

CURRICULUM for the Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy

Pursuant to § 25 (1) item 10 of the Universities Act 2002 (*Universitätsgesetz* 2002), Federal Law Gazette (*Bundesgesetzblatt*, BGBl.) I no. 120/2002, last amended by the federal act promulgated in Federal Law Gazette I no. 93/2021, the following regulation is passed:

§ 1 Objectives

The Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills to analyze global challenges such as climate change, the loss of biodiversity, the aging of the population, and education for development by means of socioeconomic concepts and quantitative and qualitative methods, and to derive policy recommendations based on this analysis.

Building on and supplementing a bachelor's or other first degree in social and economic sciences or in another relevant discipline, the Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy provides graduates with well-founded academic qualifications in combination with a professionally-oriented specialization in the field of sustainable development.

The Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy is aimed particularly at students

- Who wish to obtain not only immediate practical qualifications but also methodological and academic skills, qualifying them for specialist and management positions in diverse areas of policy and the management of the socio-ecological transition, e.g. risk analyses in social and environmental contexts, sustainability impact assessments at the corporate, regional, and national levels, devising instruments of social, environmental, and educational policy, designing and accompanying participative sustainability processes
- Wish to obtain the necessary prerequisites for higher scientific qualifications (PhD/doctoral programs), for example (future) research and teaching staff at universities or other research institutions

Graduates of the Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy have the ideal qualifications to prepare them for a career as socioeconomically trained specialists in the field of sustainability or for an academic career. After completing the master's degree program, graduates have the necessary skills to:

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of issues in the field of socio-ecological transition and the 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
- If appropriate, advance their specialized theoretical and methodological skills in the context of a relevant PhD program

§ 2 Admission Requirements

(1) The prerequisite for admission to the Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy is the completion of a previous degree within the meaning of § 64 of the Universities Act 2002. Admission to the Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy is regulated by a selection procedure pursuant to the Universities Act 2002.

(2) Dual application of examinations to the Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy through transfer of credit for examinations completed in the first-degree program pursuant to (1) is not permissible.

§ 3 Classification, Structure, Total Credit Hours, and ECTS Credits

(1) The Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy is a degree program in social and economic sciences within the meaning of § 54 (1) of the Universities Act 2002.

(2) The four-semester Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy is made up of 120 ECTS credits and 44 credit hours. The master's thesis is worth 20 ECTS credits, and the subjects of the Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy account for the remaining 100 ECTS credits.

(3) The Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy is held entirely in English.

§ 4 Types of Examinations

The examination types indicated in this curriculum are defined in the Examination Regulations of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business). This curriculum, together with the Examination Regulations, forms a curriculum pursuant to § 25 (1) item 10 of the Universities Act 2002.

Abbreviation key:

AG - <i>Arbeitsgemeinschaft</i> , workshop-type course
FP - <i>Fachprüfung</i> , subject examination
FS - <i>Forschungsseminar</i> , research seminar
LVP - <i>Lehrveranstaltungsprüfung</i> , course examination
MP - <i>Modulprüfung</i> , module examination
PI - <i>prüfungsimmanent</i> , course with continuous assessment of student performance
VUE - <i>Vorlesungsübung</i> , lecture with interactive elements

§ 5 Courses and Examinations

(1) The following courses and examinations are compulsory subjects in the master's program:

<i>Course title</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>	<i>Credit hours</i>	<i>Type of examination</i>
<i>Introductory courses (16 ECTS credits):</i>			
Introduction to Research & Writing on Contemporary Policy Challenges Part I	4	2	PI
Introduction to Research & Writing on Contemporary Policy Challenges Part II	4	2	PI
History and Philosophy of Science: Ontology, Epistemology, Methodology	8	4	PI
<i>Theory courses (24 ECTS credits):</i>			
Growth, Well-Being, and Development	8	4	PI
International and European Law, Institutions and Governance	8	4	VUE
Actors, Behaviors and Decision Processes	8	4	PI
<i>Methods courses (20 ECTS credits):</i>			
Quantitative and Qualitative Methods I	10	4	PI
Quantitative and Qualitative Methods II	10	4	PI
<i>Research courses (10 ECTS credits):</i>			
Service Learning I	2.5	1	FS
Service Learning II	2.5	1	FS
Thesis Colloquium	5	2	AG

(2) In addition, two of the following in-depth electives must be completed during the course of the Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy. Each elective with continuous assessment of student performance (PI) is worth 15 ECTS credits and 6 weekly credit hours:

<i>Course title</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>	<i>Credit hours</i>	<i>Type of examination</i>
<i>Social Ecological Economics (15 ECTS credits):</i>			
Course I	5	2	PI
Course II	10	4	PI
<i>The Political Economy of Inequalities (15 ECTS credits):</i>			
Course I	5	2	PI
Course II	10	4	PI

<i>Globalization and Multi-Level Policy (15 ECTS credits):</i>			
Course I	5	2	PI
Course II	10	4	PI
<i>Globalization and Social Policy (15 ECTS credits):</i>			
Course I	5	2	PI
Course II	10	4	PI

§ 6 Specific Requirements for Admission Courses and Examinations

The successful completion of the courses 'History and Philosophy of Science: Ontology, Epistemology, Methodology,' 'Growth, Well-Being and Development,' and 'International and European Law, Institutions and Governance' is the prerequisite for admission to all other courses and examinations in the Master's Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy, with the exception of 'Introduction to Research & Writing on Contemporary Policy Challenges Part I.'

§ 7 Master's Thesis

- (1) Every student is obliged to submit a master's thesis worth 20 ECTS credits.
- (2) In their master's theses, the students have to demonstrate their ability to independently handle a topic with the help of academic research methods.
- (3) The topic of the master's thesis is to be chosen from one of the subjects mentioned in § 5 (1) and (2). The students are entitled to propose a topic themselves or to select one from a number of suggestions made by the available supervisors. Apart from that, § 33 of the By-Laws of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) applies.

§ 8 Completion of the Master's Degree Program

After a student has successfully completed all required examinations and the master's thesis, a certificate will be issued evidencing the successful completion of the Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy.

§ 9 Academic Degree

Graduates of the Master's Degree Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy will be awarded the academic degree Master of Science (WU), abbreviated as MSc (WU).

§ 10 Effective Date

- (1) This curriculum shall take effect on October 1, 2012.
- (2) The amendments to this curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated June 5, 2012, approved by the Senate on June 20, 2012, will enter into force on October 1, 2012.

(3) The amendments to this curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated June 4, 2013, approved by the Senate on June 19, 2013, will enter into force on October 1, 2013.

(4) The amendments to this curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated March 10, 2015, approved by the Senate on March 25, 2015, will enter into force on October 1, 2015.

(5) The amendments to this curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated November 17, 2015, approved by the Senate on December 2, 2015, will enter into force on October 1, 2016.

(6) The amendments to this regulation as published in WU Bulletin no. 40 of June 27, 2018, shall enter into force on October 1, 2018.

(7) The amendments of this regulation as amended by WU Bulletin no. 35 of May 20, 2020, shall enter into force on October 1, 2020.

(8) The amendments to this regulation as published in WU Bulletin no. 44 of June 30, 2021, shall enter into force on October 1, 2021.