

CURRICULUM

FOR THE MASTER PROGRAM IN SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS AND POLICY

AT WU VIENNA UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

(as amended by the resolutions of the Committee for Academic Programs dated May 10, 2011, June 5, 2012, and June 4, 2013, approved by the Senate of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business on May 18, 2011, June 20, 2012, and June 19, 2013)

On May 18, 2011, pursuant to the Federal Act on the Organization of the Universities and their Studies, the Universities Act 2002 (*Universitätsgesetz 2002*), as published in the Federal Law Gazette (*Bundesgesetzblatt, BGBl.*) I No. 120/2002 as amended, the Senate of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business approved the following resolution of the Committee for Academic Programs dated May 10, 2011, on the Curriculum for the Master Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy.

§ 1 Objectives

The Master 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 or other first degree in social and economic sciences or in another relevant discipline, the Master 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 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 management, 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 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 program, graduates have the necessary 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;
- if appropriate, advance their specialized theoretical and methodological skills in the context of a relevant PhD program.

§ 2 Admission to the Program

(1) The prerequisite for admission to the Master Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy is the successful completion of a bachelor degree program or a *Fachhochschule* (university of applied sciences) bachelor program or an equivalent first-degree program in a relevant discipline at a recognized post-secondary educational institution in Austria or abroad. Admission to the Master Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy is regulated by a selection procedure pursuant to § 64 (6) of the Universities Act 2002.

(2) Dual application of examinations to the Master in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy through recognition of examinations completed in the first-degree program in a relevant discipline pursuant to (1) is not permissible.

§ 3 Classification, Structure, Total Credit Hours and ECTS

(1) The Master 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 4-semester Master Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy is made up of 120 ECTS credits and 44 credit hours. The master thesis is worth 20 ECTS credits, and the subjects of the Master Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy account for the remaining 100 ECTS credits.

(3) The Master Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy will be held entirely in English.

§ 4 Types of Examinations

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

§ 5 Courses and Examinations

(1) The following courses and examinations are compulsory subjects in the Master Program:

<i>Course title</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Credit hours</i>	<i>Type of examination</i>
<i>Introductory courses (16 ECTS):</i>			
Contemporary policy challenges	8	4	PI*
Methodology for interdisciplinary research	8	4	PI
<i>Theory courses (24 ECTS):</i>			
Growth, well-being and development	8	4	PI
International institutions, governance and policy evaluation	8	4	PI
Actors, behaviors and decision processes	8	4	PI
<i>Methods courses (20 ECTS):</i>			
Quantitative and qualitative methods 1	10	4	PI
Quantitative and qualitative methods 2	10	4	PI
<i>Research courses (10 ECTS):</i>			
Advanced research methods	5	2	PI
Research seminar	5	2	PI

*PI = *prüfungsimmanent*, class with continuous assessment of student performance

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

1. Environmental change and policy
2. Population, human capital and policy
3. Globalization and multi-level policy
4. Globalization and social policy

(3) The Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs shall, in consultation with the Academic Director responsible for the program in question, determine the specific courses to be offered as electives, with regard to curricular issues, and submit them to the Committee for Academic Programs. The Committee for Academic Programs is entitled to revoke the Vice-Rector's decision in its subsequent meeting with regard to curricular matters and determine a course program itself. The finalized course program is to be published in the bulletin (*Mitteilungsblatt*) of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business in a timely manner. In the event of changes, to protect the interests of those students who had justifiably relied on being able to complete their examinations according to the previously valid regulations, the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs shall provide for adequate transitional measures and submit these to the Committee for Academic Programs. The Committee for Academic Programs is entitled to revoke the Vice-Rector's decision in its subsequent meeting and may instead determine transitional provisions itself.

§ 6 Specific Requirements for Admission to Courses and Examinations

Successful completion of at least two of the four courses "Contemporary policy challenges", "Methodology for interdisciplinary research", "Growth, well-being and development" and "International institutions, governance and policy evaluation" is the prerequisite for

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admission to all further courses and examinations of the Master Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy.

§ 7 Studies Abroad

In the course of the preliminary decision procedure, when reviewing a student's study program for his/her planned studies abroad, it should be ensured that the courses to be attended at the university abroad are related to the overall context of the Master Program in Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy.

§ 8 Master Thesis

- (1) Each student is obliged to submit a master thesis worth 20 ECTS credits.
- (2) In their master 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 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 Bylaws of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business applies.

§ 9 Completion of the Master Program

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

§ 10 Academic Degree

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

§ 11 Entry into Force

- (1) This Curriculum will enter into force on October 1, 2012.
- (2) The amendments to this Curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Committee for Academic Programs 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 Committee for Academic Programs dated June 4, 2013, approved by the Senate on June 19, 2013, will enter into force on October 1, 2013.