



Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SAESS, Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science, 120 credits**

*Masterprogram i Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science,  
120 högskolepoäng*

**Second cycle degree programme requiring previous university study / Program  
med akademiska förkunskapskrav och med slutlig examen på avancerad nivå**

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### **Decision**

The programme syllabus is established by Pro dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences 17-09-2018 (U 2018/547) and most recently amended by Faculty Board of Social Sciences 10-06-2021 (U 2021/452). The amended syllabus is valid from 15-10-2021, autumn semester 2022.

### **Programme description**

The Lund University International Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science (LUMES) focuses on society's current challenges relating to sustainable development. The programme builds on the knowledge the students acquired in first cycle programmes and aims to give them the knowledge and expertise to better understand sustainability problems and thereby enable them to contribute to long-term environmental, economic, and social sustainable development.

The programme consists of four semesters. The first semester provides a foundation for understanding local and global sustainability challenges as well as interaction between ecological and societal systems and the social science theories that help us understand our present social development pathway. In addition, the semester serves to introduce the subject of sustainability science and basic methodological approaches. The second semester includes the study of political governance, geographical perspectives and economic approaches, using global and local case studies that exemplify the basic knowledge provided in the first semester and form

the basis for continued studies. This semester also includes a methodology course with a practical orientation. In the third semester, the student chooses from a range of elective courses covering different aspects of sustainability challenges. The fourth semester comprises a Master's degree project of 30 credits.

A student who is awarded an LUMES degree will have acquired a scientific approach that provides basic expertise for third cycle education as well as a solid basis for qualified positions in research, investigation, and administration. The student develops problem-solving abilities and can act as a bridge-builder between actors in research, the public sector, industry, and civil society. The programme is a preparatory stage for third cycle studies in, for example, fields of research focusing on long-term environmental, economic, and social development, global sustainability challenges or similar areas and work at various levels in consultancy, industry, and public authorities, and in different types of organisations, both nationally and internationally.

## Goals

Pursuant to the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall demonstrate the following:

### Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

### Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues, and situations even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously, and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

### Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

*In addition to the learning outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science the student shall:*

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding about the complex problems involved in environmental and resource management: their causes, scope, connections, impacts, and possible solutions from a holistic perspective, especially in relation to the different dimensions of socio-ecological systems,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and analyse improved technological, ecological, and, governance measures to address complex problems in the environmental and sustainability area,
- demonstrate the ability to implement, evaluate, and, if necessary, modify measures to achieve transformative change,
- demonstrate the skills, including an ability to cooperate, required for contributing to sustainable solutions to environmental or development problems in an interdisciplinary and international environment,
- demonstrate the ability to develop, analyse, and evaluate future scenarios for a sustainable society,
- demonstrate the ability to cooperate with different stakeholders in research planning and implementation,
- demonstrate the ability to work in and lead groups whose members have different perspectives, values and goals.

## **Course information**

The first term comprises four compulsory full-time courses:

- Earth Systems Science, 7.5 credits
- Social Sciences and Sustainability, 7.5 credits
- Methodology for Sustainability Science, 7.5 credits
- Sustainability Science, 7.5 credits

The second term comprises four compulsory full-time courses:

- Politics of Sustainability, 7,5 credits
- Geographies of Sustainability, 7.5 credits
- Economy and Sustainability, 7,5 credits
- Methods & Tools – from Knowledge to Action, 7.5 credits

The third semester comprises elective courses totalling 30 credits, with each course accounting for 7.5 credits. The student is informed about which courses are elective prior to the application period for the courses. The semester aims to give the student the opportunity to apply for the courses that best suit their interests and future research or professional work. The course topics vary from year to year and aim to provide specialisation in sustainability research. If a course attracts too many

applicants, a selection process ensues. The applicants are ranked on the basis of credits earned in the programme. All students are guaranteed places on courses that amount to a total of 30 credits.

In the fourth semester, the student carries out a degree project comprising 30 credits. The project is to be a synthesis of the knowledge and expertise that the student has acquired during the programme. The project develops the student's potential for professional work that places considerable demands on independence, or for research and development work by developing the student's ability to independently synthesise and use knowledge.

*Additional information in appendix Programme overview SAESS.*

## Degree

Degree titles

Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

Major: Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

*Masterexamen i miljö- och hållbarhetsvetenskap*

*Huvudområde: Miljö- och hållbarhetsvetenskap*

## Requirements and Selection method

### Requirements

To be admitted to the programme, the student must hold a Bachelor's degree corresponding to at least 180 ECTS.

Proficiency in spoken and written English, equivalent to English 6/B in the Swedish upper secondary school system, is required. Recognition of qualifications is carried out in accordance with national guidelines.

### Selection method

Selection is based on academic grades, relevant work experience, statement of purpose and recommendations.

### Transition rules

A student who began the programme at the latest in the autumn semester of 2021 is entitled to complete it in accordance with the programme syllabus SAESS 17 September 2018 during the period up to and including 30 June 2024.

### Other information

The language of instruction is English, which means that teaching and assessment are conducted in English.

Courses SAESS

	Courses			
<b>Semester 1</b>	Earth Systems Science 7.5 credits	Social Sciences and Sustainability 7.5 credits	Methodology for Sustainability Science 7.5 credits	Sustainability Science 7.5 credits
<b>Semester 2</b>	Politics of Sustainability 7.5 credits	Geographies of Sustainability 7.5 credits	Economy and Sustainability 7,5 credits	Methods & Tools - from Knowledge to Action 7.5 credits
<b>Semester 3</b>	Elective courses, 30 credits			
<b>Semester 4</b>	Master's Thesis, 30 credits			