

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



English-taught  
master's program



Contribute  
to transforming economies  
and addressing their social dimensions.  
Face the challenges confronting modern society.  
The SEEP program teaches you how to conceptualize, critically  
analyze, and understand major policy issues of our time.

# Make a Difference

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## THE SEEP PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

The SEEP program is an innovative, internationally unique program that provides students with the necessary theoretical background to address the interconnected dynamics of economic and social systems, understand how they relate to the environment, and grasp a variety of differently framed problems. The strong interdisciplinary background acquired in SEEP means that graduates are equipped with the skills to play an important role in addressing the transformational social, ecological, and economic issues of the 21st century.

## CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Rapid environmental change, poverty, and social exclusion are interrelated processes that challenge human concepts of development and progress. Traditional disciplinary approaches to analysis and policy formulation are no longer enough to address these complex issues. Instead, alternatives are needed that come from learning to think 'outside the box.' The SEEP program presents a theoretically well-grounded approach to understanding social, ecological, and economic crises. Students are encouraged to question current mainstream economic approaches to development and the associated policy 'solutions.' The issues of systemic change and transformation then become key.

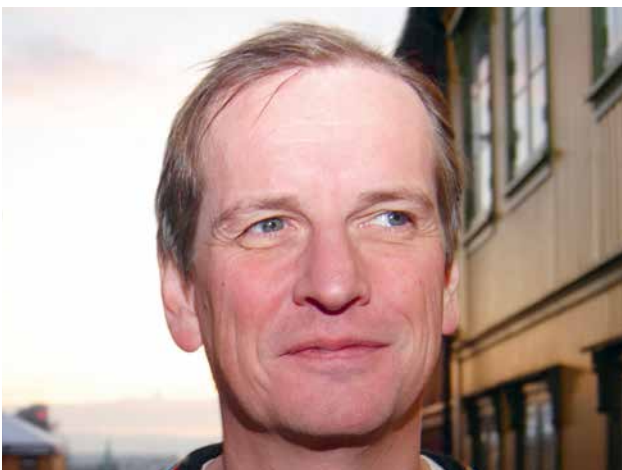
The program focuses on the interfaces between environmental, economic, and social challenges. The interdisciplinary approach includes training in social and economic analysis, covering theory, methodology/philosophy of science, and application. The theory courses include soft

skills in reading and writing on contemporary policy challenges. Training in combined qualitative and quantitative methods helps students understand why both are necessary and how they can complement each other in critical social science research. Policy challenges are analyzed on the basis of explanatory, descriptive, and institutional aspects (including conventions, norms, rules, and regulations) and legal frameworks. By specializing in two concentration areas, students learn how to apply conceptual and theoretical approaches to specific objects of study. Concentration areas can be chosen from the following 4 options:

- › Social Ecological Economics
- › Globalization and Multi-Level Policy
- › Globalization and Social Policy
- › The Political Economy of Inequalities

## FIRST YEAR

Initially, you will be focusing on global challenges and social economic theories. In addition to research and writing skills, SEEP will provide you with a solid foundation in the philosophical underpinnings of the natural and social sciences. You will become familiar with how to analyze the concepts and assumptions behind the paradigms many economic policies are based on and which are reproduced by institutional agents. Topics covered include: growth theories and concepts of development; behavioral economics and individual action; and international and European legal frameworks, institutions, and governance. During the second semester, you will start on your chosen two concentration areas.



**“SEEP is a unique programme teaching critical thinking about the triple conjuncture of global crises and the transformative responses required.”**

Clive Spash  
Academic Director, Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy

## PROGRAM CURRICULUM

### Introductory Courses

Introduction to Research & Writing on Contemporary Policy Challenges Part I (PI)	Introduction to Research & Writing on Contemporary Policy Challenges Part II (PI)	History and Philosophy of Science: Ontology, Epistemology, Methodology (PI)
4 ECTS	4 ECTS	8 ECTS

### Theory Courses

Growth, Well-Being and Development (PI)	International and European Law, Institutions and Governance (VUE)	Actors, Behaviours and Decision Processes (PI)
8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS

### Methods Courses

Quantitative and Qualitative Methods I (PI)	Service Learning I (FS)	<b>Advanced Topics</b> for choice 2 out of 4: › Social Ecological Economics (2×PI) › The Political Economy of Inequalities (2×PI) › Globalisation and Multi-Level Policy (2×PI) › Globalisation and Social Policy (2×PI)
10 ECTS	2,5 ECTS	
Quantitative and Qualitative Methods II (PI)	Service Learning II (FS)	
10 ECTS	2,5 ECTS	
	Thesis Colloquium (AG)	
	5 ECTS	2×15 ECTS

### Master's Thesis

20 ECTS



For further details see:

[wu.at/seep](https://wu.at/seep)



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## AT A GLANCE

<b>Program type</b>	Full-time degree program
<b>Duration</b>	4 semesters
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English
<b>Credits</b>	120 ECTS credits (incl. 20 ECTS credits for the master's thesis)
<b>Degree awarded to graduates</b>	Master of Science (WU), abbreviated MSc (WU)

### SECOND YEAR

In the second year, you will advance to specialized courses and applications. In this phase, the main courses are in the concentration areas and methods. You will develop and hone your research skills through coursework and gain practical experience through service learning. In the final semester, attention turns to writing your thesis, where you will be working closely together with a supervisor on your chosen topic.

### CAREER PROSPECTS

The program provides 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 social, economic, and environmental policy issues
- › Aware of the variety of ethical issues and policy conflicts arising from sustainability
- › In possession of interdisciplinary skills
- › Well-versed in teamwork and the critical and analytical abilities needed to address and develop public policy responses to the social-ecological transformation of economies

#### The MSc program prepares graduates for:

- › Employment as policy analysts, program managers, consultants, civil servants, project managers, and advisors with the skills to foster better understanding and support decision-making processes related to sustainability issues
- › Positions in national and international governments and NGOs, unions, consultancies, and research institutes, where interdisciplinary skills and expertise in social-ecological transformation and economic issues are needed

- › Doctoral studies in the critical social sciences, including heterodox economics, social policy, ecological economics, planning, political science, and human geography

### APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS

#### Online application

- › Completion of or enrollment in a relevant bachelor's program or other equivalent degree at a recognized post-secondary institution.
  - › The program is 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/quantitative methods
- › English proficiency

#### Selection interviews

The best candidates will be invited for individual interviews, where the following criteria will be assessed:

- › Communication and social skills
- › Prior knowledge of social ecological issues and heterodox economics
- › Program fit
- › International orientation

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

Rolling admissions for each academic year start in September, with the following 3 priority deadlines: early October, early January, and early March. We strongly advise all candidates to apply at the first priority deadline.



For detailed information on the admission requirements and the application procedures, please see:  
**[wu.at/seep](https://www.wu.at/seep)**

## Information and contact

To find out more about the Master's Program in  
Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy, please visit:  
**[wu.at/seep](http://wu.at/seep)**

For content-related questions, please e-mail:  
**[seep@wu.ac.at](mailto:seep@wu.ac.at)**

Academic Director of the Master's Program in  
Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy:  
**Clive Spash**



WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business)  
Welthandelsplatz 1, 1020 Vienna, Austria  
[wu.ac.at](http://wu.ac.at)

Arriving by public transport:  
Subway: U2 stations "Messe-Prater" or "Krieau"  
Bus: 82A, "Südportalstraße" stop