

MASTERS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE PROGRAMME

*HANDBOOK
ACADEMIC SESSION
2023/2024*

CENTRE FOR GLOBAL
SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA



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OVERVIEW

MASTERS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE PROGRAMME

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Masters in Sustainable Development Practice (MSDP) is a global multi and interdisciplinary graduate degree program that prepares students to better identify and address the challenges of sustainable development. This programme consists of two years of coursework in four intersecting disciplines- health, natural, social, and management sciences-combined with cross-sectoral field training.

The multi and interdisciplinary nature of this MSDP programme equips development practitioners to speak the different “languages” of specialists, for example, health, agronomy, and economics, in enabling them to better understand the root causes of extreme poverty and to address the challenges of sustainable development.

2.0 Programme Educational Objectives (PEO)

The MSDP Programme Educational Objectives are:

PEO	PEO statement	THINKER (T) IEG1	BALANCED (B) IEG2	ENTREPRENEURIAL (E) IEG3	ARTICULATE (A) IEG4	HOLISTIC (H) IEG5
PEO1	To produce a new generation of holistic sustainable development practitioners who possess theoretical knowledge in diverse but related disciplines, enabling them to better coordinate and implement the insight of specialists in addressing multi, inter or transdisciplinary challenges.		/			/
PEO2	To produce sustainable development practitioners who possess high ethical standards and responsible, with good communication skills through a dynamic curriculum and project work contributing towards good practices in sustainable development.			/	/	
PEO3	To produce graduates who are knowledgeable and skilled as leaders and practitioners of sustainable development that contribute towards the nation’s aspirations in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.	/				/

3.0 Programme Learning Outcomes (PLO)

At the end of the MSDP programme, the students will be able to:

PLO	MQF 2.0 DOMAIN	PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES, PLO	IEG ELEMENT	
PLO1	PO1: Knowledge	Apply comprehensive theoretical knowledge, concepts and practical to carry out, evaluate and provide suggestion in sustainable development practices.	IEG1	Thinker
PLO2	PO2: Practical skills	Perform and carry out research project with good skills and minimum supervision in the field of sustainable development.	IEG2	Balanced
PLO3	PO3(a): Cognitive skills	Utilise scientific skills, as well as innovative and creative thinking skills to generate progressive ideas and strategies, and suggestions for improvement to solve problems holistically and to make decision in issues and challenges related to sustainable development.	IEG2	Balanced
PLO4	PO3(b): Communication skills	Utilise effective communication skills in verbal and written forms to deliver information, findings and results within the area of sustainable development context to clients, peers, scientific communities, stakeholders and society.	IEG4	Articulate
PLO5	PO3(c): Interpersonal skills	Demonstrate the skills and social responsibilities, teamwork and sensitivity to culture and religions in sustainable development practices.	IEG4	Articulate
PLO6	PO3(d): Ethics and professionalism	Demonstrate high level of moral and values, possess ethics, as well as adhere to legislation principles and professional code of conduct in sustainable development practices.	IEG2	Balanced
PLO7	PO3(e): Personal skills	Enhance personal capabilities and development through lifelong learning by utilising information and communication technology (ICT) and information management skills in academic and career development.	IEG5	Holistic
PLO8	PO3(f): Entrepreneurial skills	Apply managerial and entrepreneurial skills in everyday activities and planning of sustainable development practices.	IEG3	Entrepreneurial
PLO9	PO4(a): Leadership, autonomy and Responsibility	Utilise knowledge and understanding of effective leadership in the effort to contribute for the advancement of sustainable development.	IEG5	Holistic
PLO10	PO4(b): Digital skills	Enhance personal capabilities and development through lifelong learning by using information and communication technology (ICT) and information management skills in academic and career development.	IEG2	Balanced
PLO11	PO5: Numeracy skills	Using analysis that is appropriate to research methods and ensuring that research conclusions are accurate and impactful in contributing to the progress of sustainable development.	IEG1	Thinker

4.0 Programme Structure

Students have to complete a total of 44 units of core courses and electives courses to graduate. The core courses consist of 38 units, while the elective courses consist of 6 units. Both the core and the electives courses are divided into these clusters – General Cluster, Global and Health Cluster, Science and Engineering Clusters, Management Cluster, Social Science Cluster.

The duration of studies shown below,

Full-time students: Minimum 4 semesters / Maximum 8 semesters

Part-time students: Minimum 6 semesters / Maximum 10 semester

Classes are held in person (physical classes) during the weekend for both full-time and part-time students, possibly every fortnightly in Kuala Lumpur (sains@KL).

Class venue:

Sains@KL

Universiti Sains Malaysia Kuala Lumpur,

Level 20, MoF Inc Tower, Platinum Park,

No. 9 Persiaran KLCC,

50088 Kuala Lumpur

5.0 COURSES OFFERED

5.1 Core courses (38 units)

Students must register all the 12 core courses, altogether they are 38 units for the core courses.

General Cluster

1. NDP 501/3 OR NDP505/2 Global Classroom: Integrated Approaches To Sustainable Development
2. NDP 502/3 Research Methods for Sustainable Development
3. NDP 503/3 Project Design Evaluation and Management
4. NDP 504/5 OR NDP 506/6 Masters in Sustainable Development Practice Project

Global Health Cluster

5. NDP 511/3 Health Policy and Management

Science & Engineering Cluster

6. NDP 513/3 Human Ecology and Sustainable Development
7. NDP 516/3 Energy Infrastructure Planning

Management Cluster

8. NDP 514/3 Budget Planning and Financial Management
9. NDP 518/3 Information Technology for Development

Social Science Cluster

10. NDP 512/3 Social Services Management
11. NDP 515/3 Law and Governance in Development
12. NDP 517/3 Economic Analysis for Sustainable Development

5.2 Electives (6 units)

The remaining 6 units will be from the elective courses, students must choose 2 out of 3 elective courses. For elective courses availability is based on the number of student enrolment i.e. at least 6 students in a class.

General Cluster

1. NDP 542/3 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Science & Engineering Cluster

2. NDP 544/3 Application of Environmental Science

Social Science Cluster

3. NDP 546/3 Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Enterprise

COURSE SYNOPSIS

6.0 CORE COURSES

Students must register all the 12 core courses, altogether they are 38 units for the core courses.

6.1 General Cluster

6.1.1 *NDP 501/3 OR NDP 505/2 : Global Classroom: Integrated Approaches To Sustainable Development

Course offered

Semester 1 of every academic session
(Semester 1, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

This course introduces the basic concepts in sustainable development. This course will also analyse the achievements as well as issues and challenges faced by the countries around the world in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This course also provides an opportunity for students to attend the Global Classroom Lecture featuring global development experts in discussing current issues and challenges of sustainable development.

Course coordinator

Dr. Suzyrman Sibly (Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, USM)

** NDP 505/2 is a new course code replacing NDP 501/3. However, it will be offered to new intake students who begin their studies from Sem 2 of the 2022-2023 academic year onwards. Returning students, on the other hand, are required to enroll in NDP 501.*

6.1.2 NDP 502/3 : Research Methods for Sustainable Development

Course offered

Semester 1 of every academic session
(Semester 1, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

This course provides knowledge and skills of case study and quantitative research. Students will learn about identifying sustainability issues and problems, undertaking literature review and synthesize previous work, determining the appropriate tools and techniques for collecting and analysis of data and writing up the research proposal.

Course coordinator

Dr. Noor Adelyna Mohammed Akib (Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, USM)

Dr. Radieah Mohd Nor (Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, USM)

6.1.3 NDP 503/3 : Project Design Evaluation and Management

Course offered

Semester 1 of every academic session
(Semester 1, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

Sustainable Development requires development practitioners that have the ability to design, manage and evaluate development projects.

However, many development practitioners are not well-equipped especially in sustainable development project management. This course discusses the theories and practices in designing, managing and evaluating projects using suitable methods. This course also discusses a variety of standards that exist in sustainability reporting.

Course coordinator

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Wira Mohd Shafiei (Director, Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, USM)

Dr. Suzyrman Sibly (Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, USM)

6.1.4 *NDP 504/5 OR NDP 506/6 : Masters in Sustainable Development Practice Project

Course offered

Semester 1 & 2

Course synopsis

This course is the extension of research methodology course of NDP502 and needed two semesters to complete. Students are required to submit their dissertation at the end of the course and will be examined by one internal examiner. The project will enable the students to have an understanding of the socio-economic or environmental problem faced by the community; provide a platform for the students to apply the knowledge that they have acquired in the programme to solve the problem identified. Students are also required to complete a dissertation which is part of the requirement for the graduation

Course coordinator

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sayuti Hassan (Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, USM)

** NDP 506/6 is a new course code replacing NDP 504/5. However, it will be offered to new intake students who begin their studies from Sem 2 of the 2022-2023 academic year onwards. Returning students, on the other hand, are required to enroll in NDP 504.*

6.2 Global Health Cluster

6.2.1 NDP 511/3 : Health Policy and Management

Course offered

Semester 1 of every academic session
(Semester 1, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

This is a series of syllabus to provide non-health experts with a basic understanding of global public health issues. The course will focus on the Millennium Development Goals child health, maternal health and HIV, TB, malaria, and other important diseases alongside the interdependence of the MDGs and health outcomes. In addition, challenges to health systems and barriers to access are addressed.

Course coordinator

Dr. Muhamad Yusri Musa (Advanced Medical and Dental Institute, USM)

6.3 Science & Engineering Cluster

6.3.1 NDP 513/3 : Human Ecology and Sustainable Development

Course offered

Semester 2 of every other academic session
(Semester 2, Academic Session 2024/2025)

Course synopsis

The course describes the interactions between physical ecology and economic development, and stresses the two-way interactions and interdependencies between them. Ecological constraints significantly shape the patterns of economic development, demography and wealth and poverty. At the same time, anthropogenic activities change the physical environment. This course aims to give an in-depth treatment of this two-way interaction, building on a rigorous foundation of earth systems processes to understand the ecological basis of human settlement.

Course coordinator

Dr. Noor Adelyna Mohammed Akib (Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, USM)

6.3.2 NDP 516/3 : Energy Infrastructure Planning

Course offered

Semester 1 of every academic session
(Semester 1, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

This course discusses global resources of carbon-based and noncarbon-based energy, the capture of energy for society's use, energy delivery, and regulatory frameworks. The relationship of energy production and use to climate change are explored. It evaluates emerging and renewable energy resources and new energy infrastructure planning including constraints and capacity to meet future demands.

Course coordinator

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Theam Foo (Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, USM)

6.4 Management Cluster

6.4.1 NDP 514/3 : Budget Planning and Financial Management

Course offered

Semester 2 of every other academic session
(Semester 2, Academic Session 2024/2025)

Course synopsis

This course discusses the principles, theories, concepts, practises, interpretations, techniques, strategies of accounting and finance essentials for holistic practitioners of sustainable development. The course focuses on managerial accounting tools for developing, implementing, and controlling the plan. This includes the preparation of operating budgets and capital budgets, long-term financing options, management of short-term resources, procurements and variance analysis.

Course coordinator

Dr. Haslindar Ibrahim (School of Management, USM)

6.4.2 NDP 518/3 : Information Technology for Development

Course offered

Semester 2 of every other academic session
(Semester 2, Academic Session 2024/2025)

Course synopsis

The rapidly evolving use of information management systems in the field of sustainable development provides growing opportunities for professionals to quickly transmit vital information and key indicators, to share best practices, and to engage in virtual mentorship. Subsequently, this course aims to develop practitioners who are able to collect, monitor, and evaluate relevant information in order to inform and update policy and project implementation.

Course coordinator

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sayuti Hassan (Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, USM)

6.5 Social Science Cluster

6.5.1 NDP 512/3 : Social Services Management

Course offered

Semester 2 of every other academic session
(E.g. Semester 2, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

This course is designed to enable students to identify various theories in management, their strengths and weaknesses, and their applicability in the local environment. Students will be able to identify the most potential and relevant management method for each distinctive human service agency. Topics will focus on the functions of developing skills in management and evaluation in order to bring about innovations that are relevant and realistic.

Course coordinator

Dr. Mohd Haizzan Bin Yahaya (School of Social Sciences, USM)
Dr. Syazwani Binti Drani (School of Social Sciences, USM)

6.5.2 NDP 515/3 : Law and Governance in Development

Course offered

Semester 1 of every academic session
(Semester 1, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

One of the requirements in achieving sustainable development is the accommodation, reconciliation and integration between the objectives of economic growth, social justice and environmental protection (Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, n.d.). While Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 makes frequent and direct references to the rule of law and access to justice, the other 16 SDGs, either expressly or impliedly, have also stressed the importance of law and governance, at both national and international level in providing a framework for achieving multiple targets of the SDGs. This course utilises the traditional concept of development, in its conventional discourse, as well as contemporary sustainable development discourse to engage students in academic and practical discourses about the role and function of law and governance in achieving sustainable development.

Course coordinator

Prof. Dato' Dr. Noraida Endut (School of Social Sciences, USM)

6.5.3 NDP 517/3 : Economic Analysis for Sustainable Development

Course offered

Semester 2 of every academic session
(Semester 2, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

Sustainable development practitioners must understand that economics play a very important role in impacting decision making and developmental process. This course introduces students to the exciting but challenging subject of the economic problems facing developing countries by using economic theories and its applications. Both macroeconomics and microeconomics approaches will be used in analysing these problems. The topics and issues covered in this course include the development gap in the world economy and the measurement of poverty; characteristics of underdevelopment and structural change; models of the growth and development process; the role of agriculture and surplus labour in the development process; industrialisation; dualism and vicious circles of poverty; the financing of development from domestic and international sources; debt problems; and. trade and development.

Course coordinator

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tajul Ariffin Masron (School of Management, USM)

7.0 Elective courses

The remaining 6 units will be from the elective courses, students must choose 2 out of 3 elective courses. For elective courses availability is based on the number of student enrolment i.e. at least 6 students in a class.

7.1 General Cluster

7.1.1 NDP 542/3 : Sustainable Cities and Communities

Course offered

Semester 1 of every academic session
(Semester 1, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

The increase in urban population puts pressure on the city to provide employment opportunities, basic facilities, housing, public spaces and other services. Sustainable cities and communities agenda is relevant to all countries in the world. Based on systems thinking, this course explores and discusses the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the city in an integrated manner for well-being of cities.

Course coordinator

Assoc Prof. Dr. Asyirah Abdul Rahim (School of Humanities, USM)

7.2 Science & Engineering Cluster

7.2.1 NDP 544/3 : Application of Environmental Science

Course offered

Semester 2 of every other academic session
(Semester 2, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

Science and technology are crucial toward the achievement of sustainable development. Environmentally sound technologies that will protect the environment, are less polluting, use all resources in a sustainable manner, recycle more of their waste and products and handle residual waste in a more acceptable manner are essential for the development of all nations. This course provides an overview of the way in which science, technology and innovation can be conducted and applied to meet human needs while preserving the planet's life support systems. The course will focus on major environmental challenges such as climate change, energy management, production consumption issues, natural resource management and integrated management of water & waste as practiced in Malaysia and other developing countries in the region. Environmental best practices will be used as case studies and action research for environmental problem-solving in an integrated and ethical manner.

Course coordinator

Dr. Chee Su Yin (Centre for Global Sustainability Study, USM)

7.3 Management Cluster

7.3.1 NDP 544/3 : Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Enterprise

Course offered

Semester 2 of every other academic session
(Semester 2, Academic Session 2023/2024)

Course synopsis

The objectives of this course are to two prongs: 1) to educate learners about the concept of CSR and how to integrate and internalize CSR principles to the organization and business operation, and 2) to educate learners on the concepts, models, practices and management of social enterprises. Students will understand how the concept of sustainability can be internalised in the business operation. Through a theoretical and practical approach, this course will facilitate students to understand sustainability business management, social enterprise strategies and innovations, and CSR project initiatives related to the triple bottom as well as the fourth bottom line.

Course coordinator

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fathyah Hashim (Graduate School of Business, USM)

STUDY PLAN

8.0 COURSE STRUCTURE

8.1 Proposed Course Structure for Full-Time Students Starting in Semester 1, 2023/2024 - 4 Semesters

Semester 231 (OCT 2023 - FEB 2024)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP505	GLOBAL CLASSROOM: INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE	2	T
NDP502	RESEARCH METHODS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP503	PROJECT DESIGN EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT	3	T
NDP511	HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT	3	T
Semester 232 (APR 2024 - JULY 2024)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP506	MSDP PROJECT (PART 1)	6	T
NDP512	SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT	3	T
NDP517	ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP544/546	Application of Environmental Science OR Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Enterprise	3	E
Semester 241 (OCT 2024 - FEB 2025)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP506	MSDP PROJECT (PART 2)	0	T
NDP515	LAW & GOVERNANCE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP516	ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE & PLANNING	3	T
NDP542	SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	3	E
Semester 242 (APR 2025 - JULY 2025)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP513	HUMAN ECOLOGY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP514	BUDGET PLANNING & FINANCIAL DEV	3	T
NDP517	INFORMATION TECH FOR DEVELOPMENT	3	T
		TOTAL UNIT	44
		CORE UNIT	38
		ELECTIVE UNIT	6
		NO. OF SEM	4

T = KURSUS TERAS (CORE COURSE)

E = KURSUS ELEKTIF (ELECTIVE COURSE)

Disclaimer: This is a study plan, and you have the flexibility to choose subjects that align with your preferences. Please note that not all subjects are available every semester, so exercise caution when selecting your courses. If you encounter difficulties, seek guidance from the program coordinator. It's important to manage your course selection to ensure timely graduation, as the program coordinator is not responsible for any delays.

8.2 Proposed Course Structure for Full-Time/Part-Time Students Starting in Semester 1, 2023/2024 - 6 Semesters

Semester 231 (OCT 2023 - FEB 2024)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP505	GLOBAL CLASSROOM: INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE	2	T
NDP502	RESEARCH METHODS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP503	PROJECT DESIGN EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT	3	T
Semester 232 (APR 2024 - JULY 2024)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP512	SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT	3	T
NDP517	ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP544/546	Application of Environmental Science OR Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Enterprise	3	T
Semester 241 (OCT 2024 - FEB 2025)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP511	HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT	3	T
NDP515	LAW & GOVERNANCE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP516	ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE & PLANNING	3	T
Semester 242 (APR 2025 - JULY 2025)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP513	HUMAN ECOLOGY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP514	BUDGET PLANNING & FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP518	INFORMATION TECH FOR DEVELOPMENT	3	E
Semester 251 (OCT 2025 - FEB 2026)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP506	MSDP PROJECT (PART 1)	6	T
NDP542	SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	3	E
Semester 252 (APR 2026 - JULY 2026)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP506	MSDP PROJECT (PART 2)	0	T
		TOTAL UNIT	44
		CORE UNIT	38
		ELECTIVE UNIT	6
		NO. OF SEM	6

T = KURSUS TERAS (CORE COURSE)

E = KURSUS ELEKTIF (ELECTIVE COURSE)

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8.3 Proposed Course Structure for Part-Time Students Starting in Semester 1, 2023/2024 - 8 Semesters

Semester 231 (OCT 2023 - FEB 2024)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP505	GLOBAL CLASSROOM: INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABI	2	T
NDP502	RESEARCH METHODS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
Semester 232 (APR 2024 - JULY 2024)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP512	SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT	3	T
NDP517	ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
Semester 241 (OCT 2024 - FEB 2025)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP503	HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT	3	T
NDP511	LAW & GOVERNANCE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
Semester 242 (APR 2025 - JULY 2025)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP518	INFORMATION TECH FOR DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP544/546	Application of Environmental Science OR Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Enterprise	3	E
Semester 251 (OCT 2025 - FEB 2026)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP516	ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE & PLANNING	3	T
NDP542	SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	3	E
Semester 252 (APR 2026 - JULY 2026)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP506	MSDP PROJECT (PART 1)	6	T
Semester 261 (OCT 2026 - FEB 2027)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP506	MSDP PROJECT (PART 2)	0	T
NDP515	HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT	3	T
Semester 262 (APR 2027 - JULY 2027)		Credit/Unit	Type
NDP513	HUMAN ECOLOGY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3	T
NDP514	BUDGET PLANNING & FINANCIAL DEV	3	T
		TOTAL UNIT	44
		CORE UNIT	38
		ELECTIVE UNIT	6
		NO. OF SEM	8

T = KURSUS TERAS (CORE COURSE)

E = KURSUS ELEKTIF (ELECTIVE COURSE)

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