

Graduate Certificate in Sustainability

Swinburne University of Technology

www.swinburne.edu.au/ncs

The Graduate Certificate in Sustainability was developed to respond to a strong industry demand for staff with skills and knowledge in the field of sustainability. Knowledge and awareness of sustainability concepts and issues is on the increase in the public and private sectors of industry, government agencies and society. As a result, the demand for qualified sustainability graduates continues to rise. This course addresses the key sustainability challenges in terms of environmental, economic and social issues at a local, national and global level. Core units will introduce students to general principles of sustainability and equip them with the skills to successfully implement sustainability strategies and initiatives in a variety of contexts.

Elective units offer students the opportunity to develop specialised knowledge in a range of areas including:

- Integrated land and water management
- Eco-design
- Energy use
- Corporate and community sustainability
- Future studies and foresight

National Centre for Sustainability

This course is designed and delivered by the National Centre for Sustainability. The centre delivers quality educational programs and works in partnership with industry, government and community to support the development and implementation of sustainable practices.

Program overview

Swinburne's sustainability program is designed for:

- Individuals seeking to further their knowledge of sustainability by undertaking personal development to transform the way they live and work
- Professionals working in an environmental/sustainable development team in a corporate environment
- Consultants seeking to extend their knowledge in the field of sustainability
- Middle managers wishing to develop the sustainability profile of their company
- Individuals wanting to play an educational or advisory role in the field of sustainability – as part of an educational institution, a non-governmental organisation or a community group

Upon successful completion of the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability, students will be eligible for credit transfer to other programs including the Master of Management (Strategic Foresight).

Career opportunities

Graduates who complete the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability will have the knowledge to apply sustainability concepts in a variety of contexts. Graduates will be sought after by employers operating in areas such as:

- Land and water management
- Energy systems and management
- Design (e.g. building, manufacturing and engineering)
- Sustainable production
- Plastics and chemicals
- Change management and organisational change
- Environmental sustainability
- Social sustainability

Location

The program is offered in a flexible manner using online delivery with occasional offsite excursions and face-to-face workshops at Swinburne's Hawthorn campus.

Program length

Two semesters part-time

Admission requirements

Applicants should have:

- A degree or advanced diploma from a recognised tertiary institution (or approved qualification) OR
- Five years relevant work experience

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Recognition of Current Competence (RCC) allows students to be granted credit or partial credit towards a qualification in recognition of skills and knowledge gained through work experience, life experience and/or training.

Time commitment

This course is run over two 12 week semesters. Semester one runs from March to June, and semester two runs from August to November.

The Graduate Certificate in Sustainability can be completed in one calendar year on a part-time basis, with students typically taking two units per semester. For those individuals with substantial work and family commitments single units may be studied per semester, resulting in course completion over two years.

As part of the course requirements students will need to participate in weekly or fortnightly live online tutorials (conducted after hours). In addition, students are expected to attend three full

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day face-to-face sessions for each unit of study. Face-to face sessions comprise of workshops at Swinburne's Hawthorn campus and off-site excursions.

Qualification

This is a postgraduate course accredited by Swinburne University of Technology and delivered by Swinburne's National Centre for Sustainability. All graduates receive a Swinburne University of Technology award.

Program structure

In order to gain the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability students must satisfactorily complete two core units and two elective units. Please note that electives are offered subject to the number of student enrolments.

Core units

HVBN762 Principles of Sustainability
HVBN763 Implementing Sustainability

Elective units

HVBN764 Towards Integrated Land and Water Management
HVBN765 Eco-Design
HVBN766 Energy for the Future
HVBN767 Global Citizenship: Corporate and Community Sustainability
HSF601 Introduction to the Knowledge Base of Future Studies and Foresight

Unit of study outlines

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.

HVBN764 Towards Integrated Land and Water Management

This unit introduces students to principles of land and water use and ecology by discussing national land and water sustainability challenges including climate variability, salinity, river and stream health, soil degradation, biodiversity and ecological process loss, land and water pollution, and water conservation. Current and future remediation techniques are explored, along with integrated land and water management strategies, and community and stakeholder consultation.

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 dematerialisation, 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. Techniques for testing design outcomes and quantifying specific impacts will also be explored.

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

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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 context of the corporate and community sectors. The primary focus will be the examination of corporate and community sustainability in practice (eg: community development and capacity building, sustainable purchasing and transport, waste minimisation, water and energy saving, equity, staff satisfaction, business ethics, OHS, living and working sustainably). The role of stakeholders will also be explored, as will corporate governance and accountability frameworks such as the triple bottom line.

HSF601 Introduction to the Knowledge Base of 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.

A student's perspective

Gareth Johnson

Executive Director, Caledonia
Consulting Group Pty Ltd

Technology development, market changes and climate impact my clients' business. Clients seek answers to questions such as 'How prepared are we for change?' 'What are my risks?' and 'How are our stakeholders impacted?'

The Graduate Certificate in Sustainability has helped me answer such questions but has also forced me to consider new dimensions.

I believe this course has transformed my thinking and broadened my awareness. The Graduate Certificate in Sustainability has given me the practical skills to deal with real world challenges. I look forward positively, to meeting new challenges and finding ways of delivering sustainable outcomes for all."

General information

Facilities

As a Swinburne student you will automatically gain access to a range of facilities. These include a well-resourced library, computer laboratories, fitness and health facilities, personal and career counselling, housing, employment and financial advice.

Fees for local students

In 2007, tuition fees for this program are based on \$1450 per unit of study. In the event that a unit of study is derived from another program, the applicable fee will be that of the other program. All fees are reviewed annually and may increase without notice.

Application procedure

Prior to enrolment, all participants are required to complete an application form and participate in a brief telephone or face-to-face interview.

Application forms can be downloaded from www.swinburne.edu.au/ncs

Completed forms and required attachments should be sent to:

Course Coordinator
National Centre for Sustainability
Swinburne University of Technology
PO Box 218 (H91)

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Some places will be on offer for mid semester entry into this course.

International students

If you want to study at Swinburne but are not an Australian resident, telephone Swinburne International on +61 3 8676 7002 (worldwide) or 1800 897 973 (within Australia) or visit www.swinburne.edu.au/international

Further information

National Centre for Sustainability
Telephone: +61 3 9214 5997
Facsimile: +61 3 9214 5967
Email: ncs@swin.edu.au
Website: www.swinburne.edu.au/ncs

CourseFinder

For detailed course and unit information visit: www.swinburne.edu.au/coursefinder or ring the Information Hotline 1300 368 777

FAQ

If you have a question that needs answering, search our FAQ website. Can't find an answer? Submit an enquiry for a prompt and convenient response. Visit www.swinburne.edu.au/faq

eNews, Views and Profiles from Swinburne

visit: www.swinke.com

Swinburne's Virtual Campus Tour

visit: www.swinburne.edu.au/campustour

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