



## MESM02, Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science: Master's Thesis, 30 credits

*Miljövetenskap och hållbarhetsvetenskap: Examensarbete för  
masterexamen, 30 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies on 2013-10-22 to be valid from 2014-01-20, spring semester 2014.

### General Information

The main field of study is *Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science*. The Master's Thesis course constitutes the fourth and final term of LUMES, Lund University International Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science. The Master's thesis is a mandatory (degree) project for all LUMES students.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall

- demonstrate profound knowledge and understanding of a thesis topic in sustainability science; the ability to research the topic; and the capacity to relate it to a wider sustainability perspective
- demonstrate deep methodological knowledge and command of approaches appropriate for environmental and sustainability challenges including possible solutions to those challenges
- demonstrate an ability to independently and creatively identify, formulate, and plan relevant, interesting and significant research for the thesis; to collect, evaluate and communicate knowledge scientifically; and to critically and

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish

systematically integrate theoretical knowledge and empirical data, using appropriate research methods thereby contributing to the production of original knowledge

- demonstrate an ability to write a master's thesis fulfilling academic criteria, correctly citing and referencing relevant literature and other materials
- demonstrate the ability to clearly present, discuss and defend the thesis in a dialogue with fellow students, scholars (and stakeholders)
- demonstrate an awareness of ethical aspects of research and work in the field of sustainability, including appropriate processes for crediting sources and collaborators, and insight into role in affecting the research problem and its potential solutions.

## **Course content**

The Master's Thesis is a mandatory degree project to develop and display the skills and abilities of the student to carry out individual, independent, scientific work on a specific topic, exploring it in a trans-disciplinary manner, and assessing solutions and conclusions with respect to the different dimensions of sustainability.

## **Course design**

The thesis works mainly consists of writing a thesis requiring 20 weeks of effective individual work normally from the period January to May, supported by a supervisor from Lund University. The thesis work also includes a number of thesis workshop sessions in advance, covering research and writing methods generally, and individual initial drafting of the thesis scope and outline in particular. The thesis work can be conducted individually or with another student(s); in the latter case the contributions of each student should be clearly indicated, and the course coordinator must approve the project.

## **Assessment**

Assessment of the project is carried out primarily by the evaluation of the individual written thesis (the individual contribution to a joint thesis), and second through the defence of the thesis including both the oral presentation and the discussion of the thesis.

Each thesis submitted is assigned an examiner (a senior teacher within LUMES), and a discussant. The discussant is responsible for conducting the main discussion of the submitted work (and student presentation) during the defence session. The thesis examiner, however, determines the final grade, with inputs from the discussant.

It is mandatory for the student to have regular contact and meetings with the supervisor so that the supervisor is able to follow the student's work process to secure the progress, quality and ethics of the work. Students are responsible for meeting deadlines and taking the initiative to keep in touch with their supervisor.

For a passing grade the student must (a) have pass marks on the individual thesis / the individual contribution in a joint thesis; (b) make an acceptable oral presentation of the thesis; (c) perform an acceptable defence of the thesis; (d) have made it possible for the supervisor to follow the student's work process and received supervisor approval for submission.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## **Grades**

Marking scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five.

The grades awarded in examinations are 5 - 4 - 3 - Fail. The highest grade is 5 and the lowest passing grade is 3. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. The grade "5" denotes outstanding performance in *all* learning outcomes. The grade "4" signifies very good performance in *all* learning outcomes. To receive the grade of "3", the student must obtain minimum criteria in fulfilling *all* course learning objectives. The grade of Fail signifies that the student has not fulfilled the learning outcomes of the course, or that additional work is required before the credit can be awarded.

## **Entry requirements**

To be eligible for the course the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least 75 credits in the LUMES programme.

## **Further information**

The student should register the thesis in the LU student theses database (LUP Student Papers).

This course cannot be included in a degree together with MESM01.

The syllabus was adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University, on December 13, 2012.

**Subcourses in MESM02, Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science:  
Master's Thesis**

Applies from V15

1201 Environmental Stud. and Sustainab. Science: Master's Thesis, 30,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five