



UCL

MSc Environment and Sustainable Development



Providing a theoretical and practical understanding of socio-environmental change to promote environmental justice in the urban Global South

Programme Co-Directors

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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

MSc Environment and Sustainable Development

Overview In recent decades the concept of Sustainable Development (SD) has been popularised and mainstreamed by local, national and international organisations. Sustainable Development can be broadly described as an approach that ensures the incorporation of environmental justice and sustainability into developmental strategies. At the same time this debate has seen the expansion of a rich body of theory and planning practice concerned with the specific challenges faced by cities in the global south.



The course equips participants with a critical understanding of SD theory and practice, unveiling the political, social and economic forces underlying environmental conflicts and exploring practical approaches to address their causes. Through critically analysing the relationship between environmental justice and sustainability along with policies and processes of urban transformation, the programme equips students with capacities and skills to generate transformative social and environmental change. During the course participants will engage with the challenges of supporting environmentally just urbanisation and addressing major inequalities in the distribution of environmental burdens and benefits, against the backdrop of a changing climate, resource scarcity, and ecosystem degradation.

Structure The course 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 course while the specialist modules allow students to further explore their 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 course is delivered through lectures, seminars, workshops, and fieldwork overseas. Students will be expected to read widely and hone their written and oral communication skills through coursework, examinations and group work, which form the core means of assessment.

Careers The course attracts participants from a wide variety of disciplines, including anthropologists, economists, geographers, political and natural scientists, as well as planners, architects and engineers.

Since its inception in 1997, over 400 students have successfully completed the ESD course. Participants work in a wide variety of areas, ranging from local and national government, consultancy firms and national and international NGOs, to United Nations programmes and international aid agencies the world over. 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 Happold-Consulting, EcoSecurities, Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Dialogue By Design and Bio Regional Quintain.