MSc Environmental Sustainability & Green Technology

The Course

What background do I need?
As a multi-disciplinary course, run by the School of Physical and Geographical Sciences with input from the Schools of Politics, International Relations & Philosophy and Life Sciences it attracts students from a diverse range of backgrounds. Students have joined us with first degrees ranging from aerospace systems engineering and computer science, through geology, geography, applied environmental science, biology and politics, to English literature and fine art – and lots more in between! If you don’t have a degree but you do have relevant professional training and you think this is the course for you, then you can still apply.

Further Information

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Annual Intake: 25
Teaching hours per week: 10 approx.

Why choose this course?
As a student on Keele’s MSc in Environmental Sustainability & Green Technology you’ll gain a broad scientific understanding of important environmental areas and green technology, as well as knowledge of environmental policy and politics.

Key Facts
• A truly interdisciplinary course
• Choose your option modules according to your own areas of interest
• An expert teaching team that’s enthusiastic and approachable
• Based in the specialist Sustainability Hub building - a centre for excellence in sustainability and environmental technologies.

What are the teaching methods used?
You’ll be taught in many different ways - lectures and lab classes; field trips which are valuable for practical, real-life experience; discussion and debate; group work; researching case studies. We’ll also invite external speakers, from industry and the commercial world to come to talk and share their knowledge with you.

How is the course assessed?
The course includes a wide variety of assessment methods, from producing posters and delivering presentations to reflective diaries, essays and exams.
What’s the structure of the course?

The course is run over a full 12 months, with intakes in September and January and comprises 2 semesters of taught modules with a research project over the summer. There’s also the opportunity to study on a part-time basis, over 2 years.

The MSc in Environmental Sustainability & Green Technology is structured into 3 main sections:

- **Section 1:**
  Foundation “Principles of Sustainability”

- **Section 2:**
  Specialist and Research Skills

- **Section 3:**
  Research Project

  • You’ll be given an introduction to sustainable technologies and environmental politics
  • You’ll take a look at case studies, and develop your research skills
  • Finally, you’ll complete your research project, which can be carried out at Keele, elsewhere in the UK, or abroad (with approval).

The first 2 sections also allow for a choice of option modules, according to your particular interests. This inter-disciplinary course gives you the opportunity to choose from a diverse range of subjects which include:

- Environmental Decision Making in the UK
- Clean & Green Technologies: Power from below and above the earth
- Green IT
- Trees, Forests & Global Change
- Geoscience Resources & Hazards
- International Environmental Law
- Climate Change: Governance, Power and Society

How will this course help my employability?

The course will equip you with both the specialist and generic skills for employment within green research, industrial and business areas.

You’ll acquire skills in problem-solving, presentation and professional writing, along with organisational and teamwork skills.

For your research project you have the opportunity to collaborate with a business/industrial partner on a real-life issue, gaining valuable experience along the way.

Helen Rutherford (2011/12) chose to base her project on an evaluation of environmental accreditation schemes, working with the Dorothy Clive Gardens in North Staffordshire.

“I wanted to work with an external collaborator as I wanted to expand my knowledge of how the issues and concepts we learnt on the course can be expanded and related to “real-world” scenarios. Working at the Dorothy Clive Gardens allowed me to work within new government legislation and experience how small businesses and charities are working towards a low carbon future and how they relate this information to the public. It also allowed me to experience first hand the issues which businesses face in a very uncertain future.

During my placement I was able to talk to other businesses, both in the tourism and hospitality industry who face similar problems and see how they dealt with them to enhance their business whilst limiting their effect on the local environment.”

What’s the student experience?

Here’s what one of our past MSc Environmental Sustainability & Green Technology students has to say about her experience at Keele:

“At Keele I always felt supported by the professors. The transitions as an international student were easy to adapt to. Classes in the Sustainability Hub were inspiring and educational, as the building is an example in itself of green living. Much of my research was done in areas that interested me, and have given me a great portfolio to show future employers. I believe the skills I gained at Keele will give me an edge in the job market over other university graduates. Overall, this has been a great programme and will dramatically improve my chances for employment.”

Elizabeth Thomason, USA, 2011/2