Faculty of Social Sciences

SAESS, Master of Science programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science, 120 credits

Masterprogram i miljö- och hållbarhetsvetenskap, 120 högskolepoäng

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

Decision

This programme syllabus was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 3 May 2012 and most recently amended by the Pro Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 17 September 2018 (U 2018/547). The amended syllabus is valid from 17 September 2018, autumn semester 2019.

Programme description

Lund University International Master’s Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science (LUMES) focuses on today’s sustainability challenges. The programme builds on the knowledge the student has acquired during the first cycle education, giving the student the knowledge and competencies to both better comprehend and govern the challenges.

LUMES consists of four terms. The first term provides a foundation for understanding global to local sustainability challenges, providing both the basic knowledge required for understanding how natural systems function and interact, and the social theories that help us understand our present societal development paths. In addition, the field of sustainability science is introduced and scrutinised. The second term is comprised of perspectives in governance and development, using cases in global and local place-based contexts to both apply the programme foundations and provide a basis for the remainder of the programme. The third term studies involve a choice of modules dealing with different sustainability themes. The fourth term comprises a Master’s thesis of 30 credits.

The student graduating from LUMES will have acquired both the scientific approach that is essential for third cycle education, as well as a solid basis for qualified research,
investigation, and management posts. A LUMES graduate is a problem-solving leader in many facets of society whose training in a pluralistic, interdisciplinary, and international environment allows him or her to build bridges between academics and actors in politics, economy, and civil society. The LUMES graduate is thus prepared for both post-graduate studies in various sustainability-related subjects, and for qualified positions at various levels within consultancy, industry and government agencies, and in different types of organizations both nationally and internationally.

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

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

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science, 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 field of Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science.

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

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and 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 field of Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science 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 outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of
Master of Science (120 credits) with a major in Environmental Studies and Sustainability
Science the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding about the complex sustainability problems: scope, causes, interactions, impacts and possible societal responses in a holistic perspective, especially in relation to the different dimensions of human and/or natural systems,
- demonstrate the ability to analyse and identify improved technological, ecological, and governance measures to address complex sustainability problems,
- demonstrate the ability to implement, evaluate, and modify as needed the use of measures to achieve transformative change, and
- demonstrate the skills required for contributing to sustainable development in a variety of settings, including interdisciplinary, international, scholarly, and applied arenas, with an emphasis on collaboration and group facilitation skills.
- demonstrate the ability to formulate, analyse and evaluate future scenarios for a sustainable society,
- demonstrate the ability to involve stakeholders in research design and implementation,
- demonstrate the ability to work in and lead groups formed by participants with different perspectives, values and goals.

Course information

The first term comprises three compulsory full-time courses

Earth Systems Science (Biogeovetenskap), 10 credits (MESB01)
Social Theory and Sustainability (Samhällsteori och hållbarhet), 10 credits (MESS32)
Sustainability Science (Hållbarhetsvetenskap), 10 credits (MESS33)

The second term comprises four compulsory full-time courses

Governance of Sustainability (Samhällsstyran och hållbarhet), 7.5 credits (MESS34)
Urban and Rural Systems and Sustainability (System för hållbarhet i stad och landsbygd), 10 credits (MESS35)
Economy and Sustainability (Ekonomi och hållbarhet), 7.5 credits (MESS36)
Knowledge to Action (Från kunskap till handling), 5 credits (MESS37)

The third term is made up of elective courses totalling 30 credits. The student will be given information on which the elective courses are before applying. The third term of the programme strives for flexibility permitting the student to take courses that best suit his or her interests and future career or research paths. Should any course attract too many students and a selection has to be made, the students will be ranked on the basis of credits and grades earned within the programme.

During the fourth term the student is required to write and successfully defend a Master’s thesis of 30 university credits. The thesis should be a synthesis of the knowledge and competences that the student has acquired during the three terms of course work and undergraduate studies. The work should develop the student’s potential for professional work that places great demands on independence, or for research and development work by both developing the student’s ability to independently integrate and use knowledge, and the student’s ability to handle complex phenomena, issues, and situations.

The thesis work should focus on a local, regional or global sustainability-related phenomenon or problem, and analyse it in relation to the different dimensions of long-
term sustainable development. The work puts great demands on independence; during this period, each student has access to a qualified individual supervisor. The thesis will be defended in public at a final seminar with a qualified opponent.

Additional information in appendix Course information 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

For a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) within the programme, the student must have passed the courses specified under “Course information” (or the equivalent courses at another higher education institution).

Requirements and Selection method
Requirements
To be admitted to the programme, the student must hold a Bachelor’s degree, including at least 180 ECTS.

A good command of spoken and written English, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalent assessments will be made according to national guidelines.

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

Other information
The language of instruction and assessment is English. The courses in most cases have one course examiner, but are usually conducted by teams of teachers with specific competencies in the course subject area.
Appendix

Course information SAESS

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