

Syllabus Sustainable Development Academy (SDA) 2021

Program Description

The Sustainable Development Academy (SDA) allows participants to engage critically and effectively with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The overall goal of the program is to enable participants to adopt creative approaches to achieving sustainability goals in their communities.

During morning lectures, participants will learn about the scope and interdependent nature of the 17 sustainability goals. A central question will be the status quo of the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals. Focusing then on a few selected SDG (SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production) participants will experience how to implement sustainable goals in specific fields of action.

During the study groups, students put their knowledge into practice while working collaboratively on case studies and modelling creative solutions to social, ecological and economic problems. Indicators and tools for measuring progress towards the sustainability goals will be discussed and tested. Participants can choose between two different study groups beforehand: Sustainable Cities/Communities or Responsible Consumption/ novel foods.

Two field trips will give the opportunity to get in touch with institutions and start-ups and their practical approach to sustainability.

Finally, participants can choose between two different workshops beforehand offering job-skills such as project management, design thinking or creative problem solving.

Topics

- Introduction to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda from different perspectives
- Food innovations for a sustainable nutrition in the future; Impact of nutrition on human growth
- Cities and their efforts to achieve the SDGs; Virtual Reality Visions on sustainable cities
- Purpose economy: a more equitable and sustainable economy

Learning objectives

Upon successful completion of this program, participants will be able to

- develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals
- develop an understanding of status quo of the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda
- identify the challenges related to achieving sustainability goals
- adopt creative approaches to achieving sustainability goals in their communities.

Program Dates

July 26, 2021 - August 6, 2021

Orientation

- July 25, 2021 | Arrival & Get-together
- July 26, 2021 | Program Opening (information, formalities, orientation on campus)

Classes

- July 26, 2021 | Start of course sessions & Potsdam City Tour
- Aug 4, 2021 | Academy Day¹
- Aug 6, 2021 | End of course sessions & certificates
- Aug 7, 2021 | Departure

Class times

Morning: 9:00 - 12:15 AM

Afternoon: 13:15 - 16:30 PM

Partners

- Potsdam Institute for Climate Research Impact (PIK)
- Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ)
- tba

Supporting & Cultural Program

- Get-Together at a student pub
- City Tour Potsdam & Berlin
- 2 Site visits
- Free participation in University of Potsdam's Academy Day

¹On that day the UP offers joint lectures for all participants of our diverse summer schools with topics related to regional and up to date science, local history or on-the-job skills with the aim to promote interdisciplinarity, diversity and boosting the summer campus spirit!

Scope

10 program days from Monday to Friday with appr. 8 teaching units per day (1 teaching unit = 45 minutes)

N° Units:

- 68 contact units / hours (26 units – lectures; 28 units – study groups (including opening and closing session); 8 units – workshops; 6 units – academy day;)
- 12 units / hours for site visits (including Potsdam City Tour)
- 20 units / hours for self-study

This scope is related to an on-site program. If the pandemic does not allow for an on-site program, we will shift to online classes as an alternative. In this case the schedule may be different concerning the number of contact or self-study units.

Grading

- Class participation and discussion - 50%
- Presentation of study group work - 30%
- Individual creative work for reflection - 20%

Credits: 3 ECTS

Requirements & Registration

- B2 Level of English
- Familiarisation with SDGs and the Agenda 2030 beforehand. Participants will be offered a starter kit around one month before the course via our platform Moodle.