

Sustainable Development for Urban Environments

MSc, Postgraduate Certificate (PgC), Postgraduate Diploma (PgD)

► KEY FEATURES

The award develops an advanced knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to applying sustainable development ideas to the study of the urban environment.

- Study part-time alongside work or other commitments
- Internet based study with one compulsory introductory workshop
- Interaction with tutors and other learners over the web
- Access to on-line electronic journals and e-resources of Staffordshire University Library

This award is currently **exclusively** offered to Indian students, as a Joint Masters Award, co-developed with the University of Madras, at Chennai as part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). Whilst drawing upon the case studies and examples from across the world in relation to the sustainable natural resource management, the course is enriched by the particular attention is paid to India and SE Asia. This draws on the particular expertise and experience of the Madras University scholars contributing to this award.

► WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The MSc **Sustainable Development for Urban Environments** aims to provide students with an advanced programme of study in the theory and practice of sustainable development, focusing particularly on the issues and challenges of delivering sustainability agendas within urban environments. In addition to analysing relevant conceptual debates, the course will also consider both theoretical and practical implementation of public policy interventions and the importance of private sector and NGO involvement. It seeks to provide students with academic and practical skills in identifying and critically analysing sustainability issues, strategies and policies at a variety of geographical scales. Through an exploration of how the delivery of sustainability policy can be informed and enhanced by the use of geospatial mapping techniques, such as GIS or Remote Sensing, community participation and innovatory governance approaches, the course allows students to appreciate the importance of integrating the various sustainability perspectives into the management of urban areas.

At Certificate level, two 30 credit modules, **Delivering Sustainable Development (DSD)** and **Urban Sustainability: an Urban Governance Perspective (US)**, provide the conceptual and empirical foundation of the programme. DSD introduces the concepts which are central to a consideration of sustainability, both as theoretical constructs and as factors shaping public policy, from the international to the local level but with emphasis on the national and local scales. Urban Sustainability examines the implications for sustainability of urban areas and focuses on the

management of urban environmental issues and the emergence of new forms of governance to deal with the challenges of the urban environment.

At the Diploma level, students must take **Community Action Planning** and *either* **GIS for Sustainable Development** *or* **Remote Sensing for Sustainable Development**. Community Action Planning examines the principles and practice of participation in relation to sustainability agendas and explores the concepts, principles and participatory methodologies for developing community action plans, of, by and for the people. Students are introduced to a 'toolkit' of methodologies and techniques which have been designed to gain an in-depth understanding of a community or situation. The GIS for Sustainable Development and the Remote Sensing for Sustainable Development modules will both follow a very similar structure and format. They will examine either the various spatial analysis and GIS applications or remote sensing techniques in resource management, society, health, environment, urban dynamics and community mapping and explore ways of utilising either GIS tools or remote sensing techniques in the management of sustainability issues.

At the Masters level, the Award Team sees a 15 credit module, **Developing Sustainability Research, (DSR)** as the key to advancing students' capability in understanding and applying methodologies and techniques to research. Part of the module specifically focuses on students undertaking a key assignment, the Research Pro-forma designed to establish their programme of research in the subsequent module. DSR then produces a foundation for the 45 credit Masters project which is the culmination of the programme. Students can choose to take *either* a standard **Masters Sustainability Research Project** *or* a **Sustainability Research Placement Dissertation**. The Research Placement Dissertation will involve students attending a 6 week research internship at the University of Madras during which they will, with guidance through face-to-face discussions with tutors, develop an appropriate research project which focuses on sustainability issues within a suitable urban environment in southern India and complete the bulk of the associated data gathering.

► ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For the full programme documentation: please read the document: **Programme Specification: Sustainable Development for Urban Environments** which is available for download on the website.

► FACT FILE

Qualification	MSc; Postgraduate Certificate (PgC); Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)
Faculty/School	Faculty of Sciences (Staffordshire University and the Department of Geography, University of Madras.
Location	Distance Learning with workshop in Chennai, University of Madras

Course start	<p>September and February intakes First Intake: February 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching commences: Monday 15th February, 2010 • Course Induction workshop: date to be confirm shortly • Applications Deadline: Wednesday 13th January 2010.
Course Length	The full MSc. programme would normally be studied part-time over a 3 year period, with the PG Certificate and PG Diploma stages taking the first two years.
Attendance	<p>The course consists of a series of modules studied independently through a carefully structured programme of work supported by an introductory workshop. You study one module at a time, taken simultaneously with other people on your course enabling you to interact with other students. Each module takes 16 weeks to complete.</p> <p>The full MSc programme consists of four 30 credit taught modules followed by a 15 credit pre-dissertation module, and then a 45 credit research project or dissertation.</p>
Entry Requirements	A good honours degree from an officially recognised Institution of Higher Education; consideration given to relevant professional experience. The course is particularly suitable for individuals already working in local government or NGOs in the urban sector, wishing to develop their understanding of sustainability as a conceptual and practical tool. Competence in English, computer literacy and internet access are required.
Fees	Total fee: £2686.59 / 215,001 Rupees (over three years).