

Master's degree in Environment and Resources:
120 ECTS to MS or MA degree

Definition

Two year, academic and research-oriented graduate programme in environmental studies and resources at the University of Iceland. The programme is organized and administered collectively by 3 Schools at the U of I: School of Engineering and Natural Sciences, School of Humanities and School of Social Sciences. Students are registered in and graduate from one of the faculties within the above schools with the degree *magister scientiarum* (MS) or *magister artium* (MA). The programme comprises 120 ECTS, including a research project of either 30 or 60 ECTS and qualifies graduates to be admitted to doctoral programmes at level 3.

Admittance

Candidates must have completed a first University degree (BS, BA or other equivalent degrees), and fulfil other considerations set by the programme board.

Upon completion of the degree each student should have fulfilled the following goals, in addition to what was gained at the previous level:

1. Knowledge and understanding

- 1.1. The student has gained knowledge of the various academic fields that contribute to studies of the environment and resources, and increased the depth and understanding in his/her field of specialization.
- 1.2. The student has gained interdisciplinary knowledge of environment- and resources issues, understands how environment- and resource issues transcend traditional disciplines and understands how the various disciplines act together when studying the environment and resources.
- 1.3. The student has gained academic knowledge and understanding of biological and physical resources, including specifically Icelandic resources, physical and natural attributes, the extent, extraction and use, and the environmental consequences of utilization.
- 1.4. The student has gained academic knowledge of current environmental issues, including specifically Icelandic issues. He/she understands the limits of academic knowledge, has knowledge of main practical solutions to environmental issues, and understands what may limit potential solutions.
- 1.5. The student has knowledge and understanding of the role and interaction between academic and practical analyses, local and national governments, private businesses, non-governmental organizations and the public, in addition to the importance of economic and social issues when it comes to issues of the environment and resources. He/she understands the role, rights, options and duties of local and national governments, companies in decision-making and in managing the environment and resources.
- 1.6. The student has gained knowledge of the theory, main instruments (such as law, policy instruments, institutions) and actors (government, NGOs, public) that are important when addressing environment and resource issues in particular as regards environmental and resource management.

2. Practical ability

- 2.1. The student is able to find, choose and collect information about the environment and resources using appropriate means, such as libraries and the internet.
- 2.2. The student is able to apply interdisciplinary thinking and problem solving, and can integrate information and knowledge from the various fields that contribute to the analysis of the environment and resources.
- 2.3. The student is able use complex concepts and theories, in particular in his/her field of specialization, and select appropriate practical and academic methodology. He/she is proficient in using and handling academic and practical information, and in the handling, analysis and presentation of data in his/her field of specialization.
- 2.4. The student is able to clearly present and critically assess academic information, can argue and support academic conclusions, and has gained proficiency in professional discourse on the matters of the environment and resources. The student is able to perform interdisciplinary, independent, critical and professional analyses when handling and presenting complex issues and solutions to environment and resource issues.

3. Academic ability

- 3.1. The student can select the most appropriate approaches to various problems, and critically assess various academic viewpoints in the field of environment and resources.
- 3.2. The student is able to critically assess various theories and compose a cohesive and independent argument.
- 3.3. The student is able to present an independent and critical analysis of environment and resource issues.

4. Ability in cooperation, presentation and information literacy

- 4.1. The student can express him/herself professionally both verbally and in writing, both in academic and professional situations.
- 4.2. The student can be a valuable member of a team, interact, cooperate, and discuss issues that relate to environment and resources and thereby have a fruitful relationship with his/her advisors and colleagues.

5. General ability

- 5.1. The student has gained independent proficiency in learning and seeking knowledge, and applies critical yet open minded thinking and analysis.