

WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT WESTERN

*The world is rapidly changing and we face urgent global challenges that call for new ways of thinking and doing. Western Sydney University is responding to these challenges by preparing culturally adaptive, flexible, resilient and inter-disciplinary graduates prepared to take this on.*

## GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

Linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Western's new Global Sustainability sub-major is recognised by and cobranded with the Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development network (RCE) acknowledged by the United Nations University (UNU). This sub-major is a unique, signature learning experience for undergraduate students involving local and global partners committed to creating a more equitable and sustainable future.



**RCE** REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE  
ON EDUCATION FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ACKNOWLEDGED BY



**UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY**

*Become a sustainability advocate*

# 21C: GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

Think outside the box to navigate and thrive

**SUB-MAJOR NAME:**  
GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

**COURSE CODE:**  
SM2054

The Global Sustainability sub-major aims to assist you to develop the skills required to tackle local and global problems in a rapidly changing world. Western is working with employers to develop work-ready global citizens who can demonstrate the professional skills and competencies required to deal with complexity, uncertainty and change. Your choice of units within the Global Sustainability sub-major will reflect your broader perspective, and will expand the depth and focus of your primary discipline. You will have the opportunity to make a difference, by undertaking a 60-hour social action internship as part of your learning, either locally or globally. Funded scholarships, including New Colombo Plan Mobility programs, are available for eligible students to undertake overseas internships. When you graduate with a Global Sustainability sub-major you will receive an additional, cobranded RCE certificate, a great addition to your CV.

## ENROLMENT:

This cross-school, multidisciplinary sub-major is open to all undergraduate students undertaking degrees with electives at Western. You can enrol into the sub-major via the My Student Records (MySR) portal.



OVERALL 1<sup>ST</sup> IN AUSTRALIA, 11<sup>TH</sup> IN THE WORLD

## SUSTAINABILITY BOOTCAMP

Why are we talking about sustainability? Why does it matter? What does this mean for you? This trans-disciplinary Curiosity Pod that introduces concepts of Sustainable Development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 through systems awareness, worldviews and futures thinking. It contains up to 8 hours of online interactive learning including lectures, case studies, film clips and resources, and encourages critical thinking and action as responsible stewards. The case studies profile inspiring local initiatives and research across Western Sydney that contribute to addressing our global challenges. The Sustainability Bootcamp is open to all students in all disciplines as a standalone activity and is included in this sub-major.

## SUB-MAJOR PROGRAM

Students can choose any 3 of the 5 units:

**301212** Science of the Anthropocene

**200815** Globalisation and Sustainability

**101663** Education for Sustainability

**101569** Sustainable Futures

**102417** Philosophy and Environment

Students must complete the core unit:

**102212** Internship and Community Engagement

→ **Science of the Anthropocene:** How have human activities irreversibly altered the Earth over time? How can science help us understand and potentially remediate these impacts? In this unit you will visit key sites in regional Australia and explore first hand the realities of the new geological age, the Anthropocene.

→ **Globalisation and Sustainability:** What is your understanding of ethics, rights, justice and democracy in society? What are the critical debates on the role of global and national institutions of power in determining economic, environmental, social and cultural outcomes? This unit will explore opposing and controversial theoretical perspectives on globalisation and sustainability to improve policy and practice in the future.

→ **Education for Sustainability:** How can we develop new ways of thinking and learning that enable us to recognise the connections between environmental concerns, social patterns and individual actions? This unit approaches key issues in sustainability education with a learner-centred approach that builds skills for inquiry, analysis and creative action and involves a three-hour

field trip.

→ **Sustainable Futures:** Can we create a sustainable society? If so what would it look like and how could it be done? What are sustainable alternatives to the way we live now both locally and globally? Undertake an applied project for sustainable change as the major assessment. This unit pays attention to thinking ecologically, postcolonial development and issues of race and gender.

→ **Philosophy and Environment:** What is the value of animals, rivers and mountains? Is it appropriate to raise and kill animals for food when alternative sources of protein are available? Should we destroy rainforests to make way for housing or agricultural development? In this unit on ethics students examine rival answers to these kinds of questions.

→ **Internship and Community Engagement** engages students in a 60-hour social action internship for students to develop professional identity related to their chosen field of study.

## SOCIAL ACTION: MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH WESTERN

Social action is the process of engaging with partners to work toward a more just and equitable society. Students will complete a 60-hour internship or research project as part of the Internship and Community Engagement unit for their social action with local and global partners and organisations in small interdisciplinary project teams. Some of these opportunities have funded international scholarships (of up to \$3,000 per student) available for eligible students through the Australian Government New Colombo Plan.

## CONTACT US

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