



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



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# Master's degree



## Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy

Justus Liebig University Giessen • Gießen



## Overview

Degree	Master of Science
In cooperation with	University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li></ul>
Languages	Courses are held entirely in English.
Full-time / part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>full-time</li></ul>
Programme duration	3 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	Rolling procedure, early application is recommended (by <b>15 July</b> for the following winter semester) If you would like to apply at short notice, please enquire with the <a href="#">UCD programme director</a> .
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	Yes
Description/content	<p>Do you really want to make a difference in the world? Are you passionate about life sciences and already have a Bachelor's degree in this field? Do you like to travel, make international contacts and gain experience abroad? Then you've come to the right place!</p> <p>The international Master's programme in "Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy" provides the <b>perfect combination of science, data management and policy advice on global change</b>, complemented by <b>practical experience and one or more stays abroad</b>. It is offered jointly by Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU), Faculty of Biology and Chemistry, in the heart of Germany,</p>

and University College Dublin (UCD), School of Biology and Environmental Science, in Ireland. The programme has a duration of 16 months and comprises 120 ECTS credit points. It is taught entirely in English.

Global change refers to **planetary-scale changes occurring in complex socio-ecological systems**. Understanding the intricate changes in our land, air and water requires advanced scientific knowledge in measurement, modelling and prediction. During your studies you will learn how best to tackle the global challenges of our time, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, resource consumption, etc.

After three semesters, graduates will receive a **joint Master's degree (MSc) from both universities** and will be able to build an important bridge between science and policy.

**This programme is unique in that:**

- You will be involved in active research groups in both universities and will get involved in their ecosystem experiments and field studies.
- You will learn to adapt your role as a scientist, dealing either with expert or citizen interest groups or lay audiences.
- You will acquire transferable skills during a work placement (six weeks minimum contact time) that will make you a sought-after and effective employee.

## Course Details

### Course organisation

### Time schedule:

- The course starts in September at UCD in Dublin, Ireland (September – December).
- This first semester is followed by a work placement in an organisation or company (January to February).
- The second semester continues at JLU in Giessen, Germany (March to July).
- The third semester is entirely dedicated to the individual research project, which can be undertaken in working groups either at UCD or JLU. On completion of the research project, students prepare their Master's thesis in the form of a scientific paper (August – December).

### Modules:

The course is modular and credits will be awarded for each successfully completed module based on the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). The Master of Science in Global Change requires students to complete a total of at least 14 modules (12 core modules and two optional modules).

### Core modules:

- Global Change Ecology – Introduction
- Science and Policy
- Data Analysis and Interpretation
- Designing Global Change Research Projects
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Environmental Law and Policy
- Global Change: Modelling and Advanced Techniques
- Adaption to Global Change
- Biodiversity Informatics
- Political Consulting – Environmental Policy and Development Cooperation
- Resource Economics, Sustainability and Environmental Management
- Sustainable Agroecosystems

### Optional modules, e.g.:

- Peatlands and Environmental Change
- Ecological Mapping and QGIS
- Management of Sustainable Fisheries
- Biology and Ecology of Coastal Wetlands
- Field Methods in Global Change Research

- Global Governance
- Natural Resources and Ecosystem Services
- Renewable Energy Transition
- Man in Past Climates and Climate Change Impacts

A Diploma supplement will be issued	Yes
International elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects with partners in Germany and abroad</li> <li>• International guest lecturers</li> <li>• Integrated/optional study abroad unit(s)</li> <li>• Opportunities for students to work abroad</li> </ul>
Integrated/optional study abroad unit(s)	The programme comprises at least one semester at UCD in Dublin, Ireland (September to December) and one semester at JLU in Giessen, Germany (March to July). The third semester, which is entirely dedicated to the individual research project, can be completed either at UCD or JLU.
Integrated internships	<p>The work placement allows students to <b>gain an initial insight into the different areas of work</b> they may wish to pursue in the future. It also enables them to <b>gain practical work experience</b> and <b>establish contacts with potential future employers</b>. It can be carried out in various organisations or companies all over the world. Benefit from our contacts and complete the work placement in renowned institutions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna</li> <li>• World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ireland</li> <li>• Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS) in Potsdam</li> <li>• Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)</li> <li>• ICLEI European Secretariat in Freiburg</li> <li>• Rural Investment for a Sustainable Europe (RISE) Foundation in Brussels</li> <li>• International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Brussels</li> <li>• Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Tokyo</li> <li>• Marine Institute, Ireland</li> <li>• Department of Agriculture, Forestry and the Marine, Ireland</li> <li>• Sustainable Food Trust, UK</li> <li>• Scottish Wildlife Trust, UK</li> <li>• etc.</li> </ul>
Special promotion / funding of the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAAD</li> <li>• ERASMUS+</li> </ul>
Name of DAAD funding programme	Integrated International Degree Programmes with Double Degrees
Course-specific, integrated German language courses	No
Course-specific, integrated English language courses	No

## Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in      None

EUR

Semester contribution 314.87 EUR

Funding opportunities within the university Yes

Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university

Financial aid for international students at JLU in the closing phase of their degree: A partial scholarship is possible for three to six months, amounting to 300 to 450 EUR per month (funding phase starting April or May every year). A Presidential Commission will decide on the awarding of the scholarships based on academic achievements, indigence, social or intercultural commitment, recommendations from academic staff and compliance with formal requirements. More information: [https://www.uni-giessen.de/en/international-pages/study/grants/closingphase?set\\_language=en](https://www.uni-giessen.de/en/international-pages/study/grants/closingphase?set_language=en)

## Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements

Applicants must hold a **Bachelor's degree with at least 180 ECTS-points and an average grade of 2.48 (UCD grade points) or better** in one of the following scientific fields:

- Biology
- Agricultural Studies
- Natural or Environmental Sciences

On an individual basis, the Examination Board may accept other study programmes such as zoology, ecology, geology or biochemistry as equivalent and may also subject them to specific requirements.

Language requirements

If English is not your native language, proof of your proficiency in English will be required unless you completed your primary degree in English in an English-speaking country. The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL Internet-based test is 100; on the IELTS, it is 6.5. Applicants who obtained a previous degree from an English-speaking university may be exempt from this requirement.

There are also other recognised proofs of English language proficiency. Please contact [UCD](#) for more information.

Application deadline

Rolling procedure, early application is recommended (by **15 July** for the following winter semester)

If you would like to apply at short notice, please enquire with the [UCD programme director](#).

Submit application to

<https://www.ucd.ie/apply>

## Services

Accommodation

Halls of residence and private accommodation: [www.uni-giessen.de/acc](http://www.uni-giessen.de/acc)

Career advisory service

Career Service and special opportunities for international students <https://www.uni->

**Support for international students and doctoral candidates**

- Welcome event
- Cultural and linguistic preparation
- Visa matters
- Help with finding accommodation
- Support with registration procedures

**General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates**

**Accommodation:**

For your time in Giessen, you will be guaranteed a room in one of the students' residences of Studentenwerk if you apply by **15 January (fixed deadline!)**. Accommodation cannot be guaranteed for applications received later.

[Check out the students' residences here.](#)

("Unterhof" is the students' residence, which is closest to the natural science campus of JLU.)

Additional information regarding accommodation can be found [here](#).

**Other:**

Information for international students regarding culture, sports, language courses, shopping, mobility, medical treatment etc.: [click here](#)

**Supervisor-student ratio**

The maximum intake capacity is 20 students per year, ensuring individual support and close contact to all lecturers.

## Our Partners



### International Master's in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy

The international Master's programme in "Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy" goes beyond the scientific basis of climate change by dealing with policy aspects and the way in which scientific knowledge can be communicated.

» more:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkgQpmJ2wHU>

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# Justus Liebig University Giessen

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Students in front of the JLU main building

© JLU/ Katrina Friese

Founded in 1607, Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU), Germany, is a comprehensive university with a longstanding tradition which attracts around 26,000 students. JLU is offering the full range of traditional and modern subjects with top-level teaching and research – extending from classical natural sciences, law and economics, social and educational sciences, linguistics and cultural studies to a unique selection of life science subjects such as human and veterinary medicine, agricultural, environmental and nutritional sciences and food chemistry. The leading personae who carried out research and taught at JLU include a number of Nobel Prize winners, such as Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (Nobel Prize for Physics in 1901) and Wangari Maathai (Nobel Peace Prize in 2004). Since 2006, research at JLU has received continuous funding from the Excellence Initiative schemes and the Excellence Strategy of the German Federal Republic and Federal States.

## University location

With around 94,000 inhabitants, Giessen has one of the highest student densities throughout Germany. Four higher education institutions with altogether 40,000 students provide a unique college-town atmosphere. The city offers plenty of leisure options for students, such as canoeing on the Lahn river, walks and picnics in its multiple green areas, cinemas with student concession tickets, the municipal theatre with a programme consisting of plays, opera and ballet as well as swimming pools and sports facilities, and a variety of pubs, restaurants and night life venues. The great thing about Giessen is that it's an easy place to navigate and, when the mood takes you, to escape into the picturesque surrounding countryside or the metropolis of Frankfurt am Main, which is about 60 kilometres away.

## Contact

### Justus Liebig University Giessen

Institute of Plant Ecology

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🌐 Course website: <https://www.ucd.ie/globalchange/>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7488255/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/jlu.giessen>

 <https://www.youtube.com/@universitaetgiessen>

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# International Programmes in Germany - Database

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)  
[www.daad.de/sommerkurse](http://www.daad.de/sommerkurse)

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## GATE-Germany

Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing  
[www.gate-germany.de](http://www.gate-germany.de)

## Disclaimer

The data used for this database was collected and analysed in good faith and with due diligence. The DAAD and the Content5 AG accept no liability for the correctness of the data contained in the "International Programmes in Germany" and "Language and Short Courses in Germany".

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