WU
WIRTSCHAFTS
UNIVERSITÄT
WIEN VIENNA
UNIVERSITY OF
ECONOMICS
AND BUSINESS

Why hire a graduate of the MSc program Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy (SEEP)?

ABOUT SEEP

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. Graduates of the program are able to understand different problem situations and use appropriate analytical tools to engage in decision processes and longer-term policy on multiple spatial levels. Having acquired a strong interdisciplinary background, SEEP graduates are equipped with the skills to play a leading role in resolving the critical economic, environmental and social problems of the 21st century.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Graduates of the MSc (Master of Science) program SEEP have the ideal qualifications for a career as socio-economists in the field of sustainability. The successful completion of the program endowed them with skills to

- gain a comprehensive understanding of issues in the field of socio-ecological transition and ensuing challenges for politics, and to analyze these issues using appropriate models and quantitative and qualitative methods

- obtain relevant information from specialist academic and practical literature and socioeconomic information systems and apply them in a critical but considered manner

- support political and management processes through appropriate designs and skills even in conflict-laden situations

- work constructively in teams and participate actively in interactive problem-solving processes

The SEEP graduate is (I) equipped with the theories, methods and empirical approaches necessary for an in-depth understanding of global social, economic and environmental policy issues, (II) aware of the variety of ethical issues arising from sustainable development, (III) possesses the skills essential for interdisciplinary analysis, and (IV) is able to work in international teams in developing, designing and evaluating novel policy responses.

SCOPE

SEEP graduates demonstrate

- in-depth knowledge of socio-economic theories on the micro, meso and macro level

- a thorough understanding of institutions from multiple social science perspectives

- critical thinking and reflection

- application of quantitative and qualitative methods, including econometric techniques (regression analysis, discrete and continuous models), nonlinear dynamics, structured interviews, social network analysis, agent-based modeling, multicriteria appraisal and participatory methods

- practical engagement in real sustainability problems (science-society interface)

Concentration Areas

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND POLICY

Ecological economics is introduced as a heterodox economic approach to social and environmental problems. Graduates are aware of environmental valuation and the problems it faces, as well as environmental ethics and the challenges it poses to mainstream economic thought. They are trained in non-orthodox economic approaches to environmental problems, which enables them to (a) understand key issues confronting economic analysis of the environment, (b) employ concepts of environmental ethic, (c) link conflicts in valuation and ethics to core subjects of economics and public policy, and (d) synthesize arguments and argue substantive positions in a public forum.

POPULATION, HUMAN CAPITAL AND POLICY

This course introduces participants to fundamental demographic concepts and their applications to the study of human capital formation. Graduates are able to (a) collect and interpret basic demographic indicators from published statistics, (b) calculate life tables and different indicators of reproduction, (c) perform projections of population and human capital formation, (d) interpret new developments in the international discussions about population, education and health policies, (e) perform comparative studies of demographic, education and health trends in different countries and on different continents and evaluate the results and their policy implications in the context of different analytical frameworks, and (f) use advanced spreadsheet techniques to present and analyze demographic data.

GLOBALISATION AND MULTI-LEVEL POLICY

The course provides participants with a scale-sensitive understanding of global economic and political strategies and institutions, including multi-level policy and governance. Graduates learn to mobilize multiple perspectives (theories, methods, paradigms) to understand socio-ecological real world problem and shape socio-ecological policies. They get an inter- and transdisciplinary understanding of the following four areas of research and policy: (a) contextualization, (b) uneven development, (c) multilevel strategies of firms, and (d) multilevel governance and regulation.

GLOBALISATION AND SOCIAL POLICY

The course aims at knowing and understanding the key concepts and theories of social policy and social policy analysis and applying alternative methodological and theoretical approaches to selected social policy issues. Graduates are able to (a) develop an awareness of the broader context for global social challenges, (b) outline the institutional context for social policies and social policy development, (c) discuss the institutional and socio-economic context for particular social challenges, (d) articulate alternative approaches to analyzing these challenges, (e) apply alternative theories and concepts to specific analytical questions, and (f) draw policy conclusions from the analysis.