

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

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This major offers the students the possibility to study the causes of and solutions to environmental problems from a multidisciplinary social science perspective. This involves contributions from ecological economics, political ecology, sociology and human geography. Students will learn about concepts, theories and methods, write essays, participate in debates and learn how to apply socioenvironmental research techniques. The specialization consists of two specific compulsory courses and four optional ones (only two of them will be selected).

In addition to the mandatory courses "*Interdisciplinary Concepts on Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability*" (15 ECTS) and "*Master's Degree Dissertation*" (15 ECTS), this specialization has two compulsory courses: "*Foundations of Ecological Economics*" (9 ECTS) and "*Qualitative Research Methods for Research in Social Sciences*" (6 ECTS).

"*Foundations of Ecological Economics*" provides a broad introduction to environmental and climate economics, institutional economics, societal metabolism (material and energy flows) and integrated assessments and ecological macroeconomics. Students will also participate in an economic experiment and in an environment-versus-growth debate.

In "*Qualitative Research Methods for Research in Social Sciences*" students will learn how to develop sound research design in different research projects, ask good research questions, select appropriate methods for qualitative research, and collect and analyse qualitative data.

The student can then complete the remaining 15 program credits by completing a combination of the following courses: "*Political Ecology*" (6 ECTS), "*Corporate Social Responsibility*" (6 ECTS), "*Sustainable Mobility and Ecocities*" (9 ECTS) and "*Water, Energy and Land Management*" (9 ECTS).

This set of courses will be of interest to students with economic, social and political science backgrounds, pursuing a career in environment-related research, public administration non for profit and profit sectors.

"*Political Ecology*" examines how political and economic power shape social and environmental change. The emphasis is on the analysis of ecological conflicts and injustices and the ways grassroots actors organize to oppose powerful corporations and States. The module covers an introduction to basic tenets of political ecology thinking, and applications to conservation, the study of rural commons and urban affairs.