Sustainable Development

- St Andrews was one of the first universities in the world to teach Sustainable Development at undergraduate level, and offers a globally rare opportunity to study this important subject.
- A programme with a strong international reputation, attracting students from around the world.
- A unique interdisciplinary degree with expert contributions from other subjects within the University, including Geography, Biology, Management, Social Anthropology and Economics.
- Within the structure of this programme, there is great flexibility and choice, allowing you to explore a wide range of other subjects.
- A small and friendly university which is committed to sustainability, aiming to be the UK’s first carbon neutral university.
- A programme which offers scope for practical involvement through its strong links with local, national and international sustainability initiatives.

What will I study?
At St Andrews, you can take Sustainable Development either as an MA in the Faculty of Arts or a BSc in the Faculty of Science. This gives you the option of combining Sustainable Development with subjects from either Faculty, not only during your first two years but also during your Honours years as well. Our flexible structures give you access to many aspects of Sustainable Development in all four years, allowing you to explore your evolving interests. You will be taught in many different styles and settings, both in the classroom and out in the field. Small-group teaching begins in first year, and average class sizes progressively diminish through the degree. A joint degree already exists with Geography, and further joint degrees are being developed. The topics you follow for the BSc or MA are exactly the same within the Sustainable Development element of your degree. The curriculum in the first two years introduces the concept of sustainable development and the debates surrounding it, and is followed in third and fourth years by the opportunity to specialise in aspects that interest you most. Key specialisms include energy studies, environmental and development economics, conservation science, and environmental management and policy.

First year
You are introduced to the key ideas underpinning sustainable development and will critically examine some of the key social and environmental transformations that are needed for a transition to sustainability. The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals provide a key framework. We adopt interdisciplinary approaches and foster innovative thinking.

Entry requirements
We consider all aspects of every application, including context, equivalent qualifications and the Personal Statement. Offers may be higher or lower than the grades stated here. See also page 169.

SQA Highers: AAAB
GCE A-Levels: AAA
International Baccalaureate Points: 36

Available degree options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Honours</th>
<th>Joint Honours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development</td>
<td>Sustainable Development and Geography</td>
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Previous knowledge of subject required? No

St Salvator’s Quadrangle

Sustainable Development addresses the most pressing environmental and developmental challenges of the twenty-first century. Topics you will cover include human health, food production and distribution, climate change and environmental governance and the continuing threat to biodiversity.
Sustainable Development

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/sustainable-development
gg@st-andrews.ac.uk

Second year
You begin this year by discussing conceptual frameworks and approaches which can promote sustainable development (conservation science, market regulation) and the strengths of various solutions (for example, technological, personal, community). You will then focus on ‘tools for action’, the challenge of turning sustainable development from theory into practice.

Third and fourth years (Honours)
These years comprise a mix of core and optional courses. In addition to options available within the School (for example, energy politics, environmental economics), the unique structure of the Sustainable Development programme also gives you access to courses in several other Schools across the University. You will be trained in high-level research skills, equipping you to carry out your own research project guided by one-on-one supervision.

Study abroad
Sustainable Development students participate in the University-wide St Andrews Abroad programme. For information about study abroad options, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study-abroad

Careers
Taking Sustainable Development at St Andrews allows you to study in a stunning location and a welcoming School, and then as a highly literate and numerate graduate, from a prestigious university with excellent employment prospects.

Reflecting the broad, varied and applied nature of the Sustainable Development programme, our graduates have a diverse and unique mix of highly transferable skills. Richly varied career paths include conservation, environmental management, government, NGOs, impact assessment, strategic planning and development, the energy sector, business and finance, and consultancy, as well as science research.

Given sustainable development’s high global profile, Sustainable Development graduates are in demand because of their keen interest in the nature and future of the planet, and their skills in thinking critically and creatively about today’s key challenges. They have a rare combination of quantitative and qualitative skills, an ability to integrate and analyse diverse data, and a deep understanding of human/environment interactions.

Our graduates have gone on to excel in a wide range of careers, reflecting the breadth of the subject. Significant numbers of our graduates progress to postgraduate study, both at Masters and PhD level, including our own suite of Sustainable Development Masters programmes.

“My passion for the environment and in learning how we can make adjustments to live more sustainably made me want to study Sustainable Development. There are many projects to get involved in within St Andrews and beyond to ensure that I am applying what I learn and having a positive impact on the community. I also enjoy the field trips we go on; they are a great way to experience a different style of learning and provide us with the opportunity to talk with lecturers in a more relaxed setting.”

Brittany (Toronto, Canada)