

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

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This major offers students the possibility to study the causes of and solutions to environmental problems from a multidisciplinary social science perspective. This involves contributions from ecological economics, political ecology, sociology and human geography. Students will learn about concepts, theories and methods, write essays, participate in debates and learn how to apply social-environmental research techniques. The specialization consists of three specific compulsory courses and two optional ones.

Foundations of Ecological Economics (compulsory) provides a broad introduction to environmental and climate economics, the study of societal metabolism (material and energy flows), environmental policy and institutional theories, and valuation of ecosystem services. Students will get learn about the differences between environmental and ecological economics, and participate in an environment-versus-growth debate.

Political Ecology (optional) examines how political and economic power shape social and environmental change. The emphasis is on the analysis of ecological conflicts and injustices and the ways grassroots actors organize to oppose powerful corporations and States.

In Qualitative Research Methods for Research in Social Sciences (compulsory), students will learn how to develop sound research design in different research projects, ask good research questions, select appropriate methods for qualitative research, and collect and analyze qualitative data.

Corporate Social Responsibility (optional) Water, Energy and Land Management (compulsory). This set of courses will be of interest to students with economic, social and political science backgrounds, pursuing a career in environment-related research, public administration non for profit and profit sectors.