deals with various means by which societal and/or technological changes can be implemented. These issues are studied from a multi- and trans-disciplinary perspective.

The programme comprises elements of the natural and social sciences. In an intensive programme, you will learn to apply scientific instruments in the areas of analysis, evaluation, and design. In addition, you will become familiar with practical strategies for intervention. The programme also devotes ample attention to the international dimension of sustainability issues.

The purpose of the general part of the curriculum – the part that each student is required to take – is to provide all students with the same scientific skills and knowledge they need in each track.



The compulsory part consists of the following tracks:

- Basics in Sustainable Development
- Integration Module

6.5 Specialisation Tracks

All students of the International Joint Master's Programme in Sustainable Development have to follow the introductory module 'Basics in Sustainable Development' at their home university. During the specialisation track at the mobility university, you will then deepen your knowledge in a chosen discipline. The final 'Integration Module' will connect the different scientific approaches and prepare for the master's thesis.

The programme consists of different tracks, allowing you to specialise in natural or social sciences, depending on your undergraduate education. This academic year the consortium offers the following tracks:

Utrecht University:

- Energy and Materials (natural science)
- Environmental Change and Ecosystems (natural science)
- Earth System Governance (social science)

University of Graz:

- Sustainable Business Management (social science)
- Climate and Environmental Change (natural science)

Ca' Foscari University of Venice:

- Global Environmental Change (natural science)

Leipzig University:

- Environmental Technology Management (natural & social science)
- Resources Management (social and natural science)

University of Basel:

- Sustainability: The Social Dimension (social science)

Hiroshima University:

- Sustainable Development Science and Technology (natural and social science)

The list plus descriptions can be also found on our website:

<http://www.jointdegree.eu/de/sustainable-development/programme/modules-tracks/>



6.6 *Modules for additional mobility within the partnership*

The modules resp. courses that are offered within our agreement will be published together with the call for applications for additional mobility at TERI University, India and University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Please, check the website for updates.



Appendix I: Tracks and Courses

<i>University Compulsory/ optional course</i>	<i>Course/ track</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Semester 1		
Utrecht	Course: Basics in Sustainable Development	
Compulsory 1a	Perspectives on Sustainable Development	
Compulsory 1b	Sustainability Modelling & Indicators	
Optional (1 of 3)	Track 1: Energy & Materials	
Compulsory 1a	Tools for Energy & Materials Analysis	
Compulsory 1b	Sustainable Energy Supply	
Optional (1 of 3)	Track 2: Earth System Governance	
Compulsory 1a	Foundations of ESG Research	
Compulsory 1b	Governance Theories	
Optional (1 of 3)	Track 3: Environmental Change and Ecosystems	
Compulsory 1a	Environmental Change Theories	
Compulsory 1b	Climate System & Adaptation	
Semester 2		
Optional (1 of 3)	Track 1: Energy & Materials	
Compulsory 2a	Research Design	
Optional 2a	Fossil Resources or Bio-based Economy or Energy in the Built Environment	
Compulsory 2b	Policies for Energy & Materials Transitions	
Optional 2b	free elective, e.g. Photovoltaic Solar Energy Physics	
Optional (1 of 3)	Track 2: Earth System Governance	
Compulsory 2a	Research Design	
Compulsory 2a	Research Strategies ESG	
Compulsory 2b	Analysing Governance Practices	
Compulsory 2b	International Governance for Sustainable Development	
Optional (1 of 3)	Track 3: Environmental Change and Ecosystems	
Compulsory 2a	Research Design	
Compulsory 2a	Environmental Systems Analysis	
Compulsory 2b	Research Project ECE (15 ECTS)	
Semester 3		
	Course: Integration Module	
Compulsory 3a	Transdisciplinary Case Study	
Optional (1 of 3)	Track 1: Energy & Materials	
Compulsory 3a	Energy & Material Efficiency	
Optional 3b	Free elective, e.g. Climate System and Adaptation or start Master's thesis	
Optional (1 of 3)	Track 2: Earth System Governance	
Optional 3a	Free elective, e.g. Environmental Ethics & Sustainable Development	



Optional 3b	Free elective or start Master's thesis	
Optional (1 of 3)	Track 3: Environmental Change and Ecosystems	
Optional 3a	Free elective, e.g. Environmental Ethics & Sustainable Development	
Optional 3b	Free elective or start Master's thesis	
Semester 4		
Compulsory	Master's thesis (30 ECTS)	
Optional	Tailor-made course (7.5 or 15 ECTS)	
Optional	Extension of the Master's thesis (to 45 ECTS)	

<i>University Compulsory/ optional course</i>	<i>Course/ track</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Semester 1		
Graz	Course: Basics in Sustainable Development	
Compulsory	The Sustainability Challenge (3 ECTS)	
	IP Sustainable Development; Integrating Perspectives (10 ECTS)	
	Social competencies for working in inter- & transdisciplinary teams (2 ECTS)	
	Methods for inter- and transdisciplinary problem solving (2 ECTS)	
	Systems integration and assessment, Lecture, (3 ECTS)	
Optional (10 ECTS) * The list of available electives will be announced in advance of each winter semester according to the courses offered in the respective semester.	Environmental and technology assessment, Course, (4 ECTS)	
	Waste and Recycling, Course, (4 ECTS)	
	Environmental decision making, Course, (4 ECTS)	
	Seminar on systems integration and assessment, (4 ECTS)	
	Renewable Resources – Chemistry and Technology I (2 ECTS)	
	Renewable Resources – Chemistry and Technology II I (2 ECTS)	
	Climate and Environmental Change (3 ECTS)	
	Climate Ethics (4 ECTS)	
	Applications in Environmental Economics (6 ECTS)	
	Global Change (4 ECTS)	
Further Selected topics		
Semester 2		
Optional (1 of 2)	Track: Sustainable Business Management	
	Strategic Sustainability Management (4 ECTS)	
	Sustainability Entrepreneurship (4 ECTS)	
	Eco-Controlling (4 ECTS)	



	Sustainable Innovation (4 ECTS)	
	Selected topic in Sustainability Management (4 ECTS)	
	Research Project (6 ECTS)	
	Seminar Sustainability and Environmental Management (4 ECTS)	
Optional (1 of 2)	Track: Climate and Environmental Change	
	Climate and Environmental Change: Current Research Issues (3 ECTS)	
	Selected Topics in Atmospheric and Climate Physics (3 ECTS)	
	Physical Oceanography, Hydrology and Climate (3 ECTS)	
	Atmospheric Dynamics (3 ECTS)	
	Mountain Meteorology and Climatology (4 ECTS)	
	Mountain Hydrology (4 ECTS)	
	Climate Change and Natural Hazards (4 ECTS)	title to be confirmed
	Additional competences (6 ECTS, elective)	
Semester 3		
Compulsory	Course: Integration Module	
Compulsory	- Inter- and transdisciplinary case study (10 ECTS) - Social competencies for managing sustainable development (3 ECTS) - Master seminar (2 ECTS)	
Optional	free electives (15 ECTS) for further specialisation (as possibility to strengthen the individual profile)	
Master's thesis		
Compulsory	Master's thesis	

<i>University Compulsory/ optional course</i>	<i>Course/ track</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Semester 1		
Venice	Course: Basics in Sustainable Development	
Compulsory	Oceanography (6 ECTS)	
Compulsory	Climatology (6 ECTS)	
Compulsory	Global change biology (6 ECTS)	
Compulsory	Introduction to programming and data management (6 ECTS)	
Compulsory	Environmental modelling (6 ECTS)	
Semester 2		
	Track 1: Global Environmental Change	
	Environmental impacts related to climate change (6 ECTS)	
	Renewable energy sources (6 ECTS)	
	Environmental Economics and sustainable development	
	The climate of the past	



	Atmospheric chemistry	
For incoming students: any of the track courses can be replaced by the Interdisciplinary Case Study (Semester 4)		
Semester 3		
Compulsory	Course: Integration Module	
	Ecosystem functioning and climate change (6 ECTS)	
	Climate modelling (6 ECTS)	
	Integrated management of natural resources (6 ECTS)	
	2 Elective courses (12 ECTS) to be selected among the courses offered by Ca' Foscari University.	
Semester 4		
Compulsory	Interdisciplinary case study	
Compulsory	Master's thesis (24 ECTS)	

<i>University Compulsory/ optional course</i>	<i>Course/ track</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Semester 1		
Leipzig	Course: Basics in Sustainable Development	
Compulsory	Basics in Economic Sciences -Economics -International Finance -New Scientific Discourses of SME Promotion	
Compulsory	Basics in Social Sciences – International Studies -Lecture, -Seminar, - Tutorial	
Compulsory	Basics in Sustainable Development - Urban Geography, Sociology and Governance - Integrated Assessment of Climate Protection Strategies - Theories of Sustainability/Aspects of Corporate Environmental Management	
Semester 2		
Optional (1 of 2)	Track 1: Environmental Technology Management	
	Module: Air Pollution Abatement and Safety Management	
	Module: Water, Waste Water and Waste	
	Module: Energy Engineering and Management	
Optional (1 of 2)	Track 2: Resources Management	
	Module: Water Resources Management	
	Module: Sustainable Energy Economics	
	Module: Land Management	
Semester 3		
Compulsory	Course: Integration Module	
Optional (1 of 3)	Module Paper on: Inter- and Transdisciplinary Case Study	



	on a Current Topic as Team Work		
Optional (1 of 3)	Module Paper on: Integrative Case Study on a Sustainability Issue as Single Work		English or German
Optional (1 of 3)	Module Paper on: Research Assistance in a Research Project at IIRM		
Compulsory	Project Management and Communication Skills		
Optional (1 of 3)	Optional 2 of 3	Material Flow Management	
		Development of System Sciences and Sustainability	
		Sustainability Assessment of the Energy Transition	
	Entrepreneurship Management		
	Modelling in Resources Management		
Semester 4			
Compulsory	Master's thesis		

<i>University Compulsory/ optional course</i>	<i>Course/ track</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Semester 2		
Basel	Track: Sustainability: The Social Dimension	
	Environmental Ethics and Intergenerational Justice	
	Integrative Methods	
	Capabilities and Sustainability	
	Governance of Sustainable Development	
	Societal Aspects of energy transition	
	Water Supply and Sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa	
	<p>* The name of the courses can vary; however, these topics are standardly covered. Additional courses are available upon request.</p> <p>The final course guide will be available by mid-December – Incoming mobility students will be contacted by Email end of November/beginning of December</p> <p>For details please contact the following Email address: coordination-msd@unibas.ch</p>	



<i>University Compulsory/ optional course</i>	<i>Course/ track</i>	<i>Language of instruction and examination</i>
Semester 2		
Hiroshima	Track: Sustainable Development Science and Technology	
	Environmental Management Technology	
	Development Technology	
	Environment Simulator	
	Management and Conservation of Ecosystems	
	Marine Hydrodynamics	
	Transportation Planning	
	Transportation Engineering	
	Grassland Ecology	
	Sustainable Architecture I	
	Sustainable Architecture II	
<p>*The above is 2016-17 Course Information. 2017-18 Course Information will be announced after September, 2017.</p>		