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

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

For content-related questions, please e-mail seep@wu.ac.at

Academic Director of the Master’s Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy:

Clive Spash

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.

WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) Weltwirtschaftsring 5, 1020 Vienna, Austria
wu.ac.at

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

To find out more about the Master’s Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy, please visit wu.at/seep

For content-related questions, please e-mail seep@wu.ac.at

Academic Director of the Master’s Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy:

Clive Spash
The SEEP program at a glance

The SEEP program is an innovative, internationally unique program that provides students with the necessary theoretical background in addition to the interdisciplinarity of economic and social systems, understood beyond their traditional boundaries. The program focuses on the interfaces between economic and social systems, and questions the traditional boundaries of the social and natural sciences. Students will become familiar with how to apply the concepts and assumptions behind the paradigmatic economic policies and build on and which are reproduced by institutional agents. Topics covered include social theories, concepts of development, social-ecological systems, and behavioral economics.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The program consists of two main sections: the core program and the second year. Students are encouraged to question current mainstream economic approaches to development and national social and economic crises. Students are equipped with the skills to play an important role in the field of interdisciplinary research.

THE SEEP PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Make a Difference

“SEEP is a unique programme teaching critical thinking about the triple composi- tion of social and the transformative response required.”

Gabi Moos
Academic Director, Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy

Program Curriculum

The program consists of 120 ECTS credits (20 ECTS credits for the master’s thesis). The prerequisites for this master’s program include:

- Prior knowledge of social and ecological issues
- Well-versed in teamwork and the critical and analytical
- Sufficient proficiency in English
- In possession of interdisciplinary skills

The program focuses on the interfaces between economic and social systems, understanding of global sustainability issues, an ability to work in interdisciplinary teams, and sound training in socio-economic 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
- 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, and ecological economics
- Planning, political science, and human geography

APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS

The prerequisites for this master’s program include:

- A relevant degree worth a minimum of 180 ECTS credits
- Examinations in economics or social sciences worth at least 10 ECTS credits
- Sufficient proficiency in English
- Proof of aptitude

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 and ecological issues and heterodox economics
- Program fit
- International orientation

Please see the Application Guide for detailed information on the required documents. The application process takes place online. It is possible to apply before completing the relevant degree program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

WU employs a rolling admissions policy, allowing students to apply from the beginning of September until March, with the following three priority deadlines:

October, January, and March. We strongly advise all candidates to apply at the first priority deadline.

For further details see: ws.at/applydegade
THE SEEP PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

SEEP is a unique programme teaching the interfaces between economic, environmental 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 both why we necessitate new frameworks for addressing social science research. Policy challenges are analysed from the lenses of policy, economic, and historical aspects (including conventions, norms, rules, and regulations) and legal frameworks. By specialising in two concentration areas, students learn how to apply conceptual approaches to development and the associated policy challenges. The prerequisites for this master’s program include:

- Doctoral studies in the critical social sciences, including heterodox economics, social policy, ecological economics, planning, political science, and human geography
- Sufficient proficiency in English
- Proven ability in writing

APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS

The prerequisites for this master’s program include:

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

WU employs a rolling admissions policy, allowing students to apply from the beginning of September until spring, with the following three priority deadlines:

- October, January, and March

For detailed information on the admission requirements and the application procedures, please see: wu.at/applicationguide

“SEEP is a unique programme teaching the interfaces between economic, environmental and social challenges. The interdisciplinary approach includes training in social and economic analysis, covering theory, methodology/philosophy of science, and application.”

THE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Rapid environmental change, poverty, and social injustices are intertwined processes that challenge human societies to engage in new ways of thinking. The SEEP program focuses on the interfaces between environmental change, social, economic, and governance issues. Students are encouraged to question current mainstream economic approaches to development and the associated policy challenges. The issues of systemic change and transformation then become key.

SEEP graduates are:

- Equipped with the theories, methods, and empirical apparatus necessary for 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 framework 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

Make a Difference

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

**Introduction to Research & Writing (PI)**

- Quantitative Methods I (PI)
- Qualitative Methods I (PI)
- Decision Processes (PI)
- History and Philosophy of Science: Methodology (PI)

**Research Courses**

- Thesis Colloquium (AG)
- Service Learning I (FS)
- Institutions and Governance (VUE)
- Theory Courses
- Globalisation and Multi-Level Policy
- The Political Economy of Inequalities
- Global and Multi-Level Policy
- Globalisation and Qualitative Methods (PI)

**Advanced Topics**

- The Political Economy of Inequalities
- Social Ecological Economics (VUE)
- Social Ecological Economics (VUE)
- Evolutionary Game Theory (PI)
-International Law (VUE)
- Evolutionary Game Theory (PI)
- Governance and Decision Processes (PI)
- Governance and Development (PI)

**Degree awarded to graduates**

- Master of Science (WU), abbreviated MSc (WU)

**Duration**

- 4 semesters

**Number of instruction**

- English

**Credits**

- 120 ECTS credits (incl. 20 ECTS credits for the master’s thesis)

**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 and ecological issues and heterodox economics
- Program fit
- International orientation

Please see the Application Guide for detailed information on the required documents. The application process takes place online. It is possible to apply before completion of the relevant degree program.
THE SEEP PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

The SEEP program is an innovative, internationally unique program that provides students with the necessary theoretical background in addition to the interdisciplinarity of economic and social systems, understood here to refer to the existence of complex, dynamically interacting systems in which the nature, size, and identity of the problem are uncertain. The strong interdisciplinarity background acquired in SEEP means that graduates are equipped with the skills to play an important role in social, economic, and ecological issues of the 21st century.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Rapid environmental change, poverty, and social challenges are intertwined 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, alternative ways need to be formulated that can lay out an ‘outside the box’ approach. The SEEP program presents a theoretical, well-provided approach to understanding social, ecological, and economic crises. Students are encouraged to question current mainstream economic approaches to development and the associated policy discourses. 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 is combined with qualitative and quantitative methods helps students understand why both are necessary and how they can be applied in environmental and social science research. Policy challenges are analysed through a combination of theory, description, and institutional aspects (including conventions, norms, rules, and regulations) and legal frameworks. By specializing in two concentration areas, students learn how to apply conceptually relevant, interdisciplinary approaches to analysis and policy formulation. Concentration areas can be chosen from the following 8 options:

- Social Ecological Economics
- Globalization and Multi-Level Policy Application 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 basic tools to analyze the concepts and assumptions behind the paradigmatic failures and combined with economic policies. Based on this and which are reproduced by institutional agents. Topics covered include games theory and concepts of development, behavioral economics and individual action, and international and European legal frameworks, institutions, and government. During the second semester, you will start on your chosen two concentration areas.

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

- Jon Baker, Academic Director, Blue-Bridge Environmental and Policy Research Centre

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

**PROGRAM CURRICULUM**

**Introductory Courses**

- Introduction to Research & Writing Methodology (PI)
- On Contemporary Policy Challenges (PI)
- Introduction to Research & Writing Methodology (PI)
- On Contemporary Policy Challenges (PI)

**Qualification and Graduation Methods I (PI)**

- Research Courses
- Advanced Topics
  - Social Ecological Economics (2 PI)
  - The Political Economy of Inequalities (2 PI)
  - Globalization and Multi-Level Policy Application (2 PI)
  - Social Policy and Social Theory (2 PI)

**Qualification and Graduation Methods II (PI)**

- Thesis Colloquium (AG)
- Thesis Colloquium (AG)
- Thesis Colloquium (AG)
- Thesis Colloquium (AG)

**Master’s Thesis**

For further details see: wu.at/seep

**AT A GLANCE**

Program type: Full-time degree program
Duration: 2 years
Language of instruction: English
Credits: 180 ECTS credits (incl. 20 ECTS credits for the master’s thesis)

SECOND YEAR

In the second year, you will advance to specialized courses and topics. In this phase, the minors are configured in the concentration areas and methods. You will develop and have your research skills through coursework and gain practical experience through service learning. In this way, you are given an adequate degree worth of 80 ECTS credits

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 socio-economic 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 framework 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, and heterodox economics
- Planning, political science, and human geography

APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS

The prerequisites for this master’s program include:

- Bachelor’s degree worth a minimum of 180 ECTS credits
- Examinations in economics or social sciences worth at least 180 ECTS credits
- Sufficient proficiency in English
- Proof of aptitude

For detailed information on the admission requirements and the application procedures, please see: wu.at/applicationguide

**Make a Difference**
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.