



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



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# Master's degree



## Master's in 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 15 July 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	Yes
Additional information on tuition fees	Tuition fees in 2024/2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>EU citizens: 9,650 EUR</li><li>Non-EU citizens: 29,100 EUR</li></ul> <p>The fees cover the whole Master's degree programme.</p> <p>Check <a href="#">online</a> for the current fee structure.</p> <p>[In the area that applies to you ("EU" or "Non-EU"), select "Course/Programme Fees" and "Graduate Taught Fees".]</p>
Combined Master's degree /	No

Joint degree / double degree programme Yes

**Description/content**

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!

The international Master's programme "Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy" provides the perfect combination of science, data management and policy advice on global change, complemented by practical experience and one or more stays abroad. It is offered jointly by Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU), Faculty of Biology and Chemistry, in the heart of Germany, 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.

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## Course Details

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**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 – February).
- The second semester continues at JLU in Giessen, Germany (March – 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

<b>A Diploma supplement will be issued</b>	Yes
<b>International elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated study abroad unit(s)</li> </ul>
<b>Integrated study abroad unit(s)</b>	You will obtain your Master's degree at two excellently established universities, University College Dublin (UCD) and Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU), with their complementary and multidisciplinary research profiles and will be involved in active research groups there. In addition, a work placement in an international organisation or company is integrated into the programme.
<b>Integrated internships</b>	<p>The work placement allows students to gain an initial insight into the different areas of work they may wish to pursue in the future. It also enables them to gain practical work experience and establish contacts with potential future employers. 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>
<b>Special promotion / funding of the programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAAD</li> <li>• ERASMUS+</li> </ul>
<b>Name of DAAD funding programme</b>	Integrated International Degree Programmes with Double Degrees
<b>Course-specific, integrated</b>	No

## German language courses

Course-specific, integrated English language courses No

## Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR Yes

### Additional information on tuition fees

Tuition fees in 2024/2025:

- EU citizens: 9,650 EUR
- Non-EU citizens: 29,100 EUR

The fees cover the whole Master's degree programme.

Check [online](#) for the current fee structure.

[In the area that applies to you ("EU" or "Non-EU"), select "Course/Programme Fees" and "Graduate Taught Fees".]

Semester contribution 289.80 EUR

Funding opportunities within the university Yes

### Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university

It might be possible to receive financial support through a scholarship. For more information, please contact the programme coordinators at [JLU](#) or [UCD](#).

## 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** JLU offers career services, more information can be found [here](#).

**Support for international students and doctoral candidates**

- Welcome event
- Accompanying programme
- Help with finding accommodation
- Support with registration procedures

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

**caAccommodation:**

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. Please note this is a fixed deadline. Accommodation cannot be guaranteed for applications received later.

[Check out the student's 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 in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy

The international Master's programme "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 is one of Germany's top research universities. It is not only rich in tradition but also highly innovative. Another unique feature is JLU Giessen's extraordinarily broad range of subjects. Additionally, JLU Giessen's 26,500 students and its ever-growing student community substantially contribute to making Giessen the city with the highest student ratio of all university towns in Germany. This singles out JLU Giessen as a key player in the region. However, with 40% international doctoral students, an international student community of around 11%, high-profile international partnerships, and two top-class international research facilities funded by Germany's nationwide Excellence Strategy, JLU is also a very active and highly attractive networking partner worldwide.

Internationalisation is at the heart of JLU's institutional self-concept, and its internationalisation strategy with the motto "future through

internationalisation" is a critical success factor for research and teaching as well as the personal development of its members. Excellent basic research combined with socially relevant application, the exploitation of interdisciplinary synergies, support for outstanding next-generation scholars, first-class university teaching, and an explicit international orientation define JLU Giessen in the fifth century of its existence, making it fit for the future.



## University location

With around 92,000 inhabitants, Giessen is Germany's most student-dominated city and its two universities with their "extra population" of 40,000 students provide a unique college-town atmosphere. The city centre offers plenty of diversion for students, including film theatres (with student concession tickets), the municipal theatre with its experimental studios, swimming pools and sports and workout facilities, and a wide variety of pubs, restaurants (continental and ethnic), and night life venues. Therefore, you can add lots of flavour to your studies. 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

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

📘 <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalChangeMasters/>

🐦 <https://twitter.com/MScGlobalChange>

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

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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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