



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 future protagonists who have the capacity 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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organisers

Faculty of Geosciences and Environment of the University of Lausanne
School of Geosciences and Environment

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

M^{me} Christina Stauffer,
Faculté des GSE
Quartier UNIL-Mouline
Géopolis
CH-1015 Lausanne
Tél. +41 (0)21 692 35 46
Fax +41 (0)21 692 35 05
christina.stauffer@unil.ch



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.

SYLLABUS

Mandatory Courses 81 ECTS credits

Module 1: Fundamentals I: Long-Duration Categories - Philosophy, Ethics, History

- Anthropology and the Idea of Nature
- Elements of Environmental History
- Political Philosophy
- Law, Society and Environment
- Environmental Ethics: Introduction and Case Studies
- Environmental Ethics: Thematic Enhancement
- Sustainability and Economic Anthropology

24 ECTS credits

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

- Anthropology and the Idea of Nature
- Elements of Environmental History
- Political Philosophy
- Law, Society and Environment
- Environmental Ethics: Introduction and Case Studies
- Environmental Ethics: Thematic Enhancement
- Sustainability and Economic Anthropology

24 ECTS credits

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

- Climate Change and Vulnerability
- Risks from a Social Sciences Perspective
- Social Sciences' Approach to Risk
- Professionalisation of Participation and Expertise
- Global Ecopolitics

15 ECTS credits

Module 3: Economics, Institutions

- Ecological Economics and Transition
- A Critical Approach to Technology
- Social Economics based on Solidarity and Transition
- Ecological Democracy and Transition
- Money, Finance and Transition

20 ECTS credits

Module 4: Practices

- Experiences and Protagonists of Sustainability: testimonies, conferences with professionals
- The Great Questions of Environmental Law
- Production and Consumption, Strategies for Dematerialisation
- Tools and Practices for Sustainability: project management; alternative management; sustainable entrepreneurship; social psychology and communication designed to appeal

17 ECTS credits

Module 5: Sustainability and the Living World

- Biodiversity
- Agro-ecology and Permaculture
- Foresterie

8 ECTS credits

Free-Choice Courses At least 6 ECTS credits

Module 7: 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.

Regulations and additional information concerning the course

www.unil.ch/gse
www.unil.ch/masterdurabilite

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/tempspartiel.

General information on studies, guidance:

www.unil.ch/soc

Career prospects

www.unil.ch/perspectives

Accommodation and financial assistance

www.unil.ch/sasme

International students

www.unil.ch/international

Study abroad possibilities

www.unil.ch/echanges



Unil

UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Faculté des géosciences
et de l'environnement