

Programme Specification 2025-26

1.	Programme title	MSc Sustainability and Environmental Management
2.	Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a	Teaching institution	Middlesex University London
3b	Language of study	English

4a	Valid intake dates and mode of study
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Mode of Study	Cohort	Delivery Location	Duration
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Hendon	1 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Hendon	2 Years

4c	Delivery method	On Campus/Blended Learning
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5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body (if applicable)
Institution of Environmental Sciences

6.	Apprenticeship Standard (if applicable)	N/A
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7. Final qualification(s) available
Target Award Title(s)
MSc Sustainability and Environmental Management
Exit Award Title(s)
PGDip Sustainability and Environmental Management

8. Academic year effective from	2025-26
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9. Criteria for admission to the programme

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.” – Robert Swan OBE. Join our programme and develop your sustainability skills. Every job is now a sustainability job. The programme is tailored to recent changes in the field of sustainability, the need to better tackle global environmental issues, namely the climate and biodiversity crises, and the growing demand for interdisciplinary skills to support the transition to a green economy and the adoption of green legislation. The programme aims to prepare students for such roles in sustainability and environmental management.

This programme aims to produce graduates:

1. With strong integrated problem-solving skills and competencies.
2. Able to manage projects in complex and unpredictable contexts.
3. Able to defend a position in the sustainable development discourse.
4. Able to adopt an interdisciplinary approach to tackle environmental issues and critically evaluate and assess environmental issues, management practices and policies at a range of scales.
5. With strong knowledge and analytical skills needed to develop a career in sustainability and environmental management interventions.

11. Programme learning outcomes

Programme - Knowledge and Understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have a knowledge and understanding of:

1. Key principles and concepts of sustainable development and environmental management and how these relate to current and future environmental, economic and social changes.
2. The role of institutions, organisations and other stakeholders in managing and regulating the human impacts on the environment from the local to the global scale.
3. Frameworks and methodologies commonly used to assess and manage environmental aspects.
4. Theories and practices used in sustainable decision-making process.
5. A wide range of research methodologies associated with the design and conduct of research projects in sustainability and environmental management.

Programme - Skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

6. Select appropriate competencies, theories and framework to evaluate and develop innovative responses to environmental issues and sustainable development challenges.
7. Analyse complex systems using an interdisciplinary approach.
8. Critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative data and environmental assessment techniques and methodologies.
9. Reflect on professional practice, including consideration of ethical, societal and economic issue.

10. Communicate effectively complex sustainable development issues and strategies to different audiences.
11. Develop, plan and carry out task and research projects.

12. Teaching/learning methods
<p>Seminars will enable students to gain knowledge and understanding; Learning will in addition involve a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities e.g. group projects, case study analysis, lab, field visits, student presentations. Students learn cognitive skills through seminar discussions, group project work, the preparation of coursework and the dissertation.</p> <p>Workshops, seminars, lab and field visits will explore the interface between theory and practice. During these activities, students will learn self-criticism through group tutorials and individual feedback on coursework and project as well as post-session activities including reflection entries.</p> <p>Data collection exercises, presentation preparations and project development will provide opportunities for peer and self-appraisal.</p> <p>Electronic resources and key concept videos will be used to enhance student learning experiences. Students will be directed to explore a diverse range of learning materials such as e-books, reading lists and free online resources.</p>
<p>Full Time Approx. number of timetabled hours per week (at each level of study, as appropriate), including on-campus and online hours - 8 hours</p> <p>Approx. number of hours of independent study per week (at each level of study, as appropriate) - 32 hours</p> <p>Approx. number of hours on placement (including placement, work-based learning or year abroad, as appropriate) - 100 hours</p> <p>Part Time Approx. number of timetabled hours per week (at each level of study, as appropriate), including on-campus and online hours - 4 hours</p> <p>Approx. number of hours of independent study per week (at each level of study, as appropriate) - 16 hours</p> <p>Approx. number of hours on placement (including placement, work-based learning or year abroad, as appropriate) - 100 hours</p>

13. Employability
13a Development of graduate competencies
13b Employability development
13c Placement and work experience opportunities (if applicable)

The programme incorporates a module whereby students have to develop a project for an organisation. Students will be assisted and supported closely to find project and organisation. Existing professional networks in addition to liaison with the Careers Employability Service, will facilitate their search. Students have found successful projects with organisations such as SWECO, Climate Action, Thames21, CleanAirBarnet, MDX sustainability team and UK GBC in the past. MU research centres (Center for Enterprise, Environment and Development Research and Flood Hazard Research Centre) may also act as a host organisation and provide projects related to their on-going research and consultancy projects. This feature is integral to building employability into the programme for students. Virtual placement options also exist. Students can register on an action project under the supervision of a mentor in association with the Fijian governments and NGOs or they can develop a sustainable project under the supervision of a UK sustainability consultancy company. Students are also permitted to carry out their projects at their workplace.

Overseas students can carry out approved projects in their home country provided a suitable host is found prior to the commencement of the project.

13d Future careers / progression

This programme is accredited by the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES). Students on this programme are automatically eligible for Student Membership of the Institution. Additionally, on graduation, Student Members receive a certificate from the IES and are automatically eligible to become Associate Members. The IES has been granted a licence to award the qualification of Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) to suitably qualified IES members and environmental professionals. By joining the IES students will start the process of working towards the achievement of chartered status with associated professional recognition.

The programme also prepares students for progression to a PhD level or pursue a further academic career in higher education in the UK. Employment levels are high for graduates of the programme. Graduates have successfully found employment in the business sector, consultancies, government ministries, non-governmental organisations (local and international) in addition to education.

14. Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by written essays and reports that focus on key principles, concepts and relating theory to practice.

Class presentations assess student ability to synthesise and make effective use of case study material. The dissertation assesses the student's grasp of a narrow field of inquiry and of research methodology.

Students' skills are assessed by reports, presentations (group and individual), case studies analysis, e-journal, proposal writing across modules and the dissertation and VIVA.

15. Programme Structure (level of study, modules, credits and progression requirements)

Structure is indicative for Part-time routes.

Students must take all of the compulsory modules and choose following programme requirements from the optional modules.

Non-compensatable modules are noted below.

Available Pathways
Not Applicable

Year 1

Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
PRS4540	Compulsory	Sustainability in Anthropocene 2025-26	30 at Level 7
PRS4580	Compulsory	Business and Enterprise for Sustainable Prosperity 2025-26	15 at Level 7
PRS4705	Compulsory	Employability Skills for Sustainability Professionals 2025-26	15 at Level 7
PRS4706	Compulsory	Environmental Data Science 2025-26	30 at Level 7
PRS4560	Compulsory	Sustainable Decision Making 2025-26	15 at Level 7
PRS4707	Compulsory	Sustainability into Action 2025-26	15 at Level 7
PRS4699	Compulsory	Research Project 2025-26	60 at Level 7

Year 2

Year 2 Level 7 PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
PRS4580	Compulsory	Business and Enterprise for Sustainable Prosperity 2026-27	15 at Level 7
PRS4560	Compulsory	Sustainable Decision Making 2026-27	15 at Level 7
PRS4707	Compulsory	Sustainability into Action 2026-27	15 at Level 7
PRS4699	Compulsory	Research Project 2026-27	60 at Level 7

*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

16. Programme-specific support for learning

Software (geographic information systems and statistical computing)
 Lab and Field surveys: Air, water, land use and biodiversity field monitoring devices and analytical lab tools
 Access to global and national secondary data (land use, socio-economic, environmental data)
 Transport for field visits

17. HECos code(s)	100381: Environmental Sciences
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17. HECos code(s)	100409: Geography
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18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)

19. University Regulations

This programme will run in line with general University Regulations: [Policies | Middlesex University](#)

This programme will run in line with general University Regulations: Policies | Middlesex University

20. Reference points

-QAA Earth Science, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies benchmarks document (2022) (Bachelor's degrees can be used to guide for the subject area).

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- QAA Earth Science, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies benchmarks document (2022)
- QAA Education for Sustainable Development Guidance (2021).
- UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development Goals Learning Objectives (2017).
- SEEC Credit Level Descriptor for Higher Education (2021).
- University Regulations .
- University Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook
- Institution of Environmental Sciences
- QAA Masters' Degree Characteristics Statement (2020)
- University Learning Framework Principles for Postgraduate Taught Programmes
- University Graduate Competencies

21. Other information *(if applicable)*

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

A1	Key principles and concepts of sustainable development and environmental management and how these relate to current and future environmental, economic and social changes.
A2	The role of institutions, organisations and other stakeholders in managing and regulating the human impacts on the environment from the local to the global scale.
A3	Frameworks and methodologies commonly used to assess and manage environmental aspects.
A4	Theories and practices used in sustainable decision-making process.
A5	A wide range of research methodologies associated with the design and conduct of research projects in sustainability and environmental management.

Skills

B1	Select appropriate competencies, theories and framework to evaluate and develop innovative responses to environmental issues and sustainable development challenges.
B2	Analyse complex system using interdisciplinary approach.
B3	Critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative data and environmental assessment techniques and methodologies.
B4	Reflect on professional practice, including consideration of ethical, societal and economical issue.
B5	Communicate effectively complex sustainable development issues and strategies to different audiences.
B6	Develop, plan and carry out task and research projects.

Programme learning outcomes - Highest level achieved by graduates

A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Mapping by level of study and module

Module Title	Module Code by Level of study	A 1	A 2	A 3	A 4	A 5	B 1	B 2	B 3	B 4	B 5	B 6
Sustainability in the Anthropocene	PRS4540	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	
Environmental Data Science	PRS4706	x		x		x	x	x	x			x
Sustainable Decision Making	PRS4560	x	x	x	x		x	x			x	
Business and Enterprise for Sustainable Prosperity	PRS4580	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	
Employability Skills for Sustainability Professionals	PRS4705		x							x		
Sustainability into Action	PRS4707	x	x		x		x	x		x	x	x
Research Project	PRS4699			x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x