



# MSc Environment and Sustainable Development

Equipping participants with capacities for  
effective action to enhance socio-environmental  
justice in the urban Global South.



## Overview

Faced with unprecedented rates of environmental degradation, rapid urbanisation and the production and reproduction of inequalities, this programme examines the critical relations between development planning and socio-environmental challenges in urban areas of the Global South. It challenges mainstream approaches to development, focusing on strategic pathways to address socio-environmental injustices and enhancing collective capacities to act. The programme equips students with interdisciplinary and transferable skills to address complex global challenges in urban regions while being sensitive to local contexts and remaining flexible in fast changing realities. It develops reflexive and ethical professionals with enhanced capacities as critical thinkers, researchers, team players, leaders, effective project managers and impactful communicators.

### Programme Leaders

Dr Pascale Hofmann  
Dr Rita Lambert

### Other Members of Staff

Prof Adriana Allen | Prof David Satterthwaite | Dr Robert Biel | Dr David Dodman | Dr Liza Griffin | Dr Zeremariam Fre | Étienne von Bertrab

### Core and Optional Modules

The Political Ecology of Environmental Change; Urban Environmental Planning and Management in Development | Sustainable Infrastructure and Services in Development | Urban Water and Sanitation | Planning and Politics; Environment and Sustainable Development in Practice | Food and the City | Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture: Knowledge Systems in the Global South | Adapting Cities to Climate Change in the Global South

## Structure

The programme comprises 180 credits. 120 of these are achieved through taught components, which are undertaken over three terms. The final 60 credits are attained through the dissertation report, which is completed over the summer term. Of the taught credits, 75% are devoted to the core subjects of planning, sustainability, environmental justice, urbanisation and development and 25% to additional optional modules. The core modules provide the theoretical and methodological components of the programme while the optional modules allow students to further explore specific interests. Core modules include: 'The Political Ecology of Environmental Change', 'Environment and Sustainable Development in Practice' and 'Urban Environmental Planning and Management in Development' (30 credits each). The programme is delivered through diverse teaching and learning activities to foster individual and collective learning which include: lectures, seminars, workshops, coursework and action research in collaboration with overseas partners. Students engage with an interdisciplinary body of knowledge and experiences on socio-environmental change that inform the practice of planning and can extend and consolidate their own ideas and experiences.

## Careers

The programme attracts participants from a wide variety of disciplines, including anthropologists, economists, geographers, political and natural scientists, as well as planners, architects and engineers. Students interact with diverse private and public organisations and join a network of long-term partnerships, established since the course's inception in 1997, with fellow students, alumni, instructors and partners across the world. They work closely with academic staff concerned with socio-environmentally just and sustainable development and are involved in research, consultancy and development practice, influencing global debates on development such as UNFCCC negotiations, Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Habitat III agenda.

Graduates of this programme are engaged in professional activities, ranging from local and national government, consultancy firms and national and international NGOs, to United Nations programmes and international aid agencies all over the world.

Examples include:

- Public sector: DEFRA and DFID (UK), Brazil's Ministerio das Cidades and many other local government organisations;
- International Agencies and NGOs: UNEP, UNDP, UN-Habitat, JICA, GIZ, InsightShare, Save the Children and WWF;
- Think Tanks, academic and research organisations such as: IIED, Stockholm Environment Institute, Resources for Development Center, WaterWise and The Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport;
- Private companies, such as HappoldConsulting, EcoSecurities, Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Dialogue By Design and Bio Regional Quintain.