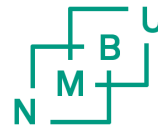


Faculty of Social Sciences

*Department of International Environment
and Development Studies*



Norwegian University
of Life Sciences

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM
IN
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
2014 - 2016

Options and requirements



July 2014

Program Title

Environmental processes, such as pollution, biodiversity, erosion and climate change, are not restricted by political borders. We refer to these phenomena as being *global* in the sense that they transcend nations. The term 'global environmental studies' is, therefore, mostly used for the study of natural environmental processes.

Actions to deal with environmental challenges must nonetheless be taken by political agencies at local, national and international levels. We therefore use the term 'international environmental studies' to refer to the formation of environmental policy at these levels as well as resulting implementation of environmental solutions (environmental management).

The current program includes both the study of natural environmental processes as well as national and international management. Since our program emphasizes the politics and institutional dynamics of environmental policy-making more than the natural aspects, we have chosen the name International Environmental Studies (IES) for our program.

Program Diversity

Noragric's Master's Program in International Environmental Studies is *international* in two ways: The curriculum covers topics that are relevant for many countries, and our students come from many different countries throughout the world.

We also consider our program to be *interdisciplinary* for two reasons: It consists of courses focusing on natural and social aspects of the environmental challenges of our time, and we accept students with both natural and social science background into the program. The high student diversity both in terms of nationality and academic background creates significant challenges for both students and teachers, but also ensures a diversity that provides important opportunity for learning and the sharing of relevant experience.

Course Program Requirements

The Master's Program in International Environmental Studies 2014-2016 requires 20 credits of compulsory core courses, 15 credits of profile courses and a 30-credit research thesis. The remaining 55 credits, respectively, needed to bring the plan up to the minimum limit of 120 credits, can be chosen among courses at NMBU or other universities. The master program must contain at least 30 credits of 300-level courses. Maximum 10 credits can be from 100-level courses. The combination of compulsory and elective courses should give the study plan a coherent, thematic focus. Any courses given by Noragric can be selected by the student. Courses taken at other NMBU departments or other universities must be approved by Noragric.

Designing a Study Plan

The student should design a two-year study plan as early as possible. Designing a plan and registering for courses and exams are done on the online NMBU Student Web at:

<https://www.studweb.no/as/WebObjects/studentweb2?inst=NMBU>

Note that the compulsory courses have already been entered. Elective courses must be added.

Students can take more than the minimum limit of 120 credits. However, the student must specify which courses shall be included in the master program. Additional courses will appear on a separate grade transcript.

Compulsory Courses

Three courses plus a master thesis are compulsory for the IES program i.e.:

	Credits
EDS303 Introduction to International Environmental Studies	5
EDS312 Research Methods	15
M30-NOR Master Thesis	30

The compulsory courses have the following three aims:

- Provide a solid introduction to the field of environmental studies at Noragric.
- Provide students with a broad knowledge in research methods (EDS312). Students should be familiar with research methods beyond their own thesis research, including both quantitative and qualitative methods.

In addition to obligatory courses all students are expected to take, further obligatory courses are connected to each of the program study paths. We have also designed the MIES program so that students can choose between two specific study paths i.e. Environmental Politics and Governance, and Climate Change and Agriculture (see sample plans below).

Although listed as compulsory, the courses can be replaced if similar competence can be documented. The field courses can also be replaced for documented economic or family reasons. Students who are economically dependent on part-time jobs or have small children may design alternative study plans in collaboration with the department.

Students need approval from the department to be exempted from compulsory courses. To do so, the student should complete the study plan for the master program, state the reasons for replacing compulsory courses and submit the plan and explanation to the study coordinator.

Elective Courses

Students are free to choose elective courses from Noragric's entire portfolio of courses. We also encourage students to take courses at other NMBU departments, or other universities. Courses taken outside Noragric need, however, to be approved by the department. To obtain approval, submit a complete proposal to the department study coordinator.

Transfer of Credits

Course credits can be transferred from other universities into the IES program. To apply, fill in the form below and submit the application to the study coordinator:

http://www.nmbu.no/statisk/sit_english/applications/applic_acceptance_external_studypts.pdf

Sample Plans

Two sample plans are provided below. The courses included in these plans are *timetable secured*, i.e., the students will not risk overlapping lectures or seminars. Combining other courses may lead to time table conflicts.

Sample Plan A: Environmental Politics and Governance

This study plan emphasizes on policy issues and policy options. While there is a focus on social science issues, natural science will be integrated in the study of governance challenges.

International Environmental Studies				
Year	Semester	Code	Course Title	Credits
2014/ 2015				
	August block	EDS303	Introduction to International Environmental Studies (Cont.)	5
	Autumn parallel	EDS312	Research Methods	5
		EDS304	Political Economy – Institutions and the Environment	10
		LNG240	Academic Writing	10
	January block	ECN352	Poverty	5
	Spring parallel	EDS312	Research Methods	10
		EDS348	The Politics and Governance of the Environment	10
		EDS330	Political Ecology	10
	June block			
2015/ 2016	August block	EDS384 or EDS387	Development and Environment in Practice, <i>Tanzania</i> or State and Civil Society in Development and Environmental Governance of India (both continues through September)	15
		M30-NO	Thesis (fieldwork; October to December)	15
	January block			
	Spring parallel	M30-NO	Thesis (writing)	15
		EDS355	Climate Change and Development	10
		NATF350	Human Wildlife Interactions	5

Sample Plan B: Climate Change and Agriculture

The plan focuses on the management of resources as it goes more into the natural science dynamics of environmental change. However, policy and governance are also covered.

International Environmental Studies				
Year	Semester	Code	Course Title	Credits
2014/ 2015	August block	EDS303	Introduction to International Environmental Studies	
	Autumn parallel	EDS285	Global Food Security	10
		EDS312	Research Methods	5
		EDS365	Coastal, Marine and Aquatic Resource Management	10
		<i>LNG240</i>	<i>Academic Writing</i>	10
		<i>EDS260</i>	<i>Global Environmental Change</i>	5
	January block	<i>ECN352</i>	<i>Poverty</i>	5
	Spring parallel	EDS312	Research Methods	10
		EDS355	Climate Change and development	10
		EDS250	Agriculture Prod. Systems in Developing Countries	10
		EDS350	Ecology and Society	10
	June block	EDS315	Management of Genetic Resources: Law and Policy	5
2015/ 2016	August block	EDS384 or EDS387	Development and Environment in Practice, <i>Tanzania</i> or State and Civil Society in Development and Environmental Governance of India (both continues through September)	15
		M30-NO	Thesis (fieldwork; October to December)	15
	January block			
	Spring parallel	M30-NO	Thesis (writing)	15
		<i>LNG240</i>	<i>Academic Writing</i>	10

Font codes for courses:

Bold: Compulsory courses

Regular: Elective courses specific to the sample plan

Italic: Suggested elective courses

MASTER THESIS

Students must select research topics for their master theses according to the availability and expertise of supervisors. A list of possible topics and supervisors will be provided in the first term of study. We encourage students to link their research to ongoing collaboration between Noragric and partner institutions. Each student will be allocated a supervisor and is entitled to 30 hours of supervision. The supervision should preferably be given by a department staff member. A co-supervisor at a different department or even at another university may also be arranged following application. Students may also transfer their thesis research to another department at NMBU. In such cases, Noragric has no responsibility for the thesis work.

Students with prior research experience, and/or students who develop a proposal over a topic that poses particular challenges with respect to field work and analysis, may wish to write a 60-credit thesis. This decision must be taken in consultation with the main supervisor,

and will normally only be relevant for students who perform particularly well in their course work.

Students and supervisors must sign a contract for the master thesis work. The contract form can be found at:

http://www.nmbu.no/statisk/sit/skjemaer/engelske/contract_degree_thesis.pdf

REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF THESIS

Students must register for M30-NORAGRIC (30-credit thesis) in the spring semester 2016. Deadline for handing in the thesis will be May 15, 2016. Students who cannot meet the May 15 deadline for any other reason, should withdraw their registration for the spring semester (deadline for withdrawal is April 1st) and register again for the autumn semester 2016 instead. The new deadline will then be December 15. The student may, however, hand in the thesis earlier than December.

THESIS DEFENSE

The student and supervisor decide a date for thesis defense. During the defense, the student will give a 20-minutes presentation of the thesis research and answer questions from the external examiner and the supervisor. If the student has done a Special Curriculum, he/she will also be examined in the subject after the thesis defense.

FIELD COURSES

EDS384	Development and Environment in Practice, (<i>SUA: Tanzania</i>)	15
EDS387	State and Civil Society in Development and Environmental Governance of India (<i>IDS: Jaipur, India</i>)	15

The field courses are designed to provide an understanding of opportunities and challenges for practical field projects and applied research methods. The field course EDS384 can be taken at SUA Tanzania (<http://www.suanet.ac.tz/>) and the field course EDS387 can be taken at the Institute for Development Studies, Jaipur, India (<http://www.ids.org>). A minimum of 10 students must attend for the course to be arranged at each location. Teaching starts in the first week of August and ends in the last week of September.

Students attend lectures by a wide range of experienced staff from universities, government agencies and nongovernmental development organizations and gain experience in the use of research methods. Several field trips will give students the opportunity to interview urban and rural people, government staff and NGO employees.

EXAMS AND GRADES

Courses can have quite different rules for exams and grading. Some courses have only a final written or oral exam, while others may base grades on the basis of one or more term papers submitted during the semester. Some courses may also have *compulsory activities*, for instance seminar attendance or class presentations. Students must read the online course description carefully to make sure they fulfill all requirements:

Courses at Noragric:

http://www.nmbu.no/courses?text_3=10&text_4=All&text_5=All&text=&emnekode=&=S%C3%B8k

Note that the online version of the course catalog provides the current course descriptions. Courses may have been modified after the printed catalog was issued.

If a student finds a grade unexpected or unreasonable, he/she may ask the course teacher for an explanation. The teacher may respond either orally or in writing. If the student still finds the grade unreasonable, he/she may send a written request for a re-assessment of the exam papers to the Study Office in the main administration. Use the form:

http://www.nmbu.no/statisk/sit/skjemaer/engelske/forms_assessment_complaint.pdf

A new internal and external examiner will then be appointed. The new grade may be better or worse and will be final.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Student Information Centre (Studentenes Informasjonstorg, SIT; sit@nmbu.no) answers general questions regarding studies at NMBU.
- Noragric's study coordinator for the IDS program is Ingunn Bohmann (ingunn.bohmann@nmbu.no; Noragric building room 102) or Elisabeth Sørbo Haug (elisabeth.sorbo.haug@nmbu.no)
- Studies at NMBU are governed by a set of rules and regulations that can be found at NMBU's web pages at <http://www.nmbu.no/en/students/sit/rules-and-regulations>
- NMBU's academic calendar for autumn 2014 and spring 2015 can be found at http://www.nmbu.no/en/students/academic_calendar
- Forms and templates needed by students can be found on the web page <http://www.nmbu.no/en/students/sit/forms>
- Students are responsible for their own registration for courses and exams. Students who do not register for exams within the specified deadlines will not be allowed to take the exams. Students, who decide not to participate in an exam, must withdraw their registration before the deadline (see the Academic Calendar).