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Master's Programme in Transdisciplinary Studies of Climate, Environment, and Energy

Student Handbook - Study Track 9: Global Change Biology

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Glossary

Admission to the Programme: The formal process by which a student is officially accepted into the Programme after meeting the required academic qualifications, submitting necessary documents, and fulfilling any additional criteria set by the institutions involved. Admission is confirmed through an official notification from the university with the issuing of an Acceptance Letter.

Programme board: The main decision-making body for the Programme.

Cohort: The group of students admitted and enrolled in the Programme in one intake. The cohort 2026 applies to all students admitted and enrolled in the programme starting in 2026.

Curriculum: The elements that make up a degree programme, including the structure, the content to be covered, intended learning outcomes, teaching, examination and assessment methods.

Degree: The academic qualification awarded by a university upon successful completion of the Programme. The degree certifies that the student has met all academic requirements, including coursework, research, final assessments and is officially recognised as having attained a specific level of expertise in their field of study defined by the intended learning outcomes of the Programme.

Degree Type: The type of master's degree (Master of Arts, Master of Science, International Master etc.) and the level of qualification it confers.

Diploma: The document/parchment presented to the student after successful completion of the programme according to the practices and regulations of the awarding university/-ies.

Diploma Supplement: The document that accompanies the diploma and provides the details of the academic programme and academic achievements.

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS): A standardised system used in European higher education to measure and compare students' workload and learning outcomes. One ECTS credit typically corresponds to 25–30 hours of study.

Issuing partner university: The university that issues the diploma.

Joint Degree: A single degree jointly awarded by universities to a student upon successful completion of a joint programme.

Multiple Degree: Separate degrees awarded by higher education institutions offering the joint programme attesting the successful completion of this programme.

Participation cost: The financial charges levied on students for their enrolment in the Programme.

Partner university: The university that awards a degree, as applicable with reference to the relevant format of awarded degree (joint, double or multiple).

Transcript of records: The official record or breakdown of a student's progress and achievements.

1 The programme

The master's programme in Transdisciplinary Studies of Climate, Environment, and Energy (TRACEE) is a collaborative initiative designed within the CIVIS Alliance. This innovative master's programme aims to equip students with transdisciplinary expertise to address the complex challenges of our time, focusing on climate, environment, and energy. It features an integrated curriculum co-created by scholars from CIVIS member universities that promote diverse academic perspectives across Europe and Africa. The vision, target group of students and intended learning outcomes are presented hereafter.

1.1 Vision

The vision which forms the foundation for this programme is for students with a solid disciplinary background in natural sciences, social sciences, law, or humanities to become transdisciplinary graduates capable of tackling the world's most pressing challenges—climate change, energy transitions, and environmental crises.

1.2 Target group of students

This programme is intended for students who are seeking (a) a career working at a local, regional, national, European or even global level on the ongoing societal transformation (e.g., as expressed by the European Green Deal), or (b) a future in transdisciplinary research focusing on climate, environment and/or energy.

1.3 Intended learning outcomes of the programme

The intended learning outcomes of the programme are listed below. They are complemented by additional learning goals in each study track, which are presented in the respective annex for each study track.

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge applied in the field of each study track and its transdisciplinary applications.
- Demonstrate insight into current research and development work within the specialised field of the study track and its transdisciplinary applications.
- Demonstrate methodological knowledge from the humanities, law, social sciences, and natural sciences applied to and relevant for Transdisciplinary Environmental Science.
- Demonstrate knowledge to use systems thinking as a framework for analysing climate, environment, and energy issues from perspectives of natural sciences, social sciences, law, and humanities, and transdisciplinarity.

Competence and skills

- Demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations from perspectives of natural sciences, social sciences, law, and humanities, even with limited information.
- Demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, and creatively identify and formulate questions, to plan and carry out qualified tasks within given time frames using appropriately chosen methods, thereby contributing to the development of knowledge, and to evaluate one's own work.
- Demonstrate the ability to clearly present and discuss, both orally and in writing, conclusions and the knowledge and arguments underlying them in dialogue with various groups, in both national and international contexts.

- Demonstrate the skills required to participate in research and development work, or to work independently in other professional areas.

Judgement and approach

- Demonstrate the ability to make assessments in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science informed by relevant interdisciplinary, societal and ethical issues and to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work.
- Demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning.

2 Programme structure overview

The TRACEE Master is delivered through the collaboration of 11 universities within the CIVIS Alliance where the credits of the master's programme are distributed according to the student's selected study path and integrated mobility.

2.1 Partner Universities

The programme results from a collaborative design within the CIVIS Alliance including the partners below and their respective acronym that will be used hereafter in the student handbook:

- Aix-Marseille Université (AMU), France
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), Greece
- Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium
- University of Bucharest (UB), Romania
- University of Glasgow (UofG), Scotland
- Université de Lausanne (UNIL), Switzerland
- Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), Spain
- Sapienza – Università di Roma (SUR), Italy
- Paris-Lodron-Universität Salzburg (PLUS), Austria
- Stockholm University (SU), Sweden
- Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen (UT), Germany

The CIVIS Alliance has six associate partners from African countries, these are: Makerere University in Uganda, Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique, Université Hassan II de Casablanca in Morocco, University of Sfax in Tunisia, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar in Senegal, and University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. The six African partners may be involved in parts of the delivery of certain courses of the TRACEE master.

2.2 Distribution of the credits of the programme

The programme spans two academic years, structured into four semesters, each worth 30 credits, for a total of 120 credits in the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

The credits (ECTS) are distributed as follows:

- **The First Semester:** A Common Core (30 ECTS): The first semester is common to all students across the programme and takes place at Stockholm University. It consists of one mandatory course, co-created and co-delivered by teachers and scholars from across the CIVIS Alliance in Europe and Africa.
- **The Second and Third Semesters:** The Study Track (60 ECTS): After the first semester, students follow one of nine study tracks. Mobility paths are predefined for each study

track, specifying the partner universities where students will study during these semesters.

- **The Fourth Semester:** The master's thesis project (30 ECTS): The final semester is dedicated to a mandatory independent master's thesis project in transdisciplinary studies of climate, environment and energy. It is carried out at one of the CIVIS universities offering the selected study track.
- **The transdisciplinary stream:** The stream runs through the entire Programme. It is extra-curricular, meaning that credits are not awarded for participating in the stream. The stream aims at enhancing students' understanding of transdisciplinarity, maintains the coherence of the Programme and keeps the cohort of students connected throughout the entire duration of the programme, and provides preparation and support for the master's thesis project.

2.3 Mobility paths

Students select a specific study track upon application to the Programme and are required to complete their studies and to complete at least two mobilities to countries other than the student's country of residence at enrolment. Thus, mobility is an integral part of the Programme.

The table below illustrates the structure of the programme, including the specific mobility paths for each of the nine study tracks.

* For students selecting the study track 3 or 4 (ST3 and ST4), including Stockholm University (SU) in the study track, the country for Semester 4 (registration to the master's thesis project) must represent a second mobility in relation to the country of residence of the student at enrolment stage.

- Students in ST3 or ST4 residing in Sweden at the time of the application should be admitted to the University of Bucharest (UB) in Semester 4.
- Students in ST3 residing in Spain at the time of the application should be admitted to the University of Bucharest (UB) in Semester 4.
- Students in ST4 residing in Germany at the time of the application should be admitted to the University of Bucharest (UB) in Semester 4.
- Students in ST3 residing elsewhere in the world (outside Sweden or Spain) can register either at Stockholm University (SU), the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) or the University of Bucharest (UB) in Semester 4.
- Students in ST4 residing elsewhere in the world (outside Sweden or Germany) can register either at Stockholm University (SU), the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen (UT) or the University of Bucharest (UB) in Semester 4.

Study tracks	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
ST1: Environmental Humanities and Law	SU	PLUS	UB	SU or PLUS or UB
ST2: Environmental Social Sciences		UofG	UB	SU or UofG or UB
ST3: Energy and Matter		UAM	SU	SU* or UB
ST4: Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology		SU	UT	SU* or UT* or UB
ST5: Environmental Geoscience		UofG	AMU	SU or UofG or AMU
ST6: Climate Change Science		NKUA	UT	SU or NKUA or UT
ST7: Environmental Risk and Mitigation		UNIL	SUR	SU or UNIL or SUR
ST8: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change		PLUS	ULB	ULB
ST9: Global Change Biology		SUR	AMU	SU or SUR or AMU
	Common Core	Study Track		Master's thesis project
	Transdisciplinary stream			

* For ST3, students residing in Sweden or Spain at enrolment should be admitted to UB for Semester 4. Other students may be allocated to SU or UB, subject to the thesis allocation procedure and final approval.

3 Programme content overview

The programme content overview provides a description for each semester and the transdisciplinary stream that runs through the entire programme. Complementary information for each study track is available in the respective annexes.

3.1 The first semester – The common core

The programme begins with a common semester for the programme. It consists of one single mandatory 30 ECTS course, Climate, Environment, and Energy – a Transdisciplinary Perspective. The course will be hosted by the Department of Environmental Science at Stockholm University. It is co-created and co-taught by educators from across the CIVIS Alliance in Europe and Africa. This course consists of five modules. The first module (Systems Thinking) uses the concept of systems to set the stage for interdisciplinary learning. The second, third and fourth modules examine climate, environment and energy from natural science, social science and humanities perspectives. The fifth module (Creating Knowledge Through Transdisciplinary Methods) introduces transdisciplinary learning. The learning goals for each of these parts are as follows:

Part 1. Systems Thinking, 3 ECTS

- Discuss systems thinking and its history, central system concepts, as well as types of systems and their properties.

Part 2. Climate, Environment, and Energy - A Natural Science Perspective, 9 ECTS

- Describe energy and matter and their transfer within the Earth's system, as well as solutions for future energy supply.
- Describe global biogeochemical cycles, ecosystem services, and biodiversity, as well as the risks they face due to global environmental changes.
- Explain the climate system, drivers and feedback mechanisms, as well as Earth's past, present, and future climate.
-

Part 3. Climate, Environment, and Energy - A Social Science Perspective, 9 ECTS

- Describe past, present, and future economics, politics, and policies on energy systems, environment, and climate change.
- Discuss the international, European, and national legal framework for climate, environmental, and energy policies and the transition.
- Discuss knowledge, behaviour and action in relation to climate change, as well as the role of communication and education in addressing environmental and climate challenges.

Part 4. Climate, Environment, and Energy - A Humanities Perspective, 6 ECTS

- Discuss historical, literary, aesthetic, and philosophical aspects of environmental thinking and address concerns about climate and the environment.
- Analyse sociocultural paradigms and rhetorical strategies in climate and environmental communication.

Part 5. Creating Knowledge Through Transdisciplinary Methods, 3 ECTS

- Describe methods for involving society in different cultural contexts for knowledge generation and case studies of transdisciplinary research.

3.2 The second and third semester – The Study Track

The second and third semester are the disciplinary or transdisciplinary study tracks selected by the students, reflecting their different backgrounds.

Study track	Semester 2	Semester 3
ST1: Environmental Humanities and Law	PLUS	UB
ST2: Environmental Social Sciences	UofG	UB
ST3: Energy and Matter	UAM	SU
ST4: Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology	SU	UT
ST5: Environmental Geoscience	UofG	AMU
ST6: Climate Change Science	NKUA	UT
ST7: Environmental Risk and Mitigation	UNIL	SUR
ST8: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change	PLUS	ULB
ST9: Global Change Biology	SUR	AMU

3.2.1 Study Track 1: Environmental Humanities and Law

The study track Environmental Humanities and Law provides students with in-depth knowledge of the disciplines involved in the development of profound, lasting, and sustainable solutions to climate change, energy transition and environmental problems. Students will study various disciplines that inform the development, adoption, and implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change, energy transition, and environmental issues that meet the political, economic, legal, societal, ethical and communication challenges and must be taken into account for developing lasting and sustainable solutions. At the end of the study track, students will have obtained knowledge on the perspectives from different disciplines that facilitate dialogue with and understanding of the positions of the different stakeholders. Students will have acquired skills to develop and implement solutions to the problems that climate change, energy transition, and environmental degradation pose to societies.

The intended learning outcomes and the details of the curriculum are available in the annexe dedicated to the study track 1.

3.2.2 Study Track 2: Environmental Social Sciences

The study track Environmental Social Sciences provide an in-depth understanding of the intricacies of the socio-ecological transformations, many of which are related to climate change, in a globalised world. Students will acquire the theoretical approach to socio and physical science research, together with a series of specific skills to tackle the environmental and societal challenges of sustainable development in the Anthropocene. The students will have the great opportunity to develop practical experiences in the compulsory placement course, working in governmental bodies, activist and community sectors. The research-led teaching that both Universities offer will prepare the students to confidently use the sociological lens to understand and investigate climate change and socio-ecological transformations and to envision sustainable and effective solutions for local, regional and global communities.

The intended learning outcomes and the details of the curriculum are available in the annexe dedicated to the study track 2.

3.2.3 Study Track 3: Energy and Matter

The study track Energy and Matter equips students with advanced expertise in sustainable energy storage, conversion, and chemistry applications essential for renewable energy systems. Through modules energy conversion, storage and sustainable chemistry, students develop the technical and theoretical skills needed to innovate within the fields of energy storage, clean energy production, and environmentally focused chemistry. This track aims to prepare students for innovative roles in renewable energy systems by equipping them with both the technical skills and practical experience necessary to address energy challenges across various sectors.

The intended learning outcomes and the details of the curriculum are available in the annexe dedicated to the study track 3.

3.2.4 Study Track 4: Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology

The study track Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology is focusing on the evaluation and solution of problems in the environment related to chemicals. Apart from theoretical studies, this study track also involves laboratory training in both chemistry and toxicology as well as field work where students will be trained in relevant sampling techniques. The Study Track aims for a comprehensive understanding of the linkages between physical, chemical, and biological process mechanisms. Students from various science backgrounds will learn to qualitatively and quantitatively address complex processes in soils, water and air as well as in organisms. In addition, students will address the ethical, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing environmental protection, chemical safety, and toxicology and to evaluate environmental risks based on multi-disciplinary approaches.

The intended learning outcomes and the details of the curriculum are available in the annexe dedicated to the study track 4.

3.2.5 Study Track 5: Environmental Geoscience

The study track Environmental Geoscience combines the study of the fundamentals and applied aspects of geoscience to develop skills required to implement sustainable environmental solutions to global challenges. Using a variety of pedagogical approaches, all driven by the most up-to-date research in the field of environmental sustainability, the programme will provide students with a command of the relevant scientific knowledge, digital tools and innovative technologies to empower them to develop solutions to environmental

challenges. The students will have the opportunity to tailor their studies to their specific needs and aspiration, including an in-depth knowledge of techniques used to investigate, monitor and predict, using numerical modelling, environmental hazards and risks. This programme is particularly suitable for students that are interested the most up-to-date science and technology to solve geo-environmental problems for their future career and/or for further studies. It aims to develop the ability to understand and address environmental changes through a solid scientific foundation, adaptive strategies, transdisciplinary research, and technological skills, fostering a just transition and societal resilience.

The intended learning outcomes and the details of the curriculum are available in the annexe dedicated to the study track 5.

3.2.6 Study Track 6: Climate Change Science

The study track Climate Change Science lets the student acquire a comprehensive understanding of the climate system, including past and present climate variability as well as ongoing climate change. They will gain focussed knowledge about how climate is studied using remote sensing atmospheric and climate science and geophysics, ecosystem responses and feedback, as well as vegetation and soils in the climate system. Extending beyond the natural sciences, students will learn about sustainability in its broader sense (including renewable energies), and about climate policies. Students will apply the multi-disciplinary skills they have learned about in the study track by conducting a research internship project in climate science.

The intended learning outcomes and the details of the curriculum are available in the annexe dedicated to the study track 6.

3.2.7 Study Track 7: Environmental Risk and Mitigation

The study track in Environmental Risk and Mitigation provides a deep understanding of processes involved in Mountain and oceanic environments which are related to environmental hazard. Students will acquire advanced experience in field and laboratory methods and practice as well as theoretical approach to assess natural hazards, from the study of physical and chemical processes through to their management, via the quantification of their probability of occurrence in different conditions. The students will have the opportunity to develop theoretical understanding and practical experience in data acquisition, mapping analysis, modelling, monitoring methods, estimation of natural hazard and risk, its management warning systems development and evaluation of strategies for risk reduction.

The intended learning outcomes and the details of the curriculum are available in the annexe dedicated to the study track 7.

3.2.8 Study Track 8: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change

The study track Transdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change provides students with in-depth understanding of underlying scientific issues as well as societal needs to develop climate warming solutions. Students will be introduced to various disciplines that inform the development, adoption and implementation of solutions to the problems posed by climate change, energy transition and environmental issues, based on the transdisciplinary knowledge on climate, energy and environment obtained in the first semester.

The intended learning outcomes and the details of the curriculum are available in the annexe dedicated to the study track 8.

3.2.9 Study Track 9: Global Change Biology

The study track in Global Change Biology equips students with a deep understanding of biodiversity, ecological interactions, and the impacts of global change on ecosystems. This track combines scientific theory with practical, field-based skills, preparing students to address complex environmental challenges using cutting-edge methods in biodiversity conservation and ecological analysis. The study track provides students with a well-rounded skill set in ecological research, statistical modelling, and project management, blending rigorous scientific training with hands-on experience.

The intended learning outcomes and the details of the curriculum are available in the annexe dedicated to the study track 9.

3.3 The fourth semester: The Master's thesis project

Each study track includes an obligatory 30 ECTS independent thesis in transdisciplinary studies of climate, environment and energy at a university within the CIVIS Alliance. This is offered as a single course or a combination of courses in accordance with university-specific regulations. Depending on the study track, the master's thesis project must be registered at a specific university within the Alliance, as described in the table below.

Students in each study track will be asked to indicate their preferred university for completing the fourth semester; however, placement at the preferred university cannot be guaranteed. The final decision will be made by the Programme Board.

Study track	Semester 4
ST1: Environmental Humanities and Law	SU or PLUS or UB
ST2: Environmental Social Sciences	SU or UofG or UB
ST3: Energy and Matter	SU* or UAM* or UB
ST4: Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology	SU or UT or UB
ST5: Environmental Geoscience	SU or UofG or AMU
ST6: Climate Change Science	SU or NKUA or UT
ST7: Environmental Risk and Mitigation	SU or UNIL or SUR
ST8: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change	ULB
ST9: Global Change Biology	SU or SUR or AMU

* see mobility paths

The student must have received all credits from the first semester (30 ECTS) and a total of 30 ECTS from semester two and three as a balanced requirement to be registered for a master's thesis project.

The learning goals for the thesis are as follows:

- Plan a transdisciplinary project
- Carry out, document, and complete a transdisciplinary project within the allotted time
- Demonstrate experimental, field-based, or theoretical skills
- Evaluate, analyse, and draw conclusions from obtained results
- Read and comprehend primary literature in natural, social, and human sciences related to climate, environment, and/or energy, and apply necessary theories to the project
- Conduct goal-related, transdisciplinary literature reviews
- Compile and write a scientific report corresponding to the project's scope
- Communicate the project's results in a popular scientific format

3.4 The transdisciplinary stream

The stream will engage students in learning about transdisciplinarity, including its definitions and methods, while also providing support and checkpoints for developing independent projects. It will be offered on site during the first semester in Stockholm, and thereafter online.

The main purpose will be to provide students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake a transdisciplinary thesis in semester 4. Secondary aims include maintaining connection and support networks within the student cohort and providing an overall coherence to the master's programme.

The stream will consist of remote monthly meetings, each lasting 1.5 hours. These sessions will include a combination of guest lectures, discussion panels, networking sessions and student presentations. Guest speakers will be invited from a range of fields and sectors, with the aim being to demonstrate the importance of transdisciplinary thinking in different environments.

The sessions will evolve throughout the programme, with a slightly different focus in each semester. In the first semester, concepts will be introduced and students exposed to a range of ideas from guest speakers. During the second and third semesters, students will begin to select topics for their thesis projects, and the sessions will focus more strongly on helping them to develop their own ideas, forge connections with useful contacts, and establish how they can demonstrate transdisciplinarity in their own project. In the final semester, sessions will be almost entirely student-led, allowing them the opportunity to support one another while carrying out their projects.

4 Application and Admission

Stockholm University is coordinating the application to the TRACEE programme including the platform used for admission and the transfers related to participation cost and financial aid. The selection of the students receiving financial aid and admitted to the programme is made within the consortium via the Application and Scholarship Selection Committee (ASSC).

4.1 Admission Requirements and selection

The programme is open to students with a bachelor's degree in any discipline. This sets the entry requirements for the programme itself and for obligatory courses within the programme. The entry requirements for some elective semesters are discipline specific.

4.1.1 General Eligibility Criteria

Bachelor's degree

Academic qualifications from an internationally recognised university equivalent to a bachelor's degree.

Students in their final year of bachelor's studies can meet the requirement if they follow the instructions from University Admissions.

Find out what you need to submit here:

<https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/apply-to-masters/provide-application-documents-masters/find-out-what-you-need-to-submit/>

English proficiency

English proficiency equivalent to level B2 on the CEFR scale (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

Requirements can be met with an English test, for example an overall IELTS score of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 90. Depending on the country of previous studies, the requirement can be completed during upper secondary or university studies.

University Admissions have specific information for each country and the test score requirements: <https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/entry-requirements/english-language-requirements/>

4.1.2 Specific Eligibility Criteria

Admission requirements for each study track are as follows:

Study track	Entry requirement
ST1: Environmental Humanities and Law	A Bachelor's degree or equivalent in any discipline (general requirement).
ST2: Environmental Social Sciences	A Bachelor's degree within Social Sciences or equivalent
ST3: Energy and Matter	A Bachelor's degree within Natural Science, Engineering or equivalent including at least 30 ECTS in Chemistry and Spanish B2
ST4: Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology	A Bachelor's degree within Natural Science, Engineering or equivalent including at least 15 ECTS in Chemistry, 6 ECTS in Geology, and 15 ECTS in Mathematics or Statistics
ST5: Environmental Geoscience	A Bachelor's degree within Earth Sciences, Geography or Environmental Sciences or equivalent
ST6: Climate Change Science	A Bachelor's degree within Natural Science, Engineering or equivalent including at least 6 ECTS in Physics, 6 ECTS in Geology, 6 ECTS Mathematics or Statistics
ST7: Environmental Risk and Mitigation	A Bachelor's degree within Natural Science or equivalent
ST8: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change	A Bachelor's degree or equivalent within any discipline (general requirement)
ST9: Global Change Biology	A Bachelor's degree within Natural Science or equivalent

4.2 Application fee

An application fee must be paid for individuals who are not citizens of countries of EU/EEA or Switzerland. The application fee is 900 SEK (Swedish kronor) and is paid directly to University Admissions in Sweden to have the application processed. Students pay one application fee for each intake semester they submit an application for in this system. Meaning that it doesn't matter how many courses, study tracks or programmes the student applied for that intake. If an eligible student was not admitted and decide to apply once again for another intake, the application fee should be paid again.

More information on the application fee criteria is available on the [universityadmissions.se](https://www.universityadmissions.se) webpage.

<https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/fees-scholarships-residence-permit/who-is-required-to-pay-fees/>

4.3 Participation Cost, mobility grant and other funding

TRACEE has a single participation cost, paid per semester, which is independent of the chosen study track. The full programme participation cost is €9,000 for students from the EU/EEA/Switzerland and €18,000 for students from outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland. This corresponds to €2,250 per semester for EU/EEA/Switzerland students and €4,500 per semester for non-EU/EEA/Switzerland students.

The participation cost covers compulsory academic activities, tuition/registration at the partner universities, student services related to the programme, and insurance arranged for the programme. It does not cover living expenses, accommodation, travel, visa or residence-permit costs, food, or other personal expenses. However, some additional costs may apply, depending on the study track, host university, country, or planned activities. Students should therefore check the study-track-specific information and follow the instructions provided by the relevant partner university.

Stockholm University collects the participation cost on behalf of the TRACEE consortium and transfers the relevant parts to the partner universities. Questions about payment of the participation cost should be addressed to the TRACEE coordination at Stockholm University.

Students are responsible for covering the costs connected to programme mobility, including travel and living costs in each host country. Eligible students can apply for an Erasmus+ student mobility grant during the first semester. The Erasmus+ mobility grant is intended to contribute to additional costs during mobility abroad and does not cover the full cost of participation, housing, travel, or living expenses.

The TRACEE programme currently does not offer tuition waivers or fully funded scholarships. Students may be eligible to apply for Erasmus+ mobility support for mobility periods outside Sweden, normally during semesters 2 and 3, but this grant does not cover the full participation cost, housing, travel, or living expenses. Students should therefore plan their finances carefully and are encouraged to explore external scholarships and funding opportunities..

<https://www.su.se/english/education/how-to-apply/costs-fees-and-scholarships/scholarships>

4.4 Application period

Cohort-specific application dates are published on the official Stockholm University programme page. Applicants should check the current application period, document deadlines, and any payment deadlines that apply to their cohort.

4.5 Documents required for the application

The documents required for the application are:

- Transcript of records (in English)
- Diplomas or certificates of completed degrees.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Proof of English proficiency
- Scanned copy of ID or Passport
- Online application supplement (motivation letter)

4.6 Admission procedure

The admission procedure is managed by Stockholm University as the coordinating university for the master's programme in Transdisciplinary Studies in Climate, Energy and Environment.

Universityadmissions.se is the system that is used for admissions to higher education in Sweden and selected for the admission procedure of this programme. It is managed by the Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR).

UHR manages the admissions process together with Stockholm University and is responsible for:

- The website Universityadmissions.se provided for the application
- Registering admissions documents submitted by students as part of their admissions application, such as transcripts and English test scores
- Reviewing applications to see that students meet general entry requirements
- Answering questions that students have about the admissions process
- Notifying students of their selection results in the courses and programmes they've applied for here at Universityadmissions.se

Students will be provided with the information and procedure to appeal decisions made regarding eligibility. The Higher Education Appeals Board (Överklagandenämnden) is the Swedish government agency that reviews appeals of specific types of decisions made by universities during the admissions process.

The evaluation criteria to rank the students is based on grades from the bachelor studies and the letter of motivation in the application with a proportion of 50:50.

The admission procedure is as follows:

Step	Step description	Responsibility
1: Regulation	Activate admission system/platform set evaluation criteria	Programme board
2: Application	Application through Universityadmissions.se	SU
3: General eligibility control	Document verification and validation, followed by first screening of general eligibility	SU
4: Specific eligibility control	Students passing the first step can be evaluated for specific eligibility	PU within a track
5: Ranking	Ranking of students according to evaluation criteria	PU within a track
6: Selection	Number of students per study track set and communicated to SU	The board after suggestion from ASSC
7: Payment	The selected students must proceed with participation cost payment followed by transfer to course crediting platform for registration	SU
8: Admission	Info to partners in each Study track and admission	SU

4.7 Student agreement

Before starting the programme, each student and the TRACEE consortium will need to sign a two-party Student Agreement. The Student Agreement is a contract between the student and the programme. It aims to regulate the terms and conditions of the participation of the student in the Programme.

4.8 Enrolment

Students shall be admitted and registered as programme students at all universities within a study track, from day one of the programme, when possible.

5 Residence permit and Insurance

5.1 Residence permit

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have the correct residence permit, visa, registration certificate, or other immigration documentation required for each country in which they study during the programme. The partner universities provide information and support, but all decisions are made by the relevant national authorities. Visa and residence-permit costs are not included in the participation cost.

Students from outside the EU/EEA who will study in Sweden for more than three months normally need a residence permit for studies in Sweden. The application should generally be submitted before travelling to Sweden and must be granted before entry, unless other rules apply. Students who are required to pay the participation cost must have paid the first instalment before applying for the residence permit.

To be granted a Swedish residence permit for studies, students must meet the Swedish Migration Agency's requirements, including final admission to full-time studies, a valid passport, sufficient financial maintenance, and relevant insurance documentation. Students should always check the current requirements directly with the Swedish Migration Agency before applying.

As TRACEE is a two-year programme starting at Stockholm University, non-EU/EEA students are encouraged to apply for a Swedish residence permit covering the full study period, where this is possible. The Swedish Migration Agency may grant a permit for up to two years for studies at Stockholm University, but the permit period is always decided by the Swedish Migration Agency and cannot be longer than the study period or the validity of the student's passport.

EU/EEA citizens who are registered students at a Swedish university do not need to apply for a Swedish residence permit. Swiss citizens follow separate rules and must apply for a residence permit if they plan to stay in Sweden for longer than three months, but they may begin studying after arrival while the application is being processed.

For mobility semesters outside Sweden, students must follow the instructions from the host university and the competent national authorities in the relevant country. Requirements may differ depending on citizenship, residence-permit status, destination country, length of stay, and the type of study activity. Students should therefore check the official information well in advance of each mobility period. For mobility semesters at partner universities outside Sweden, students must follow the instructions from the host university and the competent national authorities. Requirements may differ depending on the student's citizenship, residence-permit status, destination country, length of stay, and type of study activity, for example if the mobility includes an internship or work placement. Students should check the official information well in advance of each mobility period, as regulations, procedures, and costs may change.

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/en/you-want-to-apply/study/higher-education.html>

5.2 Insurance

You are insured throughout the Programme as described below:

Students from the EU/EEA/Switzerland are covered by the general student insurance that applies at Stockholm University during school hours and travel to and from the place of study. These students should also bring a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which gives access to medical care in Sweden at the same cost as Swedish residents. More information:

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-health/insurance/insurance-for-eu-eea-swiss-nordic-citizens>

Fee-paying students from outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland are covered by FAS+ – The Swedish State's Insurance for Fee-Paying Students, provided by Kammarkollegiet. FAS+ is accepted by the Swedish Migration Agency as comprehensive health insurance and applies according to its terms and conditions. More information:

<https://www.kammarkollegiet.se/engelska/start/all-services/insurance/insurance-for-students-and-foreign-visitors/insurance-for-students-who-pay-tuition-fees-fas-and-fasplus/terms-and-conditions-fee-paying-students-fas-2021>

Semesters at PUs other than SU

All students are covered by Student OUT, provided by Kammarkollegiet and ordered by Stockholm University, during mobility periods at partner universities outside Sweden. Student OUT applies during studies or internships abroad, including travel between Sweden and the host country and the study period at the host university, according to its terms and conditions. More information:

<https://www.kammarkollegiet.se/engelska/start/all-services/insurance/insurance-for-students-and-foreign-visitors/insurance-during-education-abroad-student-out>

In addition to the insurance schemes described above, students may be required to obtain additional insurance coverage to meet host-university requirements or national regulations. The partner universities will inform students accordingly. Students should read the applicable terms and conditions before travelling, especially regarding coverage, restrictions and exclusions.

6 Examination

6.1 Examination and assessment

The students' academic performance is assessed according to the examination and assessment methods, criteria, and regulations of the university responsible for the course or part of the programme that is being assessed. More details can be found in each course syllabus of the respective university.

6.2 Grades

The grades received during the programme follow the local regulations at the university where the course is given. A comparison table is used for degree honours at some universities.

ECTS Grading Scale	AMU	NKUA	ULB	UB	UofG	UNIL	UAM	SUR	PLUS	SU	UT		
A	20	9-10	20	10	22 (A1)	6.00	9.5	30+	1	A	1.0-1.3		
	19		19		21 (A2)	5.75		30					
	18		18		20 (A3)	5.50		29					
	17		17		19 (A4)								
	16		16		18 (A5)	5.25							
B	15	8-8.9	15	9	17 (B1)	5.00	8	28	2	B	1.4-2.1		
	14		14		16 (B2)	4.75		27					
C	13	7-7.9	13	8	15 (B3)	4.50	7	26	3	C	2.2-2.8		
	12		12	7	14 (C1)			25					
D	11	6-6.9	11	6	13 (C2)	4.25	6	24	4	D	2.9-3.6		
					12 (C3)			23					
E	10	5-5.9	10	5	11 (D1)	4.00	5	20-21	4	E	3.7-4.0		
					10 (D2)			19-20					
					9 (D3)			18					
FX	9	0-4.9	9	4	8 (E1)	3 - 3.75	4	16-17	5	FX	4.1-5		
	8		8		7 (E2)			14-15					
	7		7		6 (E3)			12-13					
F	6		0-4.9	6	3	5 (F1)	1 - 2.75	3		10-11		F	
	5			5		4 (F2)				8-9			
	4			4	2	3 (F3)		2		6-7			
	3			3		2 (G1)				3-5			
	0-2			0-2	1	1 (G2)		0-1		0-2			

* UNIL only assigns a grade zero when a student does not attend or in case of fraud, plagiarism, cheating or attempt to cheat. Zero cannot be counted in an average mark.

* SU does not assign a grade when a student either fails to show up or hands in a blank exam.

The definitions and honours of the ECTS standard grading table are:

ECTS standard grading scale Definitions and Honours

A	Excellent: Outstanding performance without errors
B	Very Good: Above the average standard but with minor errors
C	Good: Generally sound work with some errors
D	Satisfactory: Fair but with significant shortcomings
E	Adequate: Performance meets the minimum criteria
FX	Fail: some additional work required
F	Fail: much more work required

The course's grading criteria are handed out at the start of the courses in the official documentation of each involved university in the study track.

A passing final grade requires passing grades on all included parts of the course. The final grade of the course is determined by weighing the grades from all course parts, where each grade is weighed in relation to the scope of the course parts.

6.3 Retake an examination

Retake of examination follows the regulations of the university responsible for the course or part of the programme that is being assessed.

7 Academic Degree

Students will receive a degree from Stockholm University and from the universities involved in the respective study track. The process of issuing the diploma varies from university to university. Some universities will deliver a single degree certificate whereas others will deliver a joint degree certificate in the study track.

The details of the academic degree are detailed in the annex for each study track.

7.1 Transfer of credits

Before each university can issue a diploma, it needs to be ensured that all the credits of the curriculum are recorded at each university meaning that both the necessary courses and the transfer of credits are completed at each corresponding university.

The system of credits used in most of the CIVIS universities is the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

The University of Glasgow uses the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). The equivalence of credit points for the University of Glasgow with ECTS is done by multiplying the number of ECTS credits by two to convert to SCQF and by dividing the number of SCQF Credit Points by two to convert to ECTS.

Partner University	AMU	NKUA	ULB	UB	UofG	UNIL	UAM	SUR	PLUS	SU	UT
System	ECTS	ECTS	ECTS	ECTS	SCQF	ECTS	ECTS	ECTS	ECTS	ECTS	ECTS
Necessary credits for the degree	120	120	120	120	240	120	120	120	120	120	120

7.2 Academic degree

Students will receive a degree from Stockholm University and from the universities hosting a student within a study track. The process of issuing the diploma varies from university to university. Depending on the study track, universities will deliver multiple degrees, a joint degree, or a combination of both:

Study track name	Awarding universities	Degree type	Degree Title
ST1: Environmental Humanities and Law	SU	Multiple	Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science
	PLUS	Joint	Master in Transdisciplinary Studies of Climate, Environment and Energy
	UB		
ST2: Environmental Social Sciences	SU	Multiple	Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science
	UofG	Multiple	International Masters in Environmental Social Science
	UB	Multiple	Master in Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Socio-ecological Transformations
ST3: Energy and matter	SU	Multiple	Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science
	UAM	Multiple	Master in Energy and Fuels for the Future (Local 60 ECTS)
	UB	Multiple	Master in Nature-centered Approach to Sustainability
ST4: Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology	SU	Joint	Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science
	UT		Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Studies of Climate, Environment and Energy
	UB		
ST5: Environmental Geoscience	SU	Multiple	Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science
	UofG	Multiple	International Masters in Environmental GeoScience
	AMU	Multiple	Master Sciences de la Terre et des planètes, environnement
ST6: Climate Change Science	SU	Joint	Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science
	NKUA		Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Studies of Climate, Environment and Energy
	UT		
ST7: Environmental Risk and Mitigation	SU	multiple	Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science
	UNIL	multiple	Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Science
	SUR	multiple	Master of Science in Sciences and Teaching of Natural Systems
ST8: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change	SU	Multiple	Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science
	PLUS	Joint	Master in Transdisciplinary Studies of Climate, Environment and Energy
	ULB		
ST9: Global Change Biology	SU	Multiple	Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Environmental Science
	SUR	Multiple	Master of Science in Sciences and Teaching of Natural Systems
	AMU	Multiple	Master Biodiversité, Écologie et Évolutionin

7.3 Degree certificate application

More information will be provided during the course of the programme.

7.4 End of programme conference

More information will be provided during the course of the programme.

8 Academic calendar

The first semester corresponds to the autumn semester at Stockholm university. It starts in late August/early September and continues until mid-January.

The second and third semester dates vary depending on the mobility path in each study track and are available in the corresponding annex of the student handbook.

The fourth and last semester is dedicated to the degree project and dates may vary depending on the selected path and place of registration.

9 Support and guidance during the programme

9.1 Pre arrival information

For you to be well prepared for your journey in the TRACEE master, you will receive information to support you and ensure everything is in order before the start of the programme. Additionally, before each semester begins within your study track, the host university will organise information sessions.

Stockholm University hosts a series of live webinars for newly admitted students. These webinars cover everything you need to know after receiving your admission results and before arriving in Sweden and starting the TRACEE master.

<https://www.su.se/english/education/a-smooth-start/pre-departure-information>

9.2 Arrival and welcome activities

The programme starts at Stockholm University where a series of welcome activities, including an arrival service, are organised at the beginning of the first semester. The activities are designed to assist you as a new student and introduce you to university life in Stockholm and also within the CIVIS Alliance. Attendance to these events is optional, but we highly recommend attending in order for you to familiarise yourself with the campus and the support available for students, as well as to make friends!

<https://www.su.se/english/education/a-smooth-start/welcome-activities>

Each programme cohort will be welcomed to TRACEE in form of a programme kick-off at Stockholm University. During the kick-off both academic and/or administrative staff from all partner universities will participate on site and/or online. The programme content, cohort-specific details, student services, study track details and the path through the programme as well as expected outcomes from the programme will be introduced and discussed. Importantly, we see the kick-off as a first opportunity to start welding all different academic and cultural backgrounds of the cohort, also introducing expertise within the consortium academic staff to the students. At the programme kick-off each student and the consortium will sign the individual student contracts.

Each mobility path will then include welcome activities for each of the receiving universities for the second and third semester detailed in the corresponding annex of the student handbook.

9.3 Study and career counselling

Starting the programme at Stockholm University, you will be introduced to the study and career counselling services that can provide help during the whole programme. Additionally, each host university within your study track will provide local support related to your studies.

You can connect with our study counsellors in several ways: in person, by telephone, or online. They offer individual guidance and support to help you make a well-informed decision about your studies and career.

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-support/study-and-career-counselling>

9.4 Alumni

Information about all partner universities' alumni's careers will be published on the programme website in line with relevant data protection regulations.

Programme alumni will be encouraged and supported to establish a TRACEE Alumni Association, to build a stronger TRACEE identity. A first step is the creation of a LinkedIn group open to all students, alumni, teaching staff, visiting educators and associated partners. The objective of this new networking tool is to increase visibility of the programme and broaden alumni's career opportunities.

A strong sense of belonging to the programme, and a common programme identity are of great importance for the consortium – not only within each cohort, but also between cohorts, and between active students and alumni. The aim is to have each academic year's kick-off become a meeting place for all said groups, together with the academic and administrative staff working with the programme. The same adjoined meeting place will be the end-of-programme conference, concluding each cohort. External stakeholders, linked to the programme's educational activities, will also be invited to participate at such events, on site or online.

9.5 Language

As TRACEE student, you will find it easy to navigate daily life in English, as Europe has a high level of non-native English proficiency. However, immersing yourself in the local language of the partner university will deepen your understanding of different cultures, help you build social connections, and strengthen your CV if you plan to work internationally in the future.

As TRACEE student you are encouraged to develop your language skills and take the opportunity to learn and practice the languages that you will encounter during your mobilities within the programme. Therefore, you are welcome to the Language Learning Resource Centre (Språkstudion) at SU during your first semester, where Language Cafés are organised, as well as tandem language exchange programme, where you are matched with a language buddy to mutually practice each other's languages.

<https://www.su.se/english/divisions/sprakstudion-language-learning-resource-centre/about-sprakstudion/language-cafes>

<https://www.su.se/english/divisions/sprakstudion-language-learning-resource-centre/about-sprakstudion/find-a-language-buddy>

9.6 Writing

The Academic Writing Service provides free English-language support for writing and study skills. Services include talks, seminars, and individual guidance to help you improve your academic performance.

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-support/academic-writing-service>

9.7 Bank

Depending on the study path, information on bank account might be specified in the corresponding annex of the study track. It is not required to open a bank account in each of the visited country during the mobility in your studies.

10 Support and guidance during the first semester

10.1 Housing

While there is no guaranteed housing, each host university typically provides guidance to help you find accommodation. Since the programme involves multiple mobilities, you will need to arrange housing in multiple locations.

10.2 Living expenses

Like in most cities, the cost of living in Stockholm largely depends on your individual lifestyle and habits. Students in Stockholm should budget at least 11,214 SEK per month to cover their living expenses. Accommodation will likely account for the largest portion of your monthly budget. The cost of rent varies depending on the location, size, and type of housing. For a detailed breakdown of what a typical monthly budget might look like, you can visit SU's page on living costs.

<https://www.su.se/english/education/new-in-sweden/living-costs>

10.3 Public transport

Navigating Stockholm with public transport is easy and convenient, thanks to its comprehensive and well-integrated system.

You can travel from Arlanda Airport to Stockholm city centre by Arlanda Express, commuter train (SL Pendeltåg), or Flygbussarna airport bus. Taxis are also available.

To reach Frescati campus by metro (Tunnelbana) from the central station, take the red line towards Mörby Centrum and get off at Universitetet (The University). You can also explore other routes and plan your journey using Stockholm Public Transport (SL) online resources.

10.4 Finding your way on campus

Stockholm University is home to multiple campuses, each offering a unique environment for study and exploration. The main campus, Frescati, is known for its beautiful natural surroundings, is just 20 minutes from the city centre. Nearby, the sustainable Albano campus, inaugurated in 2023, provides state-of-the-art facilities and fosters collaboration.

At Stockholm University's various campuses, there are designated resting rooms, known as "vilorum," available for students and staff. These rooms provide a quiet space for rest and are located in different buildings. In the Student House, there are also nursing rooms.

Additionally, contemplation rooms, known as "andrum", are open to all students and staff, regardless of religious affiliation or belief. These spaces offer a peaceful environment for reflection, meditation, or prayer.

The university's website provides detailed information on the locations, opening hours, usage guidelines, and contact details for these rooms.

<https://www.su.se/english/about-the-university/about-our-campus>

10.5 Stockholm University library

Located in Frescati, the University Library offers full access to books, journals, articles and databases, in printed and digital formats. The University Library's staff are experts in searching for information and managing references, and will gladly show you how to search, select and critically examine scientific resources. <https://www.su.se/stockholm-university-library/>

10.6 Student health

The student health webpage provides essential information about your health and study environment at Stockholm University. A supportive and well-functioning study environment is a priority at the university, encompassing everything from study spaces and teaching modes to unwritten rules of behaviour.

You can also explore resources to support your well-being, including student health services, which offer individual counselling, group sessions, workshops, and other activities to help you achieve your full academic and personal potential.

Additionally, you will find details about student insurance. Students are covered by different insurance policies depending on their status, so it is important to understand which category you belong to. Lastly, the page provides guidance on what to do if you become ill or face an emergency during your time at Stockholm University.

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-health>

10.7 Special needs /Disability support

Stockholm University provides various types of study support for students with long-term disabilities, aiming to ensure that all students have the opportunity to study on equal terms.

The support is designed to facilitate your studies in a way that is reasonable, taking into account your specific disability, course requirements, and intended learning outcomes. Applications for disability study support are managed by the staff at Disability Services.

Students with a medically documented long-term disability—defined as a condition that has lasted or is expected to last at least six months—are eligible to apply for support.

You can find more information about the different types of disabilities and the application process on this page.

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-support/studying-with-a-disability>

10.8 Student Union/Organisation

Stockholm University has three student unions—one large and two departmental—alongside Faculty Clubs and Student Union Associations.

The student unions represent students' interests, ensuring their voice is heard in education and university decisions. They also play a key role in social life, influencing areas like course planning, housing, and even coffee prices.

Faculty Clubs bring together students from the same or similar disciplines and organise activities such as student pubs, seminars, and career fairs. Student Union Associations are open to all students and cater to diverse interests, offering a wide range of extracurricular activities.

The Student Union membership gives you access to a wide variety of benefits and discounts on everything from course literature and lunch to public transportation and training.

You will find a full list of these organisations and details about memberships on the webpage of the student union.

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-life/student-unions>

10.9 IT Services

Stockholm University provides a range of IT tools and services to assist students throughout their academic journey. On these pages, you'll find information on how to access wireless networks, IT support, printers, software licences, and other essential digital tools that you may need during your studies.

<https://www.su.se/english/education/it-for-students>

10.10 Swedish courses

The Department of Swedish Language and Multilingualism offers a range of Swedish courses specifically designed for international students.

<https://www.su.se/english/divisions/department-of-swedish-language-and-multilingualism/education/courses-and-programmes/swedish-for-international-students?eventopenforinternationalstudents>

11 The study track 9: Global Change Biology

The study track Global Change Biology (ST9) equips students with a deep understanding of biodiversity, ecological interactions, and the impacts of global change on ecosystems.

11.1 The vision of the study track

Students will be prepared through a combination of scientific theory and practical, field-based skills to address complex environmental challenges using cutting-edge methods in biodiversity conservation and ecological analysis. The study track provides students with a well-rounded skill set in ecological research, statistical modelling, and project management, blending rigorous scientific training with hands-on experience.

11.2 Target group of students: Entry requirements

ST9 is aimed at students with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Science or equivalent, especially those specialised in Biology.

11.3 Intended learning outcomes of the study track

In addition to the learning outcomes for the programme, the student will, at the end of ST9, be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to apply an interdisciplinary approach and systems thinking in Global Change Biology, integrating knowledge of biotic and abiotic interactions, evolutionary history, and responses to past, present, and future climatic and environmental changes.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the scientific method, including designing and conducting investigations, applying knowledge to real-world biodiversity challenges, and staying updated on advancements in the field.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate and debate biodiversity management and preservation with diverse audiences, critically evaluate the ethical and social dimensions of interventions, and promote naturalistic awareness.
- Demonstrate the ability to independently acquire and update knowledge, adapt to diverse cultural perspectives, and enhance cross-border collaboration and language skills.

12 Structure overview of the study track 9

The study track is divided in 4 semesters of 30 ECTS each for a total of 120 ECTS.

The study track takes place at Stockholm University (SU), Sapienza University of Rome (SUR) and Aix-Marseille University (AMU).

- The first semester corresponds to the programme common core. It takes place in Stockholm, Sweden (SU) in autumn and is described in the Student Handbook.

Autumn semester 2026: 31 August 2026 – 17 January 2027

- The second semester is the first part of the study track specialisation in Global Change Biology. It takes place during the spring semester in Rome, Italy (SUR).

Spring semester 2027: [Start date and end dates to be decided]

- The third semester is the second part of the study track specialisation in Global Change Biology. It takes place during the autumn semester of the second year in Marseille, France (AMU)

Autumn semester 2027: [Start date and end dates to be decided]

- The fourth and last semester is dedicated to the final degree project, the Master's thesis. It takes place during the spring semester 2028 at SU, SUR or AMU.

SU: 17 January 2028 – 4 June 2028

SUR: [Start date and end dates to be decided]

AMU: [Start date and end dates to be decided]

Study track	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
STg: Global Change Biology	SU	SUR	AMU	SU or SUR or AMU
	Common Core	Study Track	Study Track	Master's thesis
		Transdisciplinary stream		

13 Study track content overview

The study track overview by study progress is presented below:

University	Code	Module Title	S1	S2	S3	S4	Total ECTS
SU	Mandatory	Climate, Environment, and Energy – a Transdisciplinary Perspective • Systems Thinking (3 ECTS) • Climate, Environment and Energy – A Natural Science Perspective (9 ECTS) • Climate, Environment and Energy – A Social Science Perspective (9 ECTS) • Climate, Environment and Energy – A Humanities Perspective (6 ECTS) • Creating Knowledge Through Transdisciplinary Methods (3 ECTS)	30				30
SUR	Mandatory	Global Change Biology		6			30
	Mandatory	Conservation of Forest Resources		6			
	Mandatory	Plant Paleoecology and Evolution		6			
	Mandatory	Paleoclimatology		6			
	Mandatory	Chemometrics		6			
AMU	Mandatory	Biogeography: Past and Present			3		30
	Mandatory	Biotic Interactions (3 ECTS)			3		
	Mandatory	Ecosystems Functioning: Global Changes and Ecosystem Services (6 ECTS)			6		
	Mandatory	Sampling Strategies and Statistical Modelling of Ecological Systems (3 ECTS)			3		
	Mandatory	Statistical Modelling for Functional and Spatial Ecology (3 ECTS)			3		
	Mandatory	Implementing the Scientific Approach: Collaborative Field Schools (6 ECTS)			6		
	Mandatory	Expert Approach to Ecology (3 ECTS)			3		
	Conditionally Elective	Professional Tools, 1 among 2 in the list provided: • Science Workshop: From State of the Art to Mediation (3 ECTS) • Setting Up Projects – Public Procurement – Entrepreneurship (3 ECTS)			3		
SU / SUR / AMU	Mandatory	Master's thesis				30	30
			30	30	30	30	120

14 Your semester at Sapienza University of Rome (SUR)

14.1 Arrival and welcome activities

To help you settle in at SUR, we run a **Welcome Week** in September and February fully dedicated to international students. We will help you find your way around, settle in, learn about your courses and faculty and make new friends. Detailed information on the Welcome week agenda and activities will be available on our website 2-3 weeks prior to your arrival.

The Hello Help Desk is a welcoming office providing in-depth and customised information to international students who wish to study, conduct research or participate in internships at Sapienza University. Hello provides also a first contact service that helps students in contacting the right offices and people. The Hello Help Desk is staffed by 100 Sapienza students from all around the world with an excellent knowledge of the English language. Students can request information on enrolment, undergraduate and graduate degrees, specialisation schools, PhDs, master courses, internships, individual courses and thesis research. The Hello helpdesk also organises visits of the University campus for international students. The Hello information desk fulfils its activities in the venue located under the dean's building porch. In order to benefit from the infodesk service you do not need an appointment.

More information:

HELLO - International Student Help Desk: Rectorate (Aula Magna Colonnade) of the main Campus, Office hours: Monday – Friday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, E-mail: hello@uniroma1.it

14.2 Visa and residence permit

14.2.1 Visa and Customs

EU citizens do not need a visa to enter Italy. However, if your stay will be longer than three months, you will need to register at the Anagrafe of the Comune where you live. Non-EU citizens have to apply for a student visa at the Italian Embassy or Consulate in their home country. Please keep in mind that you can only apply for your visa after having received confirmation of your admission to the university. The full list of documents required for visa application is available on Italian Embassy websites and on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: (www.esteri.it/MAE/EN).

If you are travelling from a Schengen country, there is usually no passport control at the airport (in compliance with the Schengen agreement). If you are travelling from a non-Schengen country, you will undergo a passport and visa check. Please make sure you have all the required documents.

14.2.2 Airport Security

You may be stopped at the airport and asked additional security questions. If you encounter any problems on arrival or if you have any concerns regarding your passage through immigration/ passport control, please ask the Immigration Officer to contact Sapienza International Office by telephone (Tel. 06 4991 0789 From Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm).

14.2.3 Residence permit

All non-EU citizens who intend to stay in Italy for longer than 3 months must apply for a residence permit within 8 working days from their arrival in Italy. Please note:

- This does not apply to students from a European Union member state (or EU equivalent states)

- If you lose your residence permit you will have to reapply following the instructions below.

How to Apply: Pick up a residence permit kit at any post office. There is one on the main campus by the Viale Regina Elena entrance or you can go to the main post office branches either at Piazza San Silvestro or Piazza Bologna (10 minute walk from the main campus). Complete the application form using a black pen and attach photocopies of the required documents along with 15 a tax revenue stamp (ask for a €16 *marca da bollo* at any tobacconist). Instructions are included in the Residence permit Kit; however, if you are unsure or have any difficulties, you can ask for assistance at our International Office or at the HELLO Office.

Once you have completed your application form, you need to present it at the post office. On filling your application, you will have to pay around €130 (for the Residence permit procedure). The post office will give you a receipt for your application, which is your proof of having applied for the residence permit and also indicates the date/time/place of your appointment with the Immigration Office (Police). You will have to go to the appointment to complete the application for your residence permit. For the first appointment, you must bring 4 passport-sized ID photos with a white background, one of which will be attached to your residence permit.

14.2.4 Tax code

The Tax code (*Codice Fiscale*) is an alphanumerical code based on your first name, family name and date and place of birth. It is used by the public administration to identify citizens living in Italy. Everyone living in Italy must have one. The Codice Fiscale is also necessary to apply for a residence permit, to open a bank account, to sign a rent agreement, to obtain a canteen card and for many other procedures/ activities.

You will be able to apply for your tax code directly on campus during the Welcome Week that is organised for incoming students. Should you not be able to attend the welcome event, you can apply at the Agenzia delle Entrate (Via Ippolito Nievo 36) when you arrive in Rome. Office Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 7:50 am – 1:30 pm and Tues-Thursday 7:50 am – 3:30 pm The office is located about 500m from the Trastevere train station and can be reached with tram n. 8 or bus no. 3 or 780, getting off at the Piazza Ippolito Nievo stop.

The Italian Embassy/Consulate in your country of residence could also issue your tax code before your departure.

14.3 Housing

Sapienza University does not have student housing per se, but offers a series of affiliated housing agreements and recommendations. The Sapienza website provides constantly updated information on housing opportunities, rental agencies, etc. Private Accommodation On average, prices for a private room in a shared apartment range from €350 to € 550 (or higher) per month, depending on district/area. Please note that you will also be required to pay a 1-3 month deposit when you sign a contract. Always demand a signed receipt of payment, if it is not given to you.

14.4 Living expenses

Rome is not a cheap city, but it is much cheaper than many other European cities and there are plenty of reasonably priced and low-cost alternatives for students. Food is great and generally inexpensive, especially if you shop at a supermarket or local market stalls. Eating out, movies and other leisure activities are, again, less expensive than many other European capitals. A meal at a restaurant will vary depending on where and what you wish to have, but a pizza and a beer in a pizzeria costs about €10-15, unless of course you are in the heart of the tourist city centre! Public transportation in the city is also relatively cheap - €1.50 per journey - and much cheaper if you invest in a monthly or yearly pass. Trains are also far cheaper than in other European cities. Moreover, you can take advantage of a large range of student offers and

discounts available at clubs, museums, sporting events, etc. Your greatest expense will be housing, depending on which area of Rome you choose.

On average, you will need at least €800-900/month to live in Rome. Although you only need proof of about €450/month to apply for your student VISA, please be warned that this is not enough to live in Rome.

A word of advice:

Do not make any advance payments from abroad. Make sure to meet with the person who is providing the accommodation when you arrive in Rome before making any payments and if you have any doubts do not hesitate to contact the Welcome Office for advice. To obtain a visa, you may require proof of accommodation (a receipt or letter attesting your accommodation). If this is the case, temporary accommodation at a hostel or bed and breakfast will provide you with the necessary proof without having to spend large amounts of money from abroad.

Unfortunately, due to the high demand for student housing in Rome, some landlords take advantage of the enormous influx of students by trying to rent their properties to students without an official rental contract. Clearly, this leaves the tenant unprotected and is illegal under Italian law. Bill no. 23/2011 has made it easier to report dishonest landlords and force them to provide you with a legal contract.

Like any major city, Rome has its problems. Although it's a relatively secure city in terms of personal safety, you should pay special attention to your purse, wallet and other personal belongings when you are on public transport (buses, subway, trains, etc.). If you take a Taxi, make sure that the driver activates the meter and only charges you for correct supplements. These are all listed and detailed in Italian and English on laminated posters on the back seats of all taxis.

Should you lose or have your wallet stolen, you must go to a Police or Carabinieri station to file a declaration. Also don't forget to block your ATM card with your bank and any credit cards via phone or web.

14.5 Bank

You can open a bank account at any bank in Italy by presenting the following documents:

- Tax identification code (codice fiscale)
- Passport and Visa
- Letter of invitation/acceptance by host university (where applicable).

You can also choose to open a BancoPosta account at Poste Italiane (Italian Post Office). Unicredit bank and Poste Italiane have a branch at the Sapienza University main campus.

14.6 Public transport

Metrebus, Rome's public transport system, integrates a variety of different transport services: underground/tube, urban trains, buses and trams. There are several different types of Metrebus tickets that can be bought at ticket offices, newsagents, tabacconists and automatic machines in stations. You should not board on the public transport without a ticket. Please remember that you must always validate your ticket at the beginning of your journey and when transferring onto the metro (your ticket must be re-stamped within 100 minutes from the first validation stamp and is then valid until the end of your journey on the metro). It is only valid for one metro journey, but you can take more than one bus. You must keep your ticket with you while travelling on public transport and be ready to show it, on request, to ticket inspectors.

Types of Tickets:

BIT - Integrated Time Ticket: it costs € 1.50 and lasts 100 minutes from the initial validation; only one metro or train journey is permitted.

Daily Pass: it costs €7 and is valid for 24 hours from first validation for an unrestricted number of journeys.

Monthly Pass: it costs €35 and lasts for the calendar month, as printed on the pass, for one person for an unrestricted number of journeys; you can buy a monthly pass from any tobacconist and news agency up to the fifth day of each calendar month; starting on the sixth day of each month, the pass can only be purchased from ticket offices and ATAC sales points; the holder must complete the pass with his/her personal details. Holders must show their pass along with some form of ID to ticket inspectors.

Annual Pass: it costs €250 and is valid for 365 days from the date stamped on the pass; it can be purchased at any ATAC ticket office by filling out the forms and attaching a passport photograph.

Need help figuring out your route? Use the ATAC wizard: <https://viaggiacoon.atac.roma.it/>

Taxis in Rome are white. They have an identification name and number on the front door and all have meters. They can be easily found in every part of the city at special taxi stops or you can call one of the numerous radio-taxi companies at: 06 3570, 06 6645, 06 8822, 06 4157, 06 4994 or 06 5551.

14.7 Navigating campus

Find your way around Sapienza campuses without getting lost! Sapienza Virtual Tour is an app that works on any device and helps you easily locate offices, structures, lecture halls, libraries, labs, museums and student offices.

Sapienza Virtual Tour

Sapienza Maps

14.8 Student health

Upon arrival in Italy, all international students must prove adequate health coverage. EU citizens and non-EU citizens access healthcare differently. In Italy, assistance, registration and activation of health coverage are provided by ASL (Aziende Sanitarie Locali).

EU citizens can access medical services in Italy and all EU countries with their European Health Insurance Card (or E106 form). The EHIC allows free access to general practitioners, hospitals and A&E services (including surgical services). A co-payment is required for specific examinations or specialist visits.

Non-EU citizens must have private health insurance with specific requirements, approved by the Consulate/Embassy issuing the visa. Alternatively, they may choose to register with the Italian National Health Service (Italian acronym SSN) by paying a fee. The registration fee is to be paid by postal order addressed to: "Amministrazione P.T. - contributo Servizio Sanitario Nazionale", C/C number 370007", inserting the reason for payment in Italian "Iscrizione volontaria al Servizio Sanitario Nazionale" (Voluntary registration with the National Health Service). Once the payment has been made, you can register with the nearest ASL by presenting the following documents:

- Certificate of residence (or self-certification)
- Valid ID card/passport
- Tax code (codice fiscale)
- University enrolment certificate (or self-certification)

What to do in case of a medical emergency

Call the free number 118 (ambulance) or go to the nearest hospital or "guardia medica" (out-of-hours service doctor). At the A&E, the patient is colour-coded according to the severity of their

situation (in order of severity: red, yellow, green, white), which determines the priority with which they will be treated. In the case of a white code, waiting times can be very long.

For minor health problems, it is advisable to contact your GP directly. If necessary, they will refer you to a specialist check-up and provide you with the required documentation. To book an appointment for a specialist examination, call the toll-free number 80 33 33 (CUP - Centro Unico Prenotazione) and tell them which service your GP requires.

Remember always to carry your health/insurance card (tessera/assicurazione sanitaria) and your residence permit.

Emergency numbers (toll-free):

- 112 General Emergency
- 113 Police
- 115 Fire Brigade
- 116 Car Rescue Service
- 118 Emergency Medical Care
- On-campus emergency services: 800 811 192

14.9 Life on Campus

Settling into a different environment and adjusting to new situations can be challenging, but SUR provides students with a variety of extra-curricular activities, services and counselling. We truly hope you will enjoy your time at Sapienza and make the most of it both academically and personally.

14.9.1 Libraries

With 6,000 seats, Sapienza's 46 libraries provide you with the largest university library holdings in Italy, made out of 2.7 million books and scientific journals, supported by around 160 librarians. And if you want to stay at home, by accessing online, you can read over 20,000 ebooks and more than 44,000 electronic journals and consult more than 170 databases for research. But there is much more: reading rooms open even at night, computer stations, courses on how to carry out bibliographic research or compile a bibliography, cultural activities such as book clubs, bibliographic exhibitions and bookcrossing zones.

SUR offers you:

- more than 40 libraries organised in 120 branches (map)
- Bookable rooms for study groups
- 2.7 million items such as books, journals, movies, maps, printed music, etc.
- Borrow services
- 20,000 e-books, 44,000 e-journals, about 170 databases, also available off campus
- Reference services face to face and by email
- Classes about how to perform a bibliographic research or how to compile a bibliography
- Cultural activities such as reading circles, bibliographic exhibitions, bookcrossing
- Paid internships in libraries
- More than 160 librarians.

All these services are free for Sapienza users.

14.9.2 24H Reading Rooms

Sapienza has five 24-hour reading rooms equipped with WIFI and electrical outlets for the use of personal devices. Access is reserved to regularly enrolled Sapienza students holding

the student card. Addresses, opening hours and requirements for access are available on the dedicated webpage.

14.10 ICT Services

You can use the campus Wi-Fi by selecting "Sapienza" from the available wireless networks. International students can access the network by using their enrolment identification number (matricola) as a username and their Infostud password.

The Student Information System Infostud, which is accessible from the student section of the Sapienza website, is the main tool to manage administrative procedures for students, including: registration, booking exams, viewing completed exams, printing forms and certificates such as the university fee paying slip, degree records with completed exams, enrolment certificates, etc. Infostud allows students to print certificates and documents with the University digital stamp of certification. Exchange students can use InfoStud for exam registration only. The results of the exams taken during the stay at Sapienza will be included in the official Transcript of Records issued by Sapienza International Office (non-EU students) or the Faculty (Erasmus+ EU students).

All enrolled students have a free Google account for Sapienza students. Your e-mail format will be: surname.name@studenti.uniroma1.it. The university will use this account for all communications. Sapienza E-mail Account

The ITC Infosapienza Centre manages our university's Moodle system. The Moodle platform also allows for the creation of communities of students and teachers aimed at sharing information, stimulating debate and spreading good study habits. The system currently includes more than 1,000 courses involving almost 70,000 students and over 1,000 professors from all the Faculties.

14.11 Canteens

To eat at the university canteens, you have to apply for a canteen card. Please contact the specific referee of your programme (Erasmus+; Mobility Confap Italy; etc.) for further information.

Canteens:

- Via De Lollis 22 Mon–Fri 11:45 am–3:00 pm and 6:45 pm–9:00 pm; Sat 11:45 am–3:00 pm 23
- Via del Castro Laurenziano, 9 Mon - Sat 11:30 am–3:00 pm
- Via delle Sette Sale, 19 Mon–Fri 11:45 am–2:30 pm

14.12 Leisure & Free Time

To help international students get most out of everyday life at Sapienza there are a number of student groups, clubs and organisations keen to involve new international members. These include:

- Sapienza Sport: web.uniroma1.it/sapienzasport/
- Music at Sapienza (MuSa) Orchestras:
 - Classical MuSa (orchestra and chamber music);
 - MuSa Jazz (bands and solo musicians);
 - MuSa Choir (vocalist groups devoted to polyphonic and choral music).
- University Concert Institution (IUC) Lungotevere Flaminio 50, 00196 Rome. E-mail: botteghino@istituzioneuniversitariadeiconcerti.it
- Theatron – Ancient Theatre at Sapienza Piazzale Aldo Moro, 5 - E-mail: theatron@uniroma1.it

- Erasmus Student Network – Sapienza www.esn-roma.it. Student discounts are available for a wide range of products and services, as well as sports and cultural activities, both on and off campus.

14.13 Well-being, special needs and disability support

At SUR, we are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all our students throughout their time with us. You may take care of your health and well-being thanks to free-of-charge services as well as highly qualified medical staff and specialists. We provide nutrition and stop smoking services, a guidance to choosing your general practitioner and much more.

Sapienza Salute (Sapienza health and wellness counselling) offers health and wellness counselling services to all members of our community (students, academic and administrative staff), creating a virtual and virtuous bridge between Sapienza and Policlinico Umberto I General Hospital, Sant'Andrea Hospital and Polo Pontino.

Prevention is better than cure. SUR provides students with tools that can be useful to prevent the most common diseases amongst university students. Click the following links for more information:

- Sports in CUS Facilities (in Italian)
- Gong - Sapienza Nutrition Services (in Italian)
- Protect Your Love (in Italian)
- Unitab – Tobaccology Unit (in Italian)

14.13.1 Mental Health Counselling Service

Good health is about physical, mental and social well-being. Studying at a university is a delicate phase in any young person's life. It often involves a completely new environment and profoundly different studying requirements than what many students experienced in high school. Students have different relations with professors and their peers. And all of this often leads to new hardships and often innocuous habits can turn into dangerous psychological and physical habits. The purpose of this service is to provide students with useful tools for recognizing a state of distress or dependency and to offer the support needed to embark on the pathway out of such conditions. **Do you not feel at ease with yourself or around others? Do you have emotional or motivational difficulties?** If you wish, you can contact one of our Psychological Counselling Centres or attend "Noi bene" (Italian)

14.13.2 Services for Disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties

All Sapienza students with disabilities and LD, that are officially certified as being equal to or above 66% have the right to specific services to help them with their academic career, allow access to all university facilities and provide full inclusion. You will need to register with the Sapienza Disabilities Office (Sportello per le relazioni con studenti disabili) to take advantage of these services. For further information: Office for students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties

The Rector of Sapienza University appoints a Delegate for the Integration of Students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties and to coordinate, monitor and support the initiatives necessary to promote the active participation of students in university life (L. 17/1999). In addition, each Faculty has a lecturer as a Contact Person for the active participation of students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties.

14.13.3 Self-help groups for students on the autism spectrum

The self-help groups for students on the autism spectrum provide a safe context to confront and open up to new reflections on the problems experienced, to access new solutions and, in

general, feel less alone and alienated. At Sapienza University there are two on-campus groups and an online group. More information.

14.13.4 Technical-Scientific Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

The Scientific-Technical Committee on Diversity and Inclusion has been set up in order to favour the processes of inclusion and combat any form of discrimination, direct or indirect, within the University. The Scientific-Technical Committee on Diversity and Inclusion will work in close contact with the University Governance, to implement strategic plans and initiatives aimed at enhancing the potential of individuals, supporting equality and integration, promoting collaboration and the creation of new networks, both internal and external, to favour policies for inclusion. Scientific-Technical Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.

14.13.5 Accessibility

SUR is committed to providing disabled students with accessibility to all university services. Many buildings have undergone renovation to allow greater accessibility, but not all barriers have been eliminated to date because of the sheer size of the university, as well as cultural heritage restrictions that have often made it hard to achieve a correct balance between conservation and accessibility.

14.14 Spiritual life

Rome is a large, multi-ethnic city that caters to followers of many different religions. A listing of the major places of worship in Rome is available at: tavolointerreligioso.org/luoghi-di-culto-a-roma/

In the main Campus there is a catholic church: Cappella Universitaria,
<http://www.cappelladellasapienza.it/>

14.15 Language courses

The main goal of Sapienza Language Centre (<https://cla.web.uniroma1.it/en>) is to coordinate and expand the whole spectrum of language acquisition opportunities and provide excellent language learning conditions to both internal and external students, administrative and academic staff. We offer a variety of services, including the organisation and implementation of language courses and advising on all aspects of language learning. Italian language courses are free of charge for all students who wish to attend them. If you want a certificate for your Italian level, Sapienza is an authorised exam centre of DITALS, so you can take the test in Sapienza.

The Centro Linguistico di Ateneo also organises courses for all students in the following languages:

- French (intermediate)
- Spanish (beginner and intermediate)
- Persian (beginner)
- Romanian (beginner)
- Chinese (beginner)
- Greek (beginner and intermediate)

14.15.1 BiblioTandem

It is a cultural-linguistic exchange that brings Italian and international students at Sapienza to improve their language skills by experiencing other cultures and lifestyles. BiblioTandem is an opportunity for incoming students to meet native-speaker students of the same Faculty. The service is available in the following libraries:

- C. Darwin Biology and Biotechnology Library. For information bibliotecadarwin@uniroma1.it

- Physics Library. For information biblioteca@roma1.infn.it
- "Gabriello Illuminati" Library. For information bibliotecailluminati@uniroma1.it
- "Guido Castelnuovo" Mathematics Library. For information biblioteca@mat.uniroma1.it
- Environmental Biology Library. For information bibliodba@uniroma1.it

15 Your semester at Aix-Marseille University (AMU)

15.1 Visa application

Depending on their country of origin and programme, international students may need to complete consular procedures before the semester.

You must start the process of obtaining the necessary authorisations for your stay in France well in advance. Without a visa and a valid passport, you will not be able to come and study at our university, so this is a crucial step!

Students who are nationals of a country in the European Union or the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland do not need to complete any specific consular procedures. However, they must hold a valid identity card (or passport) for the entire duration of their stay. Students from outside the European Union, the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland should use the visa assistant on the France-Visas website to check, based on your country of residence and your plans, whether a visa application is required. Please note that as part of your visa application, you will need to prove that you have sufficient funds to support yourself in France. The amount officially required by the French authorities is €615 per month.

1) Applying for and obtaining a VLS-TS student visa (before arriving in France)

The most commonly issued visa is the Long-Stay Visa serving as a Residence permit (VLS-TS) marked 'student'. The application must be made to the French consular authorities. Once the visa has been granted, it allows you to enter France and stay there legally for a period of between 4 months and 1 year, without having to take any immediate action at the prefecture.

2) Mandatory validation of the VLS-TS after arrival in France

Within 3 months of your arrival in France, you must validate your VLS-TS online. This step ensures your visa is fully valid as a residence permit. Validation is carried out on the dedicated page on the official website of the Ministry of the Interior.

You will need to:

- provide your personal details
- state your date of entry into France
- pay the relevant residence tax

A validation certificate will be issued to you: please keep this in a safe place.

3) Staying in France whilst the VLS-TS is valid

Once validated, the VLS-TS:

- serves as a residence permit
- allows you to study in France
- authorises you to work up to 964 hours per year (approximately 20 hours per week)

Please note: no further action is required as long as your visa is valid.

4) Applying for a residence permit at the end of the VLS-TS

As the VLS-TS is valid for a limited period, you will need to apply for a residence permit if you wish to continue your stay beyond its expiry date.

If you hold a VLS-TS marked 'student', you can apply for:

- a temporary student residence permit (valid for 1 year), or
- a multi-year student residence permit (valid for 2 to 4 years), subject to conditions

The renewal application must be made exclusively online, on the Ministry of the Interior's website, via the section: 'I am applying for or renewing a residence permit'.

Please note: it is strongly recommended that you complete this process 2 to 4 months before your VLS-TS expires.

5) Collecting your residence permit

Once your application has been processed:

- you will be summoned by the prefectural authorities
- you must collect your residence permit in person, and only upon being summoned

15.2 Arrival and welcome activities

Every semester, amU organises free integration events and activities for international students. AMU strives to offer students the warmest possible welcome by organising a range of activities designed to help them settle into their new environment. These events, proposed and organised by the International Relations Office (DRI), form part of the university's welcome programme.

-> Must-see events for the start of the academic year:

- 2026 Science and Arts Festival: Human/Animal, a shared adventure? 15–19 September 2026
- International Month 2026: Throughout October 2026

Welcome desks for international students: **On-campus welcome officers are on hand to help you settle in and take care of all the administrative formalities!** They are your first point of contact for personalized assistance with all the administrative formalities you'll need to complete when you arrive in France (visa, accommodation, enrolment, insurance, bank account, transport, etc.):

- Help with payment of the CVEC
- Help opening a bank account
- Help registering for health insurance on the platform dedicated to international students and applying for complementary health insurance (C2S)(CPAM)
- Help with taking out compulsory and supplementary insurance with student insurance companies
- Information on public transport services and student pass subscription with Aix en Bus and RTM
- Information and assistance in finding accommodation
- Help with registering with the CAF to apply for personalized housing assistance (APL)
- Help with integrating into the local community, in terms of housing, job hunting and internships
- Help in contacting AMU's internal and local services: Service Universitaire de Santé Etudiante (SSE), Service des Sports(SUAPS), DEVEC/ Direction Vie Etudiante/Handicap, CROUS...
- Assistance for non-EU students:
 - o On-line procedures for visas and residence permits
 - o Appointments for: chest x-rays and medical consultations with the (SSE)

Please check this link for details on this offer as well as contact details and office hours. There you'll also find a very useful amU international students handbook.

15.3 Accommodation

You'll find all the relevant information about the accommodation of international students here. Finding accommodation can be complicated for many international students, so we've put together a list of links on our website to help you find your accommodation! If you have not yet found accommodation before arriving in France, we strongly recommend that you book a hotel room for the first week or more. The hotel reservation is also valid as proof of accommodation for your visa application.

You may also apply for a room in a CROUS residency. First of all, you need to create an account on the mes services étudiants website. Then, in mid-July, you can apply for a room on the CROUS website. External link / We would remind you, however, that international students can only obtain a room in a CROUS hall of residence from Master's level upwards. Please note that submitting an application does not guarantee you a room. There are different types of CROUS room depending on the city or residence, but all CROUS rooms have a bed, desk, wardrobe, refrigerator, shower, sink and toilet (some residences have shared toilets). The kitchen is shared. Electricity, water and Internet are included in the room rent.

15.4 Living expenses

Please find all the relevant information on the cost of living in France as well as useful guidance here. The welcome team has compiled a list of all the questions you might have about the cost of living in France. This also include guidance for opening a bank account.

15.5 Student health

AMU's Health Center gives students access, by appointment, to medical consultations, whether for general medicine or gynaecology, with no advance payment thanks to full third-party payment. Medical appointments can be made at two sites, one in Aix-en-Provence and one in Marseille. You can find all the information about appointments in the International Student Handbook, pp. 27 and 29.

In order to benefit from coverage of your healthcare costs during your studies, as an international student you are required to register on the website of the Public Health Insurance (Assurance Maladie). This registration, which is free of charge and mandatory, enables you to benefit from reimbursement of your healthcare costs. <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/>

For optimal coverage of your healthcare expenses, you can take out a complementary insurance or mutual policy.

15.6 Special needs and disability support

AMU's Mission Handicap welcomes and supports students with physical, sensory or psychological disabilities, dyslexia or long-term disabling health conditions. There are Mission Handicap representatives on the different campuses.

15.7 Student Job Opportunities

amU regularly publishes student job opportunities on its website. It is also a partner of Jobaviz, a job search platform. Here you can find listings of current job opportunities within amU.

15.8 Student Organisations

amU counts numerous student associations and student organisations. If you are interested in joining an association or organisation, here you'll find listings of associations and organisations present on the different AMU campuses.

15.9 French Language courses

AMU offers French as a foreign language (FLE) courses for foreign students at AMU. These courses run for 3 hours a week over 10-week sessions (total: 30 hours, except for exchange students), during the two semesters of the academic year. There are different courses depending on your level of French. Rates vary between 300€ (reduced rate) and 375€ (standard rate). Here you will find information on enrolment, rates, dates, and locations.

16 The Master's thesis

The fourth semester of Study Track 9 is dedicated to the master's thesis project, corresponding to 30 ECTS. For students in Study Track 9: Global Change Biology, the thesis may be registered at one of the three universities involved in the study track: Stockholm University (SU), Sapienza University of Rome (SUR), or Aix-Marseille University (AMU).

Students will be invited to indicate their preferred university for the thesis semester according to the procedure and deadlines communicated by the TRACEE programme. Students' preferences will be taken into account, but placement at a preferred university cannot be guaranteed. The final allocation of thesis university is made through the approved TRACEE procedure and may depend on factors such as available supervision, academic fit between the proposed thesis topic and the host university, capacity, budgetary or administrative constraints, mobility requirements, and fulfilment of academic progression requirements.

In addition to indicating a preferred thesis university, students must submit a proposal for a transdisciplinary thesis project. The thesis proposal must be approved according to the TRACEE thesis approval procedure before the student can proceed with the thesis project. The detailed procedure, deadlines, and responsible bodies will be communicated to students during the programme.

Registration, supervision, assessment, examination, and any local administrative requirements follow the regulations of the university where the thesis is registered. Students must therefore make sure that they follow both the common TRACEE thesis procedure and the local rules of the thesis university.

To be registered for the master's thesis project, students must have completed the common core course in semester 1, corresponding to 30 ECTS, and at least 30 ECTS from semesters 2 and/or 3 of the study track.

16.1 The master's thesis at Stockholm University

Students at Stockholm University should register for the course: "Transdisciplinary Studies of Climate, Environment and Energy, Independent Project".

The independent project is 30 ECTS and aims to provide experience and advanced knowledge in scientific and transdisciplinary work within the fields of climate, environment, and/or energy. Key elements include planning, execution, and reporting. Additionally, students will practice literature review, writing a scientific report, and presenting research results orally in seminars.

The course is divided into two parts:

- Part 1: Planning (5 ECTS). Assessment is based on a written report
- Part 2: Implementation (25 ECTS). Assessment is based on an oral and written presentation of the independent project

More information is available in the syllabus of the course.

16.2 The master's thesis at Sapienza University of Rome

The master's thesis consists of an original study conducted with rigorous scientific method under the supervision of one or more Faculty members. The 30-ECTS thesis work aims to impart advanced knowledge and expertise in scientific and transdisciplinary activity related to energy, the environment, and/or climate.

In order to be admitted to the final examination, the student must have earned all the ECTS required by the teaching regulations and must have fulfilled the administrative formalities required by the University Regulations. An oral defence of the thesis is given before a seven-member university jury. A 110-point grading scale is used for the final dissertation (66 is the minimum grade necessary to graduate). The graduation grade takes into account the average (credit-weighted) marks obtained in the examinations of the previous semesters, as well as of the thesis defence.

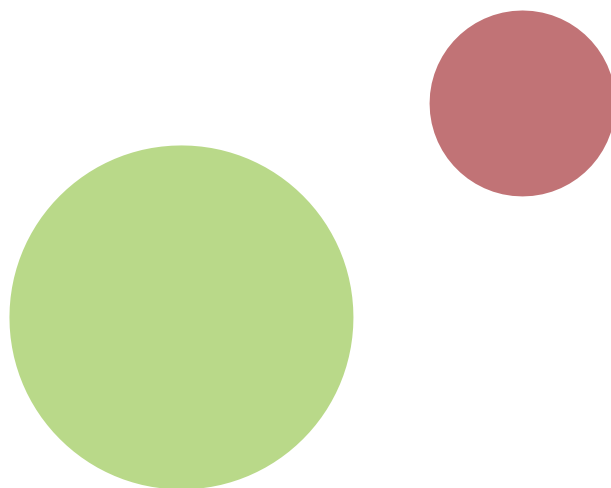
More information is available on the webpage of the TRACEE Programme at SUR.

16.3 The master's thesis at Aix-Marseille University

At Aix-Marseille University, the master's thesis consists of an independent project in which students develop and apply their knowledge and skills in the professional environment provided by an academic laboratory from Aix-Marseille University as well as non-academic partners.

Students complete a 5 to 6-month internship, accounting for 30 ECTS, leading to the writing of a master's thesis and an oral defence. The internship is based on a project proposed by one of the research teams, and should bear a strong transdisciplinary perspective related to Earth sciences and climate, energy and/or environment. To do so, students will be supervised by one or more Faculty members. At the end of the internship, the oral defence will take place in front of a jury composed by the pedagogical team of the Master and volunteers' researchers/lecturers from the laboratory. The final grade will be the combination of the thesis manuscript evaluation and the oral presentation and will be provided on 20 points grading scale. Finally, the graduation grade takes into account the average (credit-weighted) marks obtained in the examinations of the previous semesters, as well as of the thesis defence.

More information is available at <https://masters.osupytheas.fr/formations/master-stpe/>



Contact us

Do you have any questions?
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