

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	<i>MSc Sustainability and Environmental Management</i>
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a. Teaching institution	Middlesex University <i>Hendon</i>
3b. Language of study	<i>English</i>
4a. Valid intake dates	<i>September</i>
4b. Mode of study	<i>FT/PT</i>
4c. Delivery method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus/Blended <input type="checkbox"/> Distance Education
5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body	
6. Apprenticeship Standard	N/A
7. Final qualification(s) available	MSc Sustainability and Environmental Management PGDip Sustainability and Environmental Management
8. Year effective from	2022-2023

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

A good Honours degree (lower second-class honours or above) in a relevant discipline (Geography, Environmental Sciences, Biology, Ecology, Business studies with sustainability components) or a relevant experience in the discipline (3 years or more). All applicants should present a brief personal project idea related to sustainability or/and environmental management in their personal statement. Applicants without formal qualification might be invited for an interview and will need to demonstrate relevant work experience and the ability to study at postgraduate level.

English language requirements

You must have competence in English language to study with us. The most commonly accepted evidence of English language ability is IELTS 6.5 (with minimum 6.0 in all components). We also normally require GCSE English Grade C or 4 or an equivalent qualification. Visit our English language requirements page for a full list of accepted tests and qualifications. If you don't meet our minimum English language requirements, we offer an intensive Pre-sessional English course.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme is tailored to recent changes in the field of sustainability, the need to better tackle global environmental issues, namely the climate and biodiversity crises, and the growing demand for interdisciplinary skills to support the transition to a green economy and the adoption of green legislation. The programme aims to prepare students for such roles in sustainability and environmental management.

This programme aims to produce graduates:

1. With strong integrated problem solving skills and competencies.
2. Able to manage projects in complex and unpredictable contexts.
3. Able to defend a position in the sustainable development discourse.
4. Able to adopt an interdisciplinary approach to tackle environmental issues and critically evaluate and assess environmental issues, management practices and policies at a range of scales.
5. With strong knowledge and analytical skills needed to develop a career in sustainability and environmental management interventions.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

1. Key principles and concepts of sustainable development and environmental management and how these relate to current and future environmental, economic and social changes.
2. The role of institutions, organisations and other stakeholders in managing and regulating the human impacts on the environment from the local to the global scale.
3. Framework and methodologies commonly used to assess and manage environmental aspects.
4. Theories and practices used in sustainable decision making process.
5. A wide range of research methodologies associated with the design and conduct of research project in the field of sustainability and environmental management.

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through attendance in lectures, seminars; through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities e.g. group projects, case study analysis, field visits, student presentations. Electronic resources will be used to enhance student learning experiences. Students will be directed to explore a diverse range of learning materials such as e-books, reading lists and free online resources.

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by written essays and reports that focus on key principles, concepts and relating theory to practice. Class presentations assess student ability to synthesise and make effective use of case study material. The dissertation assesses the student's grasp of a narrow field of inquiry and of research methodology.

<p>B. Skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select appropriate competencies, theories and framework to evaluate and develop innovative responses to environmental issues and sustainable development challenges. 2. Analyse complex systems using an interdisciplinary approach. 3. Critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative data and environmental assessment techniques and methodologies. 4. Effectively learn both independently and collaboratively with a critical mind. 5. Communicate effectively complex sustainable development issues and strategies to different audiences. 6. Develop, plan and carry out task and research projects. 7. Reflect on professional practice, including consideration of ethical, societal and financial issues. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through seminar discussions, group project work, the preparation of coursework and the dissertation.</p> <p>Workshops, seminars and field visits will explore the interface between theory and practice. During these activities students will learn self-criticism through group tutorials and individual feedback on coursework and project as well as post-session activities including reflection entries.</p> <p>Data collection exercises, presentation preparations and project development will provide opportunities for peer and self-appraisal.</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' skills are assessed by reports, presentations (group and individual), case studies analysis, e-journal, proposal writing across modules and the dissertation and VIVA.</p>
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<p>12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)</p>
<p>12. 1 Overall structure of the programme</p> <p>Students on the MSc in Sustainability and Environmental Management programme will take 180 credits of study. This includes two core compulsory modules of 15 credits, two core compulsory modules of 30 credits and a 60 core credit module leading to the submission of a research dissertation. Students will be able to select 30 credits of optional modules.</p> <p>The core compulsory modules will focus on developing the students' critical knowledge and understanding of the relevant theories, environmental principles and processes, policy issues and institutions and decision making. In the module PRS4540 Sustainability in the Anthropocene the students will engage in a real-world problem over weeks and develop a project as a team. It must be highlighted that the other two core modules support the problem-based project as well.</p>

It is expected that the students will draw on this body of knowledge to develop and execute their dissertation research. The research methods module will provide many of the practical research skills needed to complete the research dissertation work. It will also provide guidance on topic development and research design process.

In the optional modules students have the opportunity to either acquire specialist knowledge aligned with sustainability practices or gain employability skills through a professional placement option. All optional modules focus upon the development of both technical and professional skills.

To exit with a named PGDip, students must have 120 credits by passing all taught modules.

FT mode

Students should take two of three 15 credit optional modules or the 30 credit professional experience/virtual placement module (PRS4999).

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Core modules (150 credits)		
PRS4540 Sustainability in the Anthropocene (30 credits)		PRS4699 MSc Project (60 credits)
PRS4299 Research Methods (30 credits)		
PRS4530 Environmental Law and Governance (15 credits)	PRS4560 Sustainable Decision Making (15 credits)	
Optional modules (students select 30 credits)		
PRS4999 Professional Experience Placement (30 credits)		
BIO4410 Conservation Science (15 credits)	PRS4700 Environmental Assessment and Management (15 credits)	
	PRS4580 Business and Enterprise for Sustainable Prosperity (15 credits)	

PT mode

In year 2 students should take two of three 15 credit optional modules or the 30 credit professional experience /virtual placement module (PRS4999).

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Year 1 Core module (60 credits)		
PRS4540 Sustainability in the Anthropocene (30 credits)		
PRS4530 Environmental Law and Governance (15 credits)	PRS4560 Sustainable Decision Making (15 credits)	
Year 2 Core module (90 credits)		
PRS4299 Research Methods (30 credits)		PRS4699 MSc Project (60 credits)
Optional modules (30 credits)		
BIO4410 Conservation Science (15 credits)	PRS4700 Environmental Assessment and Management (15 credits)	
	PRS4580 Business and Enterprise for Sustainable Prosperity (15 credits)	
PRS4999 Professional Experience Placement (30 credits)		

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL*	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>PRS4530 Environmental Law and Governance</p> <p>PRS4540 Sustainability in the Anthropocene</p> <p>PRS4560 Sustainable Decision Making</p> <p>PRS4299 Research Methods</p> <p>PRS4699 MSc Project</p>	<p>Students must choose 30 credits from the following:</p> <p>PRS4580 Business and Enterprise for Sustainable Prosperity (15)</p> <p>BIO4410 Conservation Science (15)</p> <p>PRS4700 Environmental Assessment and Management (15)</p> <p>PRS4999 Professional Experience / Virtual Placement (30)</p>	<p>Students must pass all taught modules before proceeding to the PRS4699 MSc project.</p>

*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
7	PRS4699 ; PRS4299

13. Information about assessment regulations
This programme will run in line with general University Regulations.

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)
<p>The programme incorporates a module option whereby students have to secure a minimum of 20 work days placement in an organisation. Students will be assisted and supported closely to secure a placement. Existing professional networks in addition to liaison with the MDXWorks Careers Employability Service, will facilitate placements for students. Students have found successful placements with organisations such as SWECO, Climate Action, Thames21 and UK GBC. This feature is integral to building employability into the programme for students who desire this option. For students who are unable to secure a placement, two virtual placement options exist. Students can register on an action project under the supervision of a mentor in association with the Fijian governments and NGOs or they can develop a sustainable project under the supervision of a UK sustainability consultancy company.</p> <p>Some placements are also available for students to carry out their MSc dissertation projects through existing partnerships and professional networks. Students on project placement will be assigned an external and an internal supervisor. The external supervisor will supervise and oversee research work carried out in the external institution. Students are expected to carry out their research full-time for the duration of the project. The internal supervisor will liaise closely with the external link and provide support and advice to the student relating to the research approach and dissertation preparation. Students are also permitted to carry out their projects at their workplace.</p> <p>Overseas students can carry out approved projects in their home country provided a suitable supervisor and facilities can be identified if required prior to the commencement of the project.</p>

15. Future careers / progression
<p>This programme is accredited by the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES). Students on this programme are automatically eligible for Student Membership of the Institution. Additionally, on graduation, Student Members receive a certificate from the IES and are automatically eligible to become Associate Members. The IES has been granted a licence to award the qualification of Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) to suitably qualified IES members and environmental professionals. By joining the IES students will start the process of working towards the achievement of chartered status with associated professional recognition.</p> <p>The programme also prepares students for progression to a PhD level or pursue a further academic career in higher education in the UK. Employment levels are high for graduates of the programme. Graduates have successfully found employment in the business sector,</p>

consultancies, government ministries, non-governmental organisations (local and international) in addition to education.

16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

All available learning resources are available to students on the programme. E-learning is implemented across the course through the use of Moodle on UniHub. This forms the primary means for dissemination of programme information, wellbeing and learning support for all modules. There are library services, and the Learning Enhancement Team to help familiarise and support students with academic learning and study.

CAH26-01-01 geography (non-specific)

CAH26-01-04 environmental sciences

- QAA Earth Science, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies benchmarks document (2019) (Bachelor's degrees can be used to guide for the subject area).
- QAA Education for Sustainable Development Guidance (2021).

19. Reference points

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- QAA Earth Science, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies benchmarks document (2019) (Bachelor's degrees can be used to guide for the subject area).
- QAA Education for Sustainable Development Guidance (2021).
- UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development Goals Learning Objectives (2017).
- SEEC Credit Level Descriptor for Higher Education (2021).
- University Regulations (2021-22).
- University Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook (2021-22).
- Institution of Environmental Sciences.

20. Other information

The programme contains London-based day field trips. Travel cost to the London locations will be the students' responsibility unless group travel is organised by the university. The travel cost for each field trip will be no more than the cost of travelling to campus or of a London 1-day Travelcard for students living near the campus.

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

21. Curriculum map for *MSc Sustainability and Environmental Management*

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	Key principles and concepts of sustainable development and environmental management and how these relate to current and future environmental, economic and social changes.
A2	The role of institutions, organisations and other stakeholders in managing and regulating the human impacts on the environment from the local to the global scale.
A3	Framework and methodologies commonly used to assess and manage environmental aspects.
A4	Theories and practices used in sustainable decision making process.
A5	A wide range of research methodologies associated with the design and conduct of research project in the field of sustainability and environmental management.
Skills	
B1	Select appropriate competencies, theories and framework to evaluate and develop innovative responses to environmental issues and sustainable development challenges.
B2	Analyse complex system using interdisciplinary approach.
B3	Critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative data and environmental assessment techniques and methodologies.
B4	Effectively learn both independently and collaboratively with a critical mind.
B5	Communicate effectively complex sustainable development issues and strategies to different audiences.
B6	Develop, plan and carry out task and research projects.
B7	Reflect on professional practice, including consideration of ethical, societal and financial issues.

Programme outcomes											
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7
Highest level achieved by all graduates											
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7
Sustainability in the Anthropocene	PRS4540	x		x			x	x	x	x	x		
Environmental Law and Governance	PRS4530	x	x		x		x	x		x			
Sustainable Decision Making	PRS4560		x	x	x		x				x		
Research Methods	PRS4299					x	x		x		x	x	x
MSc Project	PRS4699	x				x	x		x		x	x	x
Professional Experience /Virtual Placement	PRS4999			x			x			x		x	x
Conservation Science	BIO4410	x	x	x			x	x			x		x
Business and Enterprise for Sustainable Prosperity	PRS4580	x	x	x			x	x		x			x
Environmental Assessment and Management	PRS4700	x	x	x			x		x	x			x