

Graduate Certificate in Sustainability Frequently Asked Questions

Course study periods:

Semester One: March to June
Semester Two: August to November

Application and enrolment periods:

Semester 1 intake: October to January
Semester 2 intake: May to July

Mode of delivery:

This course is run predominantly online using e-learning systems called WebCT and Elluminate. All course notes are posted online. For each unit you will be required to participate in weekly or fortnightly online tutorials. These are held outside of working hours on weekdays for between one and two hours using Elluminate, an educational online chat facility. In order to use WebCT and Elluminate you are required to have access to a computer and the internet, Internet Explorer (preferred browser) and Adobe Acrobat Reader software. For more information on WebCT, see <http://www.webct.com/> and Elluminate <http://www.illuminate.com/>

Core modules are offered in first semester.

Elective modules are offered in second semester.

Workshops:

Face-to-face workshops are held at Swinburne Hawthorn Campus. Typically three full day workshops or excursions are held each semester for each unit of study. Workshops are delivered in block mode ie workshops for each of the core/elective units are held on consecutive days where possible, in blocks at commencement of semester (March), mid semester (June) and end of semester (May).

Dates and times for all sessions will be provided well in advance of course start date.

Off-site excursions may be organised for some face-to-face sessions.

Participation requirements / time commitments:

Each unit has been designated 50 hours of contact time in online tutorials, discussion groups and workshops. It is recommended that participants spend at least the equivalent amount of time on research and course work, on average 10 hours per week per unit in total.

This course has been designed as a part time course with students typically taking two units per semester. Those individuals with substantial work/family/other commitments can study single units per semester, resulting in course completion over two years.

Fees and concessions

The fee per unit of study is A\$1675 for 2010 plus an amenities fee of A\$21 per semester. We recommend you pay semester fees in full prior to commencement of study. No concessions are available. For deferred payment options contact Linda Black, Course Administration Officer on 03 9210 1956 or email lblack@swin.edu

This course is aligned with the VET FEE-HELP scheme. For further information visit

<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/studentoperations/fees/tafe/diploma.html#help>

Distance Learning

Many students travel from interstate and regional Victoria to participate in the workshops, this course has also attracted interest from students in New Zealand. Although all course notes are available online, participation at workshops is considered an essential component of study, therefore this course is not available to overseas residents who cannot attend the required face-to-face sessions.

Application and enrolment

Register your interest by calling Swinburne Postgrad hotline 1300 368 777 or email postgrad@swinburne.edu.au

Prior to enrolment all participants are required to complete a course application form and participate in a brief telephone interview. Evidence of prior qualifications is required. Limited places will be on offer for mid semester entry into this course.



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Graduate Certificate in Sustainability

Frequently Asked Questions

Please note that this course is currently under review. From Semester 2, 2010 the units offered may differ in title and content from the list below.

Core Units (First Semester)

HVBN762 - Principles of Sustainability

This unit covers the fundamentals of sustainability thinking and therefore assists students to form a basic understanding in preparation for studying other units in this course. A background in the principles of sustainability, systems thinking, social construction, economic systems and global and local sustainability issues are covered. This unit also provides an introduction to a range of tools that can be applied to living and working sustainably.

HVBN763 - Implementing Sustainability

During this unit, students will explore concepts of change (including human dynamics, incremental versus transformational change, corporate behavioural change) and relate these to the implementation of sustainability. Students will analyse and evaluate different pathways to sustainability, and explore strategies and operational issues relevant to the implementation of sustainability in a wide variety of contexts.

Elective Units (Second Semester)

HVBN764 - Integrated Land and Water Management

This unit introduces students to the principles, benefits and challenges of managing Australia's land and water in a sustainable manner. Students are introduced to the concept of the triple bottom line: the need to balance social, environmental and economic aspects when managing a variety of landscapes (including regional and urban, aquatic and terrestrial). We explore the consequences of historical and current perceptions of the environment, and learn how we can use education, science and policy to improve or adapt current management practices. Students gain practical skills in developing, writing and presenting comprehensive, integrated landscape/catchment management projects.

HVBN765 - Eco-design

Students will gain an understanding of the broader role of design and design related professions in society, culture and the economy. Students will explore the nature of design and consider how it relates to consumerism and other social, economic and ecological processes. Eco-design concepts (such as dematerialization, material selection, energy/water and material efficiency, end of use or second life issues) and the design process will be examined through case studies and research.

HVBN766 - Energy for the Future

This unit will explore energy concepts, forms and use from a number of perspectives, covering energy use in an everyday sense and how it is measured and controlled. The social and economic consequences of how we currently use energy will be investigated, along with energy trends and forecasting. This unit also explores the importance of energy efficiency and alternative energy options.

HVBN767 – Global Citizenship: Corporate and Community Sustainability

This unit explores sustainability within the global context: "think global, act local". The initial focus will be on the various economic, environmental and social factors and institutions which influence global sustainability. We will explore the business case for sustainability, the relevance of corporate governance and accountability frameworks such as triple bottom line. The role of stakeholders and other interested parties will also be explored. There will be an opportunity to examine case-studies of community and corporate sustainability which may include: community development and capacity building, sustainable purchasing and transport, waste minimisation, water and energy saving as well as social impacts.

HSF601 - Future Studies and Foresight

The purpose of the introductory unit is to outline core components of the knowledge base of Futures Studies and to provide students with a number of concepts, overviews of methods, tools, and 'maps' or 'guides' to the territory. This foundational knowledge will allow students to locate themselves (and/or their organisations) within a disciplinary matrix and to begin the process of acquiring 'fluency' in futures/foresight enquiry.

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