



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **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 and was last revised on 2018-10-04. The revised syllabus applies from 2019-01-21, spring semester 2019.

### **General Information**

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**

Upon the completion of the course, the students shall

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in environmental studies and sustainability science, including both broad knowledge in the areas and substantial in-depth knowledge in certain parts of the areas as well as in-depth understanding of current research and practice,
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of theory and methodology in environmental studies and sustainability science.

### **Competence and skills**

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and handle complex phenomena, issues and situations, even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to independently, creatively, and critically identify and formulate issues; to plan and, with adequate theories and methods, to carry out qualified tasks within given time frames, thereby contributing to the development of knowledge; and to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the ability, in both national and international contexts, to express, orally and in written, and to discuss with clarity, one's/their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments that underlie them in dialogue with different groups, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate in research, and to independently work in other qualified professions and activities.

### **Judgement and approach**

- demonstrate the ability to evaluate environmental studies and sustainability science in relation to relevant scientific and social aspects, and to show awareness of ethical aspects of research and practice,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and human responsibility for its use, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify one's/their need for additional knowledge, and take responsibility for further knowledge production and development.

### **Course content**

Within the course, the student conducts an independent degree project on a defined research problem in environmental studies and sustainability science. The work shall have a scientific basis and meet the requirements for appropriate and necessary methodological insights. The degree project is conducted individually, or in pairs, and is planned and pursued in consultation with an advisor/supervisor and a supervision team of students. During the course, there will be seminars serving to deepen methodological knowledge and scientific writing skills. The final degree project is scrutinized by an examiner and other students at a final examination seminar. Students act as opponents/discussants.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, tutorials, in groups and individually, and in examination seminars with opposition. When an advisor/supervisor is appointed the number of supervision sessions that the student is entitled to will be announced.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the final seminar and opposition. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to student who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

## Assessment

The course is examined by specially appointed examiners. The examination takes place by assessing the final degree project including the presentation and defense of the student's own thesis work and the student's opposition on another student's thesis work.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. Two further re-examination on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

The degree project is archived according to LUMES/LUCSUS instructions.

The degree project is to be registered in an Open Access database belonging to Lund University. Each student determines their own level of publication.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

*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 highest grade for the course as a whole 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 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.

At the start of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied on the course.

Overall course grade:

The assessment of the final degree project includes the written thesis, presentation and defense of own work as well as opposition on another student's degree project. All aspects will be assessed jointly, in one total final grade.

## Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must be admitted to Lund University International Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science 120 credits, and have fulfilled course requirements of at least 75 higher education credits in the programme.

## **Further information**

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

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

Applies from V20

2001 Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science: Master's T, 30,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five

Applies from V15

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