

INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**FOR 3RD YEAR BACHELOR STUDENTS
FROM ALL DEGREE PROGRAMMES
FIRST SEMESTER, 30 ECTS**

MORE INFORMATION:
🌐 CML.LEIDEN.EDU
✉ MINOR@CML.LEIDENUNIV.NL
📘 [FACEBOOK.COM/MINORDUURZAMEONTWIKKELING](https://www.facebook.com/minorduurzameontwikkeling)

NEWSLETTER

May 2015



Universiteit
Leiden



Dear student,

Great that you're interested in the minor Sustainable Development! With this newsletter we would like to inform you about the educational program, the registration and instructions for the preparatory assignment: writing a motivation letter.

Please share this newsletter!

There are still places available so we're looking for enthusiastic students to participate. It would be great if you share this newsletter with your friends, roommates, peers, student association, etc.

Thanks!

Interdisciplinary minor

Sustainable Development is a concept that deals with big environmental and social problems in the world, which are often very complex, have a great social importance and also many uncertainties. How can we make these issues manageable in order to secure our livelihoods and that of future generations?

The minor Sustainable Development does not give you straight answers to these questions. However, it will offer you a way of thinking that is needed to develop innovative tools and practices to manage these challenges.



Being an interdisciplinary minor it incorporates theories and tools from both the social and natural sciences and stimulates you to critically analyze these methodologies. Our students come from a broad range of disciplines. We encourage each of you to contribute to this minor with the knowledge you already gained from your own background and discuss new theories and views with your peers and teachers.



The minor Sustainable Development will be taught mainly by teachers and PhD students from the Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML). We are located at the Bio Science Park, across from the District Water Control Board (Hoogheemraad Rijnland). In addition to the CML staff there are many guest speakers from different companies and organizations who will contribute to this minor. Excursions are also part of the program. The course uses modern teaching methods, like debates and Facebook, and combines academic and practical skills. Giving and receiving extensive feedback from teachers and from your peers is an important way of learning.

Educational Program

In the minor Sustainable Development three different courses are taught. The courses each have their own perspective on sustainability issues. The first course Big Issues New Answers, invites you to learn and to analyze your own views and role regarding sustainable development issues like climate change, loss of biodiversity, resource scarcity, etc. You will then be confronted with a wide range of scientific views and solution strategies, which you will

be asked to analyze critically. In addition, you will develop practical skills such as creating an academic poster, interdisciplinary collaboration and to formulate a position and present.

In the second course, Project group: Design of European Research, you will focus on project management. In small groups you are going to write and defend a full research proposal about a sustainability issue to acquire project funds in the EU. Step by step you will learn how to write a good project, what requirements you have to meet, how to look for foreign partners and what it is like to work in an interdisciplinary team.

For the third course you can choose for the Area study Sustainability, or for the International course on Water Issues in the Philippines (maximum of ten students.) More information about the area studies will follow.

Check the [E-prospectus](#) for more information about the three courses. The detailed schedules will be posted there as soon as we have finalized the program.



Course / Module	Time schedule
Big Issues New Answers (15 ECTS)	31 August – 9 November 2015
Project groups: Design of European Research (8ECTS)	11 November – 18 December 2015
Area Study on Sustainability (7 ECTS)	4 – 29 January 2016

Admission & Registration procedure

Students Leiden University

You can register for the minor Sustainable Development via uSis from 1 May until 15 August 2015. Detailed instructions can be found at the [E-prospectus](#) or on the website of the Institute for Environmental Sciences at [admission & registration](#).

Students TU Delft and Erasmus University Rotterdam

From this year on participation in a minor at Leiden University is guaranteed for students from TU Delft and Erasmus Rotterdam. Please note, you can only register for the minor in May using the [registration form for TU Delft and EUR students](#). After May you still can register, but in a different way. For instructions see the paragraph ‘other students’ below.



Other students

Please check the registration process at [our website](#).

Important note for students who come from other universities or HBO: in order to complete your admission, you need to send a proof of paid tuition (*bewijs betaald collegegeld*) for the **year 2015-2016** (not from last year!!) together with your request form to the CML address! For more information please look at the instructions for [other students](#).

Preparatory Assignment

As a preparation for the minor in September we ask you to submit the following small assignment **before 15 August**. Write a short motivation letter (about 500 words) in which you discuss the following questions:

1. Why do you want to follow this minor?
2. What is your study background, and how does this minor fit in (or not)?
3. What would you like to learn? (Do you have a specific interest for a topic (climate change, resource scarcity, etc.) or skills (writing papers, presentation, debate, etc.) that you would like to improve?)
4. How did you know about this minor (CML website, Facebook, via-via, E-prospectus, etc)



Please send your motivation letter to minor@cml.leidenuniv.nl at the same time of your registration.

We will try as much as possible to incorporate your input into our program and class discussions. At the end of the course we will ask you to reread your motivation letter and reflect on what you have learned.

More information

More information about the minor Sustainable Development can be found in the following links:

- [Minors page at the CML website](#)
- [Form to register your interest in the minor](#)
- [Facebook page](#)
- [Website for the Industrial Ecology Master's degree course](#)
- [CML's general website](#)

You can also contact me directly at minor@cml.leidenuniv.nl or by phone: 071-527 1477.

Like us on Facebook!

We have a [Facebook page](#) for the minor for which we kindly invite you to like us, and share interesting articles, sustainable events and what more.

Stay tuned!

Best Wishes,



Marloes van Kuppevelt
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