

Intensive Core Courses of UNU-IAS Master of Science in Sustainability; and Doctoral Degree in Sustainability

Course Programme

I: UN System and Sustainable Development -2 credits

II: Global Change and Planetary Boundaries – 2 credits

III: Natural Capital and Biodiversity – 2 credits

Course Information

Course Description

This course will present students with an overview of the United Nations system – the only truly universal and comprehensive multilateral institutional framework. It consists of the United Nations organizations inclusive of their Funds and Programmes, and specialized and technical agencies established by intergovernmental agreements as well as other entities such as the IAEA and WTO. The course will review its major institutional and policy-related tasks, and examine the relevance and role of the UN system in the global governance of various challenges faced by the international community. This course will study how UN public policy has evolved in achieving its core mandate to maintain international peace and security from reducing direct threats to peace towards achieving sustainable development as an indispensable condition for peace through coordinated endeavors by multi-stakeholders under the Sustainable Development Agenda with its economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Course Description

Global change, which largely refers to planetary-scale changes in the Earth system mainly caused by anthropogenic activities, is threatening sustainable development prospects in multiple ways. In the last century, global change has become critical although interactions between people and the environment have been taking place over thousands of years. Global changes like rapid urbanization, population growth, industrialization, and land conversions have affected life support systems by challenging different demands and deteriorating environmental systems extensively. This course will cover the concepts related to such global environmental changes; their implications on food, water and health; and various solutions including climate change adaptation and mitigation measures; and initiatives such as Future Earth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This course is structured into four clusters with 12 lectures and 2 debate sessions including an interactive lecture by Johan Rockstrom via video from Stockholm.

Course Description

This course, part of the UNU Intensive Core Courses (UNU-IC), is intended to provide graduate students with an understanding and a multidisciplinary perspective on natural capital, biodiversity, human well-being and their interactions, as well as the integration of human needs and ecosystem functioning in ecosystem management and governance. The course will provide an overview of global, national and local consequences of ecosystem changes and drivers of these changes, to introduce a sustainable approach to ecosystems management at different levels. The course will introduce the latest conceptual framework developed by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which has been promoting four key functions at the sub-global and global scales: assessment, knowledge generation, capacity building and policy support. Particular focus will be placed on nature-based solutions for sustainable development in harmony with nature.

The three IC Courses provide students with a solid grounding in the essential theories and multilateral approaches to issues of sustainability and development, while emphasizing interdisciplinary perspectives.

Selection of Courses

Students are allowed to choose a maximum of two courses. There will be fifteen 120-minute sessions per course – i.e., three to four sessions per week over the four-week course period. The courses will involve considerable reading and study, but will be scheduled to allow students to have sufficient preparatory and review time for each session.

Completion of Courses and Credit Transfer

Students who successfully complete the course will be awarded a “Certificate of Completion” and a transcript from UNU-IAS. Each course is designed to be worth 2 credits and comprises of 30 hours of teaching time. While a number of universities have negotiated credit transfer agreements with UNU-IAS, ultimately the decision on whether credits are transferrable will be made by the student’s university.

Course Outline

Cluster 1: UN System: Origin, Governance and Structure

- Origins of the UN System – Historical Development of International Institutions
- The UN System and Emerging Mechanisms for Global Governance
- Operation (Budgeting/ Personnel Management) of the UN System and International Resource Management for the Globe
- Effectiveness and Accountability of the UN System

Cluster 2: Maintenance of Peace and Security

- Realist and Liberal Approaches to Peace and Security
- Origins of International Conflicts
- Nuclear Proliferation and Arms Control
- Risk Analysis and Securitization

Cluster 3: Sustainable Development Goals

- Stability and Peace Operations
- International Environmental Governance and Climate Change
- Trade and Investment in the Globalized Economy
- Global Health and Resilience
- Peace and Development in Africa
- Oversight and UN System Reform for the SDGs

Course Outline

Cluster 1: Introduction, Global Environment and Governance

- Introduction and Overview: Introduction of the Course Outline
- Global Environmental Change and Urban Environment

Cluster 2: Planetary Boundaries and Challenges for Global Change

- Planetary Boundaries, Overview
- Future Earth, Research for Global Sustainability
- Sustainable Development Goals in Future Earth

Cluster 3: Climate and Social Change Impact on Food, Water and Health

- Climate Science and Projection
- Water Sustainability under Climate Change
- Urban Water Management in Developing Countries
- Food Sustainability under Climate Change Stress
- Health Issues in Urban Areas

Cluster 4: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

- Climate Change Adaptation for Regional Sustainability
- Climate Change Mitigation, Practical Approach in Developing Countries
- Lectures and Debates on Climate Change Issues

Course Outline

Cluster 1: Biodiversity in the Context of Global Change and Ecosystem Assessments from Local, National, Regional to Global Scale

- Global Change and Challenges of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Assessment landscape, Global Environmental Outlook (GEO), Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Ecosystem Scenario Analysis and Planning
- IPBES Conceptual Framework and IPBES Assessments
- Toward the Creation of a Sustainable Society in Harmony with Nature
- Japan Satoyama and Satoumi Assessment (JSSA) and sustainable social-ecological systems

Cluster 2: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

- Natural Capital and Wealth Accounts
- Mid-term interactive session (Mid-term Group Presentation)
- Economic Assessments of Ecosystem Services
- Payment for ecosystem services I
- Payment for ecosystem services II

Cluster 3: Governance of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- Governance of biodiversity and ecosystem services (I)
- Governance of biodiversity and ecosystem services (II)
- Final group presentation and wrap-up session

Faculty and Learning Environment

The IC Courses are taught in a cooperative fashion by a team of scholars and practitioners comprising both in-house and outside experts. One of the unique features of the IC Courses is that many of the practitioners come from UN organizations. Another important characteristic is the direct access to teaching faculty and the support provided to course participants by the UNU-IAS in-house academic staff who serve as academic counsellors. Because it shares a building with many UN agencies, UNU-IAS offers a unique learning environment.

UNU Library

The UNU Library offers access to a wide range of academic books, over 20,000 electronic journals, official UN documents, and publications in the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development e-libraries. All students will receive a comprehensive library orientation session at the beginning of the course.

Daily Schedule

There will be fourteen 120-minute sessions per course– i.e., three sessions of courses each day (10:00-12:00; 13:00-15:00; and 16:00-18:00), though no one course will take the entire three sessions of one day.

More information is available at

<http://ias.unu.edu/en/admissions/credited-courses/unu-intensive-core-courses.html#overview>

Mandatory Course Requirement

- Mandatory reading of ca. 150 pages is required per course per week, i.e. a total of 900 pages of substantive mandatory reading per course in total.
- In addition, students are provided with lists of further recommended readings in the range of 150 pages per course per week/900 pages in total.
- Regular class attendance and active participation in class discussions;
- Short weekly written assignments;
- To give a group or individual presentation;
- To sit for the final course exam;
- To submit an extended essay (of about 2,500 to 3,000 words) towards the end of the programme; and
- To complete the Course Evaluation form

Those who complete the requirements will be awarded a "Certification of Completion" and those who fail to complete requirements will be awarded a "Certificate of Participation".

Tuition Fees

The tuition fee per course is ¥200,000 or US\$2,000.

Fellowships

A very limited number of fellowships, covering either travel or accommodation, are available for outstanding students from developing countries and for those who can demonstrate a need for financial assistance.

Student Support Services and Housing

UNU-IAS will assist students throughout the courses, acknowledging that students may experience difficulties in adjusting to a new country and culture. Students can use the low-cost accommodation arranged by UNU-IAS at a nearby hotel. Further information on payment and reservation will be provided to the selected candidates.

Application Documents

Your official application must be submitted through the online application form (<http://postgraduate.ias.unu.edu/forms/>).

Applicants to the IC Courses should submit their application dossier, consisting of:

- (i) a completed Application Form with photo and signature;
- (ii) original transcripts of academic records at the college or university level, or certified copies of original transcripts (these will not be returned to the applicant; and please do not include original certificates of diplomas or degrees);
- (iii) excellent written and verbal English language skills are required. Applicants whose first language is not English and whose bachelor's degree is not from an institution at which English is the language of instruction must submit proof of English language proficiency within the past 2 years. The minimum score requirements for TOEFL or IELTS are: TOEFL scores (minimum: paper-based 600/Internet-based 100) or IELTS (7.0) or equivalent proof of English-language proficiency for non-native speakers;
- (iv) one confidential letter of reference on official letterheads or using the Recommendation Form (these will not be returned to the applicant) from a faculty member at school or from a supervisor at work.

All of the above-mentioned documents should be in English. Please attach official/certified translations where necessary.



UNU INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCED STUDY OF SUSTAINABILITY (UNU-IAS)
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY; AND DOCTORAL DEGREE IN SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE

Postgraduate and Credited Courses Intensive Core (IC) Courses

AUTUMN 2018: FROM 3 TO 28 SEPTEMBER

www.ias.unu.edu

Application deadline is 13 JULY 2018 for the IC Courses - Autumn 2018.
Please visit our website at <http://ias.unu.edu/en/admissions/credited-courses>
for a copy of the brochure and the application forms.

United Nations University

Promoting science for human security, peace and sustainable development

The mission of the United Nations University (UNU) is to contribute, through collaborative research and education, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States.

The UNU encompasses 13 research and training institutes and programmes, located in 12 countries around the world. The global UNU system is coordinated by UNU Centre.

Secretariat, Postgraduate Courses
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The UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) is a leading research and teaching institute based in Tokyo. Its mission is to advance efforts towards a more sustainable future, through policy-oriented research and capacity development focused on sustainability and its social, economic and environmental dimensions. UNU-IAS serves the international community through innovative contributions to high-level policymaking and debates, addressing priority issues for the UN system.

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The United Nations University Institute for the

Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) will organize Intensive Core (IC) Courses of the Master of Science (MSc.) in Sustainability; and Doctoral Degree in Sustainability Science Programmes for a four-week duration at UNU Centre in Tokyo, Japan.

The courses are designed to provide analyses of global issues from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. The courses, though advanced in nature, are open to postgraduate students and professionals in various occupations who are not necessarily specialists in the field. The courses also draw on the research projects undertaken at UNU-IAS in Tokyo and at various other UNU institutes located around the world.

Target Applicants:

These courses are designed for:

- students who are currently enrolled in a Master's or Doctoral programme in any discipline;
- young professionals (with a college or university degree) in various occupations in Japan and abroad; and
- those who wish to pursue careers in international fields in public service or private organizations, including the United Nations, multinational corporations and non-governmental organizations as well as national foreign service organizations.