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what resilience
does the earth
have to threats
menacing its
capacity to
support life?

Master of arts (MA) in Foundations and Practices of sustainability

GENERAL OUTLINE

Objectives

The focus of the Master's degree in Foundations and Practices of Sustainability is on so-called "strong" sustainability, that is to say the challenges associated with the reduction and limitation of flows of energy and matter, so that our economic activities become once again compatible with the biosphere and its many processes.

Its objective is to train you to lead and support the transition of our societies towards ecologically and socially sustainable solutions. It aims to transmit the tools needed for analysis and reflection as well as the know-how required to establish a link between theoretical principles and innovative practices capable of meeting the challenges of the ecological transition.

Career prospects

- Consultancy firms specialising in sustainability strategies
- Public administrations responsible for environmental policy
- Associations and movements dedicated to environmental protection
- Research institutions
- Environmental management in companies
- Journalism
- Starting your own business

Alumni work in a variety of roles, for example: trainee in environmental education, environment and security specialist or project and communications manager.

Positions and alumni testimonials:
www.unil.ch/perspectives/geosciences

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organisers

Faculty of Geosciences and Environment
School of Geosciences and Environment
www.unil.ch/gse

Degree awarded

Master of Arts (MA) in Foundations and Practices of Sustainability

ECTS credits

120

Duration

4 semesters

Teaching language

French. Recommended level: C1.

Contact

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More information

www.unil.ch/masterdurabilite



EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Description

The Master's degree course in Foundations and Practices of Sustainability comprises 5 modules of mandatory courses spread over the first 3 semesters, a module of free-choice courses extending over the 2nd and 3rd semesters, and a Master's thesis during the 4th semester.

Mobility

Subject to the prior agreement of the mobility Commission, you may study for one or two semesters in an institution recognised by UNIL while continuing to be registered with the University of Lausanne.

Skills development

At the end of the Master's degree course, you will be able to understand and analyse the major contemporary environmental issues in the light of the humanities applied to the environment, to evaluate the proposed solutions with a reflexive and critical approach, to perform case analyses and to propose solutions based on the knowledge acquired, to conduct a project, to identify and prioritise information using different supports, and to communicate and argue on environmental issues.

This panoply of skills, combined with specialist knowledge acquired in the course of studies, is excellent preparation for a wide range of employment opportunities such as those mentioned in the «Career Prospects» section.

SYLLABUS

Mandatory Courses 84 ECTS credits

Module 1: Fundamentals I: Philosophy, Ethics, History

- Ideas and Politics of Nature
- Elements of Environmental History
- Gender and Spirituality in Ecological Engagement
- Law, Society and Environment
- Environmental Ethics: Introduction and Case Studies
- Environmental Ethics: Thematic Enhancement
- Sustainability and Anthropological Issues

25 ECTS credits

Module 2: Fundamentals II: Climate, Risk, Expertise and Governance

- Climate Change and Vulnerability
- Risks from a Social Sciences Perspective
- Participatory Democracy
- International Environmental Politics

15 ECTS credits

Module 3: Economics, Institutions

- Ecological Economics and Transition
- A Critical Approach to Technology
- Transitions, Cultures and Experimentation
- Politics and Environmental Justice : Transnational Perspectives
- Money, Finance and Transition

19 ECTS credits

Module 4: Practices

- Experiences and Protagonists of Sustainability: testimonies, conferences with professionals
- The Great Questions of Environmental Law
- Economics of Planetary Boundaries
- Tools and Practices for Sustainability: project management; alternative management; sustainable entrepreneurship; psychology of the environment and social influence

17 ECTS credits

Module 5: Sustainability and the Living World

- Biodiversity
- Agroforestry and Permaculture

8 ECTS credits

Free-Choice Courses

Additional options chosen from a list of courses offered by the Faculty of Geosciences and Environment or other faculties or universities.

At least 6 ECTS credits

Module 7: Master's Thesis

- Master's Thesis

30 ECTS credits

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Admission requirements

The candidate must satisfy the conditions for registration and enrolment at the University of Lausanne and hold a Bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss or foreign university. After reviewing the application file, a study upgrade may be requested. If the upgrade exceeds 60 credits, admission is refused.

Holders of a BSc in Geosciences and Environment from the University of Lausanne are admitted without conditions.

Enrolment and final date

Applications to be submitted before 30 April to the Admissions Office: www.unil.ch/immat
Candidates needing a visa to study in Switzerland: 28 February.

Start of courses

Mid-September
Academic calendar: www.unil.ch/central/calendar

Part-time Master's degree

Under certain conditions, a Master programme can be followed part-time. See www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel.

General information on studies, guidance:

www.unil.ch/soc

Career prospects

www.unil.ch/perspectives

Accommodation and financial assistance

www.unil.ch/sasme

International

www.unil.ch/international



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Faculté des géosciences
et de l'environnement