Environment and Society Studies
Towards a sustainable future
A Master’s programme of the Nijmegen School of Management

Introduction
How can a sustainable future be achieved? There are plenty of new technologies, smart policy instruments and new ideas on organising the market to become more sustainable, but we very often do not use them. Why is that? This programme focuses on the way society deals with its physical environment. We will look at good and bad practices and at the role of markets and governments as well as society itself. You will become part of the quest for sustainability. How can we green our economies and change daily behaviour? Our multidisciplinary programme allows you to look beyond country borders and you will discover what is needed on different levels, from the United Nations to Europe, from individual countries to the local level. In short, you will have the knowledge and skills to guide and contribute to societal transformations towards sustainability.

Why should you choose Environment and Society Studies in Nijmegen?
• This multidisciplinary programme is unique in its focus on the political and social change needed for sustainability.
• An introduction to internationally comparative studies on environment, sustainability and society.
• A multidisciplinary perspective through interesting specialisations and working together with other groups within Radboud University.

The programme
This is a one-year Master’s programme (60 ECs) and it is structured as follows:
• Three core courses (18 ECs)
• One core specialisation course (6 ECs)
• Two elective courses (12 ECs)
• Master’s thesis (24 ECs)
Once you have graduated, you will be awarded a Master of Science degree (MSc).

Roderick Enzerink, MSc
Wildlife Policy Assistant and alumnus of the Master’s programme ESS

‘The study has shown me how people interact with nature, through actions and policy, but also how the environment has an influence on people’s decisions and actions. If we want to - not only change our environment - but also improve environment for society, a study that focusses on the relationship between society and environment is necessary.’
Changing perspective
Radboud University offers the following specialisations in the field of Environment and Society Studies:

Global Environment and Sustainability
In this specialisation, you will study the way complex global sustainability issues are addressed by international governance arrangements, rules and organisations, both public and private.

Corporate Sustainability
The private sector plays a crucial role in shaping our society. In this specialisation you will study innovative environmental partnerships, specifically focusing on the role of the societal and ethical responsibility of business and the market.

Local Environmental Change and Sustainable Cities
In this specialisation you will focus on the local level of sustainable transformations, in particular the development of sustainable cities and regions.

European Spatial and Environmental Planning
This specialisation will teach you to become an environmental or spatial planner who can engage with EU policies, cooperate with planners across borders and coordinate with other sectors. Please note that this specialisation follows a different programme. For details, please visit www.ru.nl/masters/esep.

Career prospects
Upon completing this programme, you will become a specialist in the relationship between environment and society. You will:
• learn how to analyse and clarify social change on the road towards a sustainable future;
• analyse and design policy change for sustainability;
• acquire knowledge on collaboration of the public and private parties involved;
• work together in a professional and goal oriented way in different social and interdisciplinary settings on a wide range of environmental topics;
• learn to design and conduct a Master’s Thesis within the practical environment of an internship within an organisation related to environment and sustainability transformations.

Admission requirements
You are required to have a Bachelor’s degree in Geography, Planning and Environment or a closely-related discipline from a research university with a sufficient number of courses on environment, sustainability, sociology, political sciences, planning, geography and social science research methods. You must also have sufficient proficiency in English. For details, please visit www.ru.nl/masters/ess. In case your educational background does not grant you direct admission to the Master’s programme, then you can enrol in a one-year pre-Master’s programme. For more information, please visit: www.ru.nl/pre-masters/ess.

Application deadlines
The programme starts on 1 September. The application deadline is 1 April for students from non-EU/EEA countries and 1 May for students from within the EU/EEA. Successful international applicants who apply before these dates will be guaranteed accommodation and support with the visa and residence permit application.

How to apply?
Your application procedure depends on your previous education. Dutch students can apply via: www.studielink.nl. International students can apply via: www.ru.nl/masters/application.

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