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.

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

WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Weltwirtschaftsring 1, 1020 Vienna, Austria
wu.ac.at
The SEEP program at a glance

SEEP is innovative, flexible, and modular, attracting students from around the globe. Its theoretical foundations encompass heterodox economics, philosophy of science, international and European law, as well as behavioral and institutional perspectives. Students gain the ability to think critically about today’s multiple crises, while being placed in both theory and applications as essential aspects of policy intervention. There is no preset study plan, but rather an interdisciplinary understanding of value conflicts, societal complexities and barriers to opportunities for a social-ecological transformation.

Content and structure

Reputation, quality, and social recognition are interrelated processes that challenge human concepts of development and progress. Traditional disciplinary approaches to analysis and policy formation are no longer enough to address these complex issues. Instead, alternatives are needed that connect thinking “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 associated policy solutions. Thus, issues of systemic transformation and change become key.

The program focuses on the interfaces between environmental, economic, and social challenges. The interdisciplinary approach includes training in social and economic analysis, converging theory, philosophy of science, heterodox economics, law and public policy. The theory courses include soft skills in reading and writing for contemporary policy challenges. Training in confronted qualitative and quantitative research methods, interpersonal and teamwork skills is essential to be aware and how they can complement each other. The critical social science research 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 will develop an in-depth understanding of the conceptual and theoretical approaches to specific objects of study. Concentration areas can be chosen from the following 4 options:

1. Globalization and Multi-Level Institutional Analysis
   - Globalization and Governance
   - Globalization and Qualitative Methods (F)
   - Political Economy of Inequalities

2. Decision Processes
   - Service Learning (F)
   - Service Learning (P)
   - Theoretical Ecological Economics (2P)
   - Political Economy of Inequalities
   - Globalization and Qualitative Methods (F)

3. Growth, Well-Being and Development
   - Micro-economic Foundations
   - Economics of Poverty and Inequality
   - Theses Colloquium (AG)

4. The Political Economy of Inequalities
   - Decision Processes
   - Theoretical Ecological Economics (2P)
   - Political Economy of Inequalities
   - Globalization and Multi-Level Institutional Analysis

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 created by institutional actors. 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 select on your choice two concentration areas.

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 identified above. You will develop and hone your research skills through coursework and gain practical experience through service learning. In the third semester, attention turns to writing your thesis, where you will be working closely together with a supervisor in your chosen concentration areas.

Career prospects

The program provides students with the necessary understanding of today’s multiple crises, 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, ecological economics, planning, political science, and human geography.

Application and admissions

The SEEP master’s program includes:

- A relevant degree worth a minimum of 180 ECTS credits
- Examination in economics or social sciences worth at least 180 ECTS credits
- 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 the conclusion of the relevant degree program.

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. 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:

For further details see: wu.ac.at/sep
**THE SEEP PROGRAM AT A GLANCE**
SEEP is an innovative, full-time, two-year MSc programme attracting students from around the globe. Its theoretical foundations encompass heterodox economics, philosophy of science, international and European law, as well as behavioural and institutional perspectives. Students gain the ability to think critically about today's multiplicity of crises, while importance is placed on both theory and applications as essential aspects of policy intervention. There is no policy without problems, but rather an interdisciplinary understanding of value conflicts, societal complexities and barriers to opportunities for a social-ecological transformation.

**CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**
SEEP's multidisciplinary approach, and social and economic crises. Students are encouraged to question mainstream economic approaches to development and economic issues 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 problems, but rather an interdisciplinary understanding of value conflicts, societal complexities and barriers to opportunities for a social-ecological transformation.

**THE SEEP PROGRAM AT A GLANCE**
Make a Difference

**LOW-COST ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS**

**PARTIALLY FUNDRAISING ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS**

**FULL-TIME ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS**

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE**

**AT A GLANCE**

**Program Type**
Full-time degree program

**Duration**
8 semesters

**Language of instruction**
English

**Credits**
120 ECTS credits (incl. 20 ECTS credits for the master's thesis)

**Degree awarded to graduates**
Master of Science (MSc), 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 area identified in the first year. You will develop and hone your research skills through coursework and gain practical experience through service learning. In the final semester, attention will turn 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 today's multiple crises, an ability to work in interdisciplinary teams, and sound training in socio-economic concepts and methods.

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- 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 governmental and NGOs, unions, consultancies, and research institutes, where interdisciplinary skills and expertise in socio-ecological transformation and economic issues are needed

**For detailed information on the admission requirements and the application procedures, please see**

**wu.at/applicationguide**

**PROGRAM CURRICULUM**

**Introductory Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Writing</td>
<td>4 ECTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Research &amp; Writing</td>
<td>4 ECTS</td>
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**Theory Courses**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth, Well-Being and Development</td>
<td>8 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International and European Law</td>
<td>8 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Philosophy of Science: Theological Economy</td>
<td>8 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action, Behaviour and Decision Processes</td>
<td>8 ECTS</td>
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</table>

**Methods Courses**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative and Qualitative Methods</td>
<td>4 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Statistics</td>
<td>4 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Topics</td>
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**Research Courses**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Learning</td>
<td>4 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Ecological Economics</td>
<td>2 ECTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Political Economy of Inequities</td>
<td>2 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globalisation and Multi-Level Policy</td>
<td>2 ECTS</td>
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<td>Globalisation and Social Policy</td>
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**Master's Thesis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Colloquium</td>
<td>8 ECTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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CONCEPT AND STRUCTURE

The SEEP programme is structured in two phases: the first year focuses on global challenges and opportunities for a social-ecological transformation. The interdisciplinarity of the programme provides solutions to the world’s social, economic, and environmental policy issues. By combining qualitative and quantitative methods, students gain soft skills in reading and writing on contemporary policy challenges. Training in combined qualitative and quantitative methods equips students with the tools they need to analyse their own research questions. The two-year programme is interrelated processes that challenge human consciousness and attract students from around the globe. Its theoretical foundations encompass heterodox economics, philosophy of science, international and European law, as well as behavioral and institutional perspectives. Students gain the ability to think critically about today’s major crises, while importance is placed on both theory and application as essential aspects of policy intervention. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, but rather an interdisciplinary understanding of value conflicts, societal complexity and barriers to and opportunities for a social-ecological transformation.

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Information and contact

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WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

Welthandelsplatz 1, 1020 Vienna, Austria

wu.ac.at

Arriving by public transport:

Subway: U2 stations “Messe-Prater” or “Krieau”

Bus: 82A, “Südportalstraße” stop

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