

Master of Science (MSc) Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy



WU

WIRTSCHAFTS
UNIVERSITÄT
WIEN VIENNA
UNIVERSITY OF
ECONOMICS
AND BUSINESS

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ACCREDITED

“There are very few development issues that are not hugely affected by a rapidly changing environment and cross-sectoral influences. We do not have the luxury any more to look at a program only from a technical and/or political perspective. Understanding demographic developments, the increasing influence of civil society, climate impacts, international negotiations over global goods, financial liquidity and feasibility, etc. is much more important for our programs today than understanding infra-structure, water engineering or health care, which seem to be job descriptions of the past. This is why, to us, the new MSc Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy at WU looks very interesting and relevant for addressing key sustainability issues.”

(Werner L. Kornexl, Senior Climate Change Specialist, World Bank)



Foreword

“To allow the market mechanism to be sole director of the fate of human beings and their natural environment, indeed, even of the amount and use of purchasing power, would result in the demolition of society.”
Karl Polanyi (1957:73)

DEAR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS,

The program offers training in socioeconomic analysis and focuses on the interfaces between economic, environmental, and social challenges. This interdisciplinary and internationally oriented approach builds upon three major pillars: theory, method, and application. The theory courses include concepts from different disciplines, selected for their content and suitability for studying global challenges. The method courses offer an integrated introduction to qualitative and quantitative methods and thus illustrate how they can be combined in empirical analyses. Relevance for policy making and organizational practice is emphasized throughout the program.

Developing new and innovative policy responses to global change demands approaches that include historic, descriptive, and institutional analyses as well as an understanding of legal frameworks and modes of governance.

In particular, theories, methods, and analyses are brought together in two areas of concentration, which students select out of four subject areas.

Open to a select group of students from all over the world, this program combines academic excellence with practical and political relevance. The program is aimed at students with a diverse array of backgrounds, who have a deep concern for the challenges arising from rapid environmental change, population dynamics, poverty, and exclusion, and are keen to find ways to enhance environmental sustainability and human well-being.

I look forward to welcoming you to our program!

Sigrid Stagl

Program Director Socio-Ecological
Economics and Policy



MSc Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy

AT A GLANCE

Duration	Four semesters, full-time degree program
Credits	120 ECTS credits (incl. 20 ECTS credits for the master thesis)
Degree awarded to graduates	Master of Science (WU)
Start	Every winter semester
Capacity	Up to 60 students per academic year
Application	Rolling admissions start every year in September
Contact	seep@wu.ac.at



Contents and Structure

This internationally unique program offers an integrated approach to studying the working of the human-environment system.

Rapid environmental change, population dynamics, poverty, and exclusion are interrelated processes that challenge human development. To tackle these complex issues, traditional disciplinary approaches to analysis and policy formulation are not sufficient. Instead, integrated and interdisciplinary approaches to studying the working of the human-environment system are needed.

This program presents integrated approaches to development and human well-being that go beyond the usual polarization between socioeconomic development and environmental goals.

SEEP (Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy) is an innovative, internationally unique program that equips participants with the necessary theoretical background and factual information about the interconnected dynamics of economic and social systems and the physical environment. Even more progressively, the program enables participants to understand different problem framings and use appropriate analytical tools to engage in decision processes and longer-term policy on multiple spatial levels. The strong interdisciplinary background acquired in SEEP provides graduates with the skills to play a leading role in resolving the critical economic, environmental and social problems of the 21st century.

“The great societal challenges of our time require an interdisciplinary approach and the ability to integrate different areas and methods. The new MSc Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy at WU seems to equip graduates with this ability, combined with sound economic expertise. This is exactly what international and European organizations, including the European Commission, need.”

(Martin Büchele, working for the European Commission, DG Environment)



The main elements of the SEEP curriculum are:

- › A conceptual framework for understanding global economic, environmental and social change,
- › Sophisticated skills in socioeconomic analysis, and qualitative as well as quantitative methods,
- › Concentration areas in
 - › Environmental Change and Policy
 - › Population, Human Capital, and Policy
 - › Globalization and Multi-Level Policy
 - › Globalization and Social Policy
- › An ability to apply skills and expertise to difficult and complex "real world" problem.

FIRST YEAR

At the beginning, students study global challenges and socioeconomic theories in detail. Besides acquiring basic methodological skills, SEEP students obtain solid knowledge about the philosophical dimensions of economics. They become familiar with the underlying assumptions and social paradigms that form economic policies and are reproduced by institutional actors. The

socioeconomic theories cover (1) macroeconomics, enriched by concepts on well-being and development; (2) behavioral economics and institutional economics of action; and (3) relevant legal frameworks and modes of governance from an institutional economic and public law perspective. During the second semester, students gain a profound understanding of their two chosen concentration areas.

SECOND YEAR

Students advance quickly to specialized expertise and real-world applications. In this phase, the main courses will be in the concentration areas and students will explore the interdependencies between these areas. Students develop and hone their research skills through course work and writing a thesis. Students have the opportunity to spend one of four semesters abroad (subject to approval).

For details about the program structure, please visit our website:

www.wu.ac.at/programs/en/master/seep/structure



PROGRAM CURRICULUM*

1st semester

Contemporary Global Policy Challenges	Methodology for Interdisciplinary Research	Growth, Well-Being, and Development	International Institutions, Governance, and Policy Evaluation	Service Learning
8 ECTS each				2,5 ECTS

2nd semester

Actors, Behaviors, and Decision Processes	Qualitative and Quantitative Methods	Concentration Area 1**	Concentration Area 2**	Service Learning
8 ECTS	10 ECTS	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	2,5 ECTS

3rd semester

Qualitative and Quantitative Methods 2	Concentration Area 1 (Part 2)	Concentration Area 2 (Part 2)
10 ECTS each		

4th semester

Research Seminar	Master Thesis
5 ECTS	20 ECTS

* For details see: wu.ac.at/master/en/seep

** Concentration Areas (choice of two): Environment, Population, Multi-Level Policy, Social Policy

International Orientation

Solid knowledge in theory combined with excellent methodological skills, together with a focus on the policy dimension of socio-ecological transitions make the program unique. In order to encourage international mobility, we offer our students various exchange options: exchange semesters abroad, an exchange program in spatial economics, and financial support for summer schools and conferences.

Exchange places at one of our strategic partner universities or at one of WU's 100 well-known partner universities are available for students interested in gaining inter-

national experience. In addition, we offer our students the opportunity to write their master thesis within the NEURUS program, which is an international consortium of universities dedicated to the collaborative study of urban and regional development issues. We also provide financial support to academically outstanding students to encourage them to deepen their knowledge through summer schools, conferences, and workshops.

More information can be found on our website and on WU's International Office website: **wu.ac.at/io/en**

EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

EXCHANGE SEMESTER (THIRD)

Higher School of Economics	Russia	www.hse.ru/en/
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	USA	illinois.edu

EXCHANGE SEMESTER (FOURTH)

WU partner universities Over 100 well-known partner schools	Worldwide	For more information see: wu.ac.at/io/en
NEURUS program in spatial economics	USA	For more information see: neurus.org

Program Faculty

FACULTY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOECONOMICS

Wolfgang Fellner, Evolutionary and Institutional Economics

Barbara Haas, Care Policy and Gender

Bernhard Leubolt, Global Social Policy

Wolfgang Lutz, Demography, Education, Sustainability

Verena Madner, Sustainable Urban Development and Urban Governance

Gunther Maier, Regional Economics, Econometrics

Reinhard Mechler, Ecological Economics, Climate Economics, Integrated Assessment

Andreas Novy, International Development, Sustainability

August Österle, Social Policy, Health Economics

Christian Rammel, Ecological Economics, Resilience, Education for Sustainability

Armon Rezai, Ecological Economics, Macroeconomics

Ulrike Schneider, Social Policy, Economics of the Elderly

Clive Spash, Social Ecological Economics, Public Policy

Sigrid Stagl, Program Director; Ecological Economics, Behavioral Economics

Erich Striessnig, Demography, Education, Sustainability

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Judith Kohlenberger, Program Coordinator

Qualification Profile and Career Prospects

The program has been designed to provide students with the necessary understanding of global sustainability issues, an ability to work in interdisciplinary teams, and sound training in socioeconomic concepts and methods.

SEEP graduates:

- › Are equipped with the theories, methods and empirical approaches necessary for an in-depth understanding of global social, economic and environmental policy issues
- › Are aware of the variety of ethical issues arising from sustainable development
- › Possess the skills essential for interdisciplinary analysis
- › Can work in international teams in developing, designing and evaluating novel policy responses

The MSc program prepares graduates for:

- › Employment as policy analysts, program managers, consultants, civil servants, project managers, and advisors who provide an insight into and support decision processes relating to sustainability issues by, for example, undertaking risk and uncertainty analy-

- ses in the social and environmental sectors; analyzing long-term developments relating to climate change, population development or aging in society; undertaking sustainability appraisals at company, regional or policy levels; helping design social, environmental, economic or educational policies; designing and facilitating participatory processes
- › Working in international organizations, consultancies, companies, ministries, national and international NGOs, and research institutes where interdisciplinary skills and knowledge about the interactions of sustainability issues are needed
- › Doctoral studies in the social sciences, in particular in economics, social policy, environmental studies and demography



Program Application Criteria

Before being admitted to the program, candidates are subject to a comprehensive selection process. We are looking for ambitious, highly motivated students with outstanding qualifications and excellent social skills.

You must meet the following minimum requirements to be eligible to apply:

Completion of or enrollment in a relevant bachelor program or other equivalent degree program at a recognized Austrian or international post-secondary institution. To be considered relevant, the program must meet the following criteria:

- › The program must be worth at least 180 ECTS credits.
- › At least 16 ECTS credits must be from any one of the following subjects: economics, other social sciences, or statistics/mathematics/

The selection process consists of a combination of essays, a statement of motivation, reference letters, and an interview. For more details about application proceedings (minimum requirements, rolling admissions policy, etc.) please visit our website.

SEEP STUDENTS 2014

Average age: 25.6 years old

65% female

66% international students (non-Austrian)



Application and Admissions at WU

Selection procedures apply for all English-taught MSc programs. WU employs a rolling admissions policy with three priority deadlines.

APPLICATION

The rolling admissions policy allows students to apply from the beginning of September until spring. Submitted applications are batched and processed according to so-called priority deadlines. This means that the processing of applications submitted after a particular priority deadline will be delayed until after the next deadline. The first step in the application process is an online application. To keep quality standards high, all of WU's English-taught MSc programs are open to only a limited number of students. For this reason, all applicants are subject to a comprehensive selection process.

PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH

Applicants must provide proof that they have a sufficient command of the English language (e.g. TOEFL 600/250/100, IELTS 7.0, CAE Certificate in Advanced English, English as a mother tongue, or a bachelor degree with English as language of instruction).

ADMISSIONS

Students selected for admission must come to WU's Admissions Office in person to enroll. Detailed information on the documents required are available online: wu.ac.at/prospective/en/admission/international





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ACADEMIC CALENDAR

At WU, the academic year is divided into two semesters. The winter semester starts in October and ends in February. It is followed by the summer semester, which runs until the end of June. Summer vacation is in July, August, and September. All English-taught master programs start in the winter semester. Detailed information on enrollment deadlines and WU's academic calendar can be found on the WU website under [wu.ac.at/students/en/begin](https://www.wu.ac.at/students/en/begin)

TUITION FEES

No tuition fees apply for EU citizens during the standard duration of their program (plus two extra semesters). All those exceeding the standard duration, however, are required to pay a tuition fee of approximately € 360 per semester. Non-EU students are required to pay €726.72. Under certain circumstances, the same regulations that apply to EU citizens can apply to non-EU students as well.

To find out more, please visit [wu.ac.at/students/en/org/tuition](https://www.wu.ac.at/students/en/org/tuition)

SCHOLARSHIPS

WU does not offer any traditional scholarships. However, if certain conditions apply, WU does have two financial aid programs that provide need-based and merit-based scholarship grants. For further information, please contact WU's Study Regulations Office ([wu.ac.at/structure/en/servicecenters/regulations](https://www.wu.ac.at/structure/en/servicecenters/regulations)) or visit the Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants (OeAD) website at [grants.at](https://www.grants.at)

ORGANIZING YOUR STUDIES AT WU

- › **Getting started**
WU offers comprehensive information for international students on its website.
- › **Housing**
A cooperation with the OeAD Housing Office guarantees WU a certain quota of student residences each year.
- › **Bridging courses**
Students who want to refresh their skills before courses start are welcome to attend bridging courses.
- › **Online services**
A wide selection of online services is available to students on WU's website [wu.ac.at](https://www.wu.ac.at) WU's eLearning platform, Learn@WU
- › **The Austrian Students' Union at WU**
The Austrian Students' Union (ÖH) represents the interests of all WU students and offers them a wide spectrum of services.
- › **Student jobs at WU**
WU students have many opportunities to actively participate in student and campus life. They may, for instance, choose to become course tutors, join one of our academic units as student staff members, or get involved with the Students' Union.
- › **Centrally located**
WU is easily accessible by public transport, and only a few minutes away from the city center.

WU Key Data

2013/14

Students

Total students (fall 2013)	22,781 (47% women)
International students (fall 2013)	6,241 (27% of total)
Incoming exchange students	~1,000 per year
Outgoing exchange students	~1,000 per year

Faculty and Staff¹

Total faculty ²	570 (43% women)
Administrative staff	473 (67% women)
Total	1,043 (54% women)

Campus Resources

Budget (2013)	~€124 million
Premises Campus WU (until August 2013)	137,000 m ²
Premises Campus WU (from September 2013)	100,000 m ²

Premises Library

Total floor space	18,100 m ²
Volumes	745,797
Printed journals	1,014
Electronic journals	18,116
Study places	1,680
Visitors	1,021,600

International

Partner universities	~230
International Summer Universities	10 /year
Courses in English	~160/semester

Graduate Programs

German-taught MSc programs

- › Business Education
- › Business Law (LL.M.)
- › Economics
- › Export and Internationalization Management
- › Finance and Accounting
- › Management
- › Socioeconomics
- › Taxation and Accounting

German-taught doctoral/PhD programs

- › Doctoral Program in Business Law (Dr. iur.)
- › Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences³
- › PhD in Economics and Social Sciences³

English-taught MSc programs

- › Information Systems
- › International Management/CEMS
- › Marketing
- › Quantitative Finance
- › Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy
- › Strategy, Innovation, and Management Control
- › Supply Chain Management

English-taught doctoral/PhD programs

- › PhD in International Business Taxation
- › PhD in Finance

¹) 2013 in full-time equivalents

²) not including personnel funded by third parties

³) English track available

English-taught Master Programs

Duration: 4 semesters; full-time programs; 120 ECTS credits; degree awarded: MSc (WU), except for International Management/CEMS and Strategy, Innovation, and Management Control (see program details below)

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Relevant bachelor degree; proof of sufficient proficiency in English; proof of achievement potential (valid GMAT results). More information: wu.ac.at/prospective/en

APPLICATION PERIODS

WU employs a rolling admissions policy, allowing students to apply from the beginning of September until spring. Rolling admissions start every year in September. The priority deadlines are in early October, early January, and for all non-CEMS programs, again in early March.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Information Systems

- › Focus on IT-related knowledge with a particular emphasis on management and research topics
- › Students acquire skills ranging from system analysis to system implementation
- › Based on state-of-the-art research

International Management/CEMS

- › Joint program: MSc (WU) and CEMS MIM degrees
- › Focus on international strategy and cross-cultural management
- › Internship abroad, business project and exchange semester

Marketing

- › Focus on customer-oriented management concepts, marketing research and decision tools
- › Qualifications for marketing specialist/executive positions, academic careers & advanced management consulting with a wide choice of marketing electives

Quantitative Finance

- › Focus on building strong quantitative skills coupled with a solid knowledge base of the underlying theory of finance
- › Students can choose between an Industry Track or a Science Track
- › Strong networks and links to the finance industry

Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy

- › Focus on socioeconomic analysis of sustainability issues
- › Students choose two of four concentration areas in the fields of Environment, Population, Multi-Level Policy, and Social Policy

Strategy, Innovation, and Management Control

- › Optional double degree in cooperation with selected partner schools
- › Focus on all major aspects of organizational leadership, as well as corporate development and strategic management
- › Case studies, business projects and exchange semester

Supply Chain Management

- › Focus on design and analysis of supply chains for focal companies
- › Management and coordination of global supply chains
- › Learn to measure, evaluate and control the quality of supply chain processes
- › Discussions of recent issues in SCM with experts from the industry

For further details visit: wu.ac.at/master/en

WU International

WU is a truly international university, because it recognized the necessity of thinking beyond Austria's borders early on and has made internationalization a number one priority.

CONFIRMED QUALITY

WU's international students can be sure they are studying at a leading European university. WU's high standards in research and teaching are confirmed by the international and prestigious EQUIS accreditation – a seal of quality that has been awarded to about only 140 universities worldwide (www.efmd.org).

WU is also a member of respected associations like CEMS (Global Alliance in Management Education), an alliance of 29 top business schools and over 68 of the world's leading multinational companies (www.cems.org), and PIM (Partnership in International Management), a network of 58 highly-renowned business schools and universities around the globe (www.pimnetwork.org).

RANKINGS

International ratings like the Financial Times Ranking have repeatedly positioned WU and its programs among the top universities in its field, and document WU's continuous progress each year (<http://rankings.ft.com>).

STUDY AROUND THE GLOBE

WU has successfully integrated many international aspects in its research and teaching over the past few years. With around 230 partner universities all over the world, WU maintains a strong international network. Today WU is involved in numerous externally-funded international research projects and has increased the number of its faculty members with international backgrounds, especially over the last few years.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As a result of these efforts, WU has a very high percentage of international students: Today, more than one out of every four WU students comes from outside of Austria (not including exchange students), and this number is growing from year to year. Currently, most of WU's international students are from Germany, Turkey, Eastern Europe, Italy, China, and the USA.

Living in Vienna

Vienna is consistently ranked the city with the world's highest quality of living according to Mercer's Quality of Living Survey.

HOUSING/ACCOMMODATION

WU has no on-campus dormitories or housing services. Still, accommodation can easily be found through the following channels or through newspapers/online ads:

- › **stuwo.at** – nonprofit student housing organization
- › **milestone.net** – high-quality living next to the WU
- › **wihast.at/index.en.html** – Wihast Dormitories
- › **housing.oead.ac.at/index_e.asp** – OeAD Housing Office next to the campus
- › **jobwohnen.at** – list of available apartments to share provided by Austrian Students' Union

WORKING IN VIENNA

WU's ZBP Career Center is the first place to go with any questions regarding working in Austria (**zbp.at**)

- › Job openings for students, graduates and young professionals
- › Contacts to over 500 national and international companies
- › Approx. 1,500 job vacancies/year

LIVING COSTS

Life in Vienna is quite affordable, especially for a capital city

Accommodation
approx. € 300 – 450 per month

Health insurance
approx. € 50 per month

Essentials (food, personal expenses)
approx. € 300 per month

Public transport
approx. € 150 per semester

Books
approx. € 75 – 150 per semester



University of the Future

Internationalism, innovation, diversity – the new Campus WU is the concrete realization of WU's vision for a modern university. The fundamental principles of the new architecture reflect the values and ideas we cherish at WU.

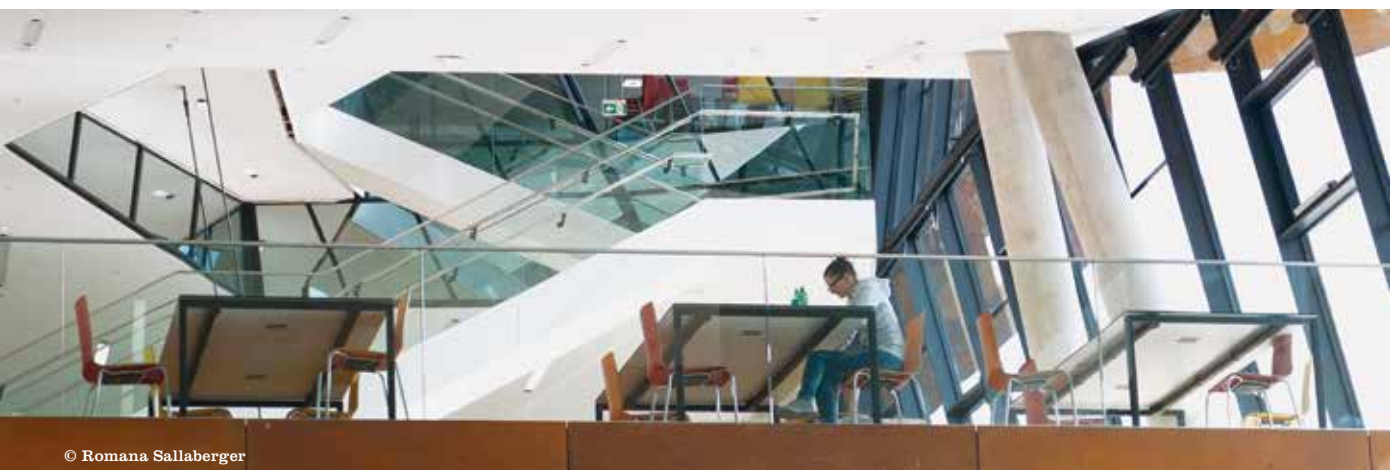
As a public institution, WU has lived up to its responsibility of building its new campus in an economical, ecological, and socially sustainable manner. WU's decision to locate the new campus in Vienna's second district has redefined this area and transformed it into an educational hub. We have not only constructed new buildings, but in the process we have also given concrete realization to our ideas of what the university of the future should look like. The new campus is more than just a place for academic research and teaching and learning practical skills; it is also designed to create a new space for social, cultural, and political life.

The imposing Library & Learning Center (LC), designed by the Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid, is a testament to the central importance of research and teaching at WU. The Library & Learning Center is surrounded by five building complexes, including the Teaching Center, which houses most of WU's auditoriums. The Teaching Center is intended mainly for bachelor degree students, while the master degree programs are taught primarily in the

individual Department buildings. The Executive Academy building is the home of continuing education and life-long learning programs. In this way, the various buildings and their functions reflect the three tiers of teaching and learning represented by the Bologna Process.

WU's Department-based organizational structure was also a contributing factor. In the past, the various Institutes that make up the Departments were scattered across different locations. Now they have been brought together in four Department buildings, making life much easier for both students and faculty.

These are not the only improvements the new campus has to offer: All rooms have natural light, and the auditoriums feature state-of-the-art teaching equipment, including digital whiteboards. There are 3,000 student workplaces, three times as many as in the old buildings in Vienna's ninth district. These workplaces are located not only in the dedicated self-study areas, but also in project rooms





that can be booked by teaching staff and students alike. They cater to different needs by providing quiet spots for focused academic work as well as opportunities for work on group projects in communication-friendly study areas.

The top priority in planning the new campus was to create an environment for WU students and staff that encourages productive work and communication.

Not only the buildings themselves, but also the surrounding grounds offer plenty of opportunities for communication and meeting people. 55,000 m² of Campus WU's total surface area of 90,000 m² is open, publicly accessible space. Fences or barriers would contradict our vision of an open campus.

Visitors and area residents are more than welcome at Campus WU. The campus offers not only food for thought, but also restaurants, cafés, and shops, all in a stimulating architectural environment.

As different as they may look, the buildings are all based on the same overall technical concept: the buildings' infrastructures are standardized in terms of construction, energy supply, ventilation, and sanitary facilities. The entire campus has been designed in accordance with "green building" principles. Much of the required energy is obtained using geothermal energy from groundwater.

Another key feature of Campus WU is barrier-free accessibility. All auditoriums are specially equipped for people with disabilities, all areas are designed to be wheelchair accessible, and the campus also features a tactile guidance system for the visually impaired.

We have not only made sure to comply with all relevant legal guidelines, but we have also drawn on experience gained from best practice examples. WU aims to play a pioneering role – in all respects.



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FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT

To find out more about the Master in
Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy,
please visit
wu.ac.at/master/en/seep

Program Director of the Master in
Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy:
Sigrid Stagl

For further questions please email:
seep@wu.ac.at

For information concerning applications
and admissions please contact:
master.application@wu.ac.at

For all other study-related
matters please contact:
admission@wu.ac.at

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