Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
MSc Sustainability, Environmental Policy and Innovation	J9UF	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
MSc	1 Calendar Year, 12 months	Full-Time	Annually in October	90	180
PG Cert J9UC	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	60
You must apply to and join the MSc. The PG Certificate is an exit award that may be offered at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and is not available for entry. A PG Diploma is not available as an exit award on this programme.					

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Natural Sciences
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Centre for Environmental Policy
Associateship	Diploma of Imperial College (DIC)[1]	Main Location(s) of Study	South Kensington Campus

External Reference	
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points	N/A
FHEQ Level	Level 7
EHEA Level	2nd Cycle

External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)			
External Accreditor 1:	N/A		
Accreditation received:	N/A	Accreditation renewal:	N/A

Collaborative Provision			
Collaborative partner	Collaboration type	Agreement effective date	Agreement expiry date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Specification Details	
Programme Lead	Dr Martin Head
Student cohorts covered by specification	2027-28 entry

[1] DIC only awarded to MSc graduates

Date of introduction of programme	October 77
Date of programme specification/revision	January 26

Programme Overview

The *MSc in Sustainability, Environmental Policy and Innovation* equips you to tackle the most pressing environmental and sustainability challenges of our time, combining rigorous scientific, policy, and management training with an interdisciplinary approach. You will build on your existing knowledge and professional experience, learning to analyse, evaluate, and create innovative solutions to complex, real-world sustainability problems.

The programme begins with **foundational modules** in the Autumn term, introducing the natural and human worlds and the critical interactions between them. These modules are designed to provide a strong grounding in environmental systems, policy, and technology, preparing you to apply analytical and problem-solving frameworks in subsequent study. At the end of the term you will choose a short elective module to explore a specific aspect of sustainability and innovation.

Throughout the Spring you will follow one of three **specialist pathways:** (1) Policy, innovation and Sustainable Futures, (2) Environmental Systems and Solutions, or (3) Energy Policy and Systems Innovation. You will select two pathway modules aligned with your career goals, as well as another in-depth topic module to explore innovative approaches to sustainability problems. Pathway modules will allow you to study in smaller groups, leading to deeper engagement, enabling you to apply knowledge from the foundation modules to focused topics such as sustainable business, energy and climate change policy, environmental assessment, and integrated urban and water systems.

Pathway 1: Policy, Innovation and Sustainable Futures focuses on the policy, governance, and innovation processes that drive sustainable transitions. Students can choose to explore global environmental change and policy, economic instruments, and business innovation to understand how change is achieved in practice.

Pathway 2: Environmental Systems and Solutions develops the analytical and systems-based capabilities required to measure and manage complex environmental problems and drive innovative solutions. Modules emphasise circular economy, resource management, water systems, urban sustainability, and environmental quality.

Pathway 3: Energy Policy and Systems Innovation examines how societies can decarbonise energy systems through technological, economic, and policy innovation. Integrating energy technologies and policy frameworks, this pathway provides a holistic view of energy and climate transitions.

The Summer term is devoted to an **extended independent research project**. This project allows you to explore an area of personal interest in depth, develop professional-level research skills, and produce outputs that can influence real-world sustainability practice. This is supported by a dedicated research methods module delivered at the beginning of the term.

The MSc is delivered by experts from the Centre for Environmental Policy and across Imperial College London, supported by external practitioners with deep professional experience. Through case studies, group projects, and applied research, you will gain hands-on, interdisciplinary experience in tackling "wicked" sustainability challenges.

CEP's MSc graduates typically go on to careers in consultancies, business, NGOs, government, and international organisations, or pursue further study. Students benefit from dedicated careers support, alumni mentorship, and access to Imperial's global network of over 6,000 sustainability professionals, providing guidance, project opportunities, and connections that shape future careers

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the *MSc Sustainability, Environmental Policy and Innovation* programme, you will be able to:

1. Critically appraise and integrate relevant literature on environmental and sustainability challenges, identify gaps and opportunities for evidence-informed action.
2. Evaluate quantitative and qualitative evidence, assessing the reliability, relevance, and limitations of data to support meaningful sustainability decisions
3. Evaluate policy, technology and management options to inform decision-making.
4. Collaborate effectively in interdisciplinary teams to co-create transformative solutions to sustainability challenges.

5. Formulate innovative, context-sensitive solutions to sustainability problems, using interdisciplinarity and systems thinking.
6. Communicate complex findings effectively to stakeholders, synthesising evidence to support scientific, policy, or business decisions.
7. Critically apply appropriate tools and methods to make sound judgements about policy interventions.
8. Design, conduct, and present original independent research in sustainability, using a range of methods, generating realistic recommendations for impactful solutions.
9. Reflect on sustainability and environmental challenges and solutions, considering ethical, personal, and societal implications to inform responsible decision-making.
10. Practise independent, lifelong learning skills and proactive strategies for developing sustainability competencies.

On completion of the PG Certificate[2], you will be able to meet 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9 above.

Alignment of the ILO to appropriate FHEQ Levels.

All of the ILO's listed above are designed to reflect the requirements for learning and teaching at level 7 of the FHEQ framework. Each ILO is written to specifically assess student's achieving a programme descriptor that tests their critical understanding of the coursework material they have covered in the programme. Specifically, understanding of knowledge (1), critical awareness of current problems (2,3), understanding of available analytical techniques and methodologies and originality in the analysis and application of that knowledge (4,5,7,8), develop critiques and propose new solutions or hypotheses to evaluate that knowledge through self-directed learning and novel approaches to problem-solving, and communicate findings to stakeholders (6,9), develop autonomous learning, and analytical research methods and skills-sets to work at professional levels (10).

Ultimately, skills, understanding, knowledge and professional abilities acquired through satisfying the above ILO's will help students attain ILOs identified in the FHEQ framework, such as the ability to:

- deal with complex issues - both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

(FHEQ descriptors. Section 4.17 of "The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies", 2024)

The ILO's for the PG Cert exit award are also aimed at level 7 knowledge and skills acquisition given that that's the expected entry standard, but are necessarily fewer in number as not all programme level ILO's may be achieved in the event of an exit award being conferred.

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/education/our-graduates/

Entry Requirements	
Academic Requirement	The minimum requirement is normally a 2:1 UK Bachelor's Degree (or a comparable qualification recognised by the university). Science, engineering or social science subjects are preferred, but other subject areas will be considered. For further information on entry requirements, please go to PGT: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/
Non-academic Requirements	Preference will be given to candidates with a demonstrated interest in sustainability through work experience , placements, internships or civic

[2] The PG Certificate is an intermediate award that may be offered at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and is not available for entry. All students must apply to and join the MSc. A PG Diploma is not available as an exit award on this programme.

	engagement/volunteering. This is typically acquired over a period of several years prior to application. Mature students on a career transition to sustainability are encouraged to apply, work experience and transferrable skills will be considered where sustainability experience cannot be provided.
English Language Requirement	Higher requirement Please check for other Accepted English Qualifications
Admissions Test/Interview	Applications that meet our course-specific entry requirements will be invited to an online interview with an academic member of staff. The interview will focus on application content, teamwork competency and critical understanding of contemporary sustainability questions, for example the strength of the UN SDGs.

Learning & Teaching Approach

Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods

The *MSc Sustainability, Environmental Policy and Innovation* comprises compulsory and elective modules in the Autumn term, a set of elective modules in the Spring term, and an extended research project throughout the Summer supplemented by a research methods module.

Over the course of the year you will experience a range of learning and teaching methods. Some of these will be familiar, for example the lectures, seminars and group work. Others may be new to you, such as practitioner-led workshops, field trips and role-plays. You will encounter flipped classroom sessions where the class will be addressing pre-reading and exercises done before the class. Summer projects will be taught through individual or group supervisions.

Overall Workload

Your overall workload consists of face-to-face sessions, group work and independent learning. While your actual contact hours will vary according to your chosen modules, the following gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the programme.

At Imperial, each ECTS credit taken equates to an expected total study time of 25 hours. Therefore, the expected total study time for this 90 ECTS MSc programme is 2250 hours per year, subject to reasonable adjustments.

You will likely spend 50% of your time in class doing a variety of activities during the first two terms, depending on your chosen modules. This is a full-time programme of study, you may need to be on campus every weekday with sessions timetabled between 9am and 5pm. The remainder of the time will be spent doing group work or individual study. The majority of the third term is spent on an individual research project.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment Methods

You will encounter a variety of assessments during your time on the *MSc Sustainability, Environmental Policy and Innovation*. These are designed to enable you to demonstrate your knowledge and competencies, but also to aide your further learning. Most of the assessment is through coursework and presentation, although there are some timed exams. The assessment strategy will depend on your chosen modules. Assessment types include literature reviews, MCQ timed exams, group reports, videos and posters, assessed discussion groups, reflective essays, role plays, business cases, etc. All groupwork will be peer assessed and a proportion of the final grade will reflect individual contributions.

Indicative assessment breakdown

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Groupwork	35%	40%	0%
Presentation	25%	20%	15%
Written coursework	25%	20%	85%
Timed exam	15%	20%	0%

Some pathway modules include an optionality of assessment submission formats. These assessments have two possible completion routes: a written coursework essay or, an oral pre-recorded presentation. Both routes allow you to demonstrate meeting all of the assessment criteria and associated learning outcomes. The task for both assignments will be the same, and the same marking criteria will be used to assess your submission. Module leaders will specify a deadline for a draft or outline assignment submission for formative feedback. Students will declare their chosen format of assessment as part of this process.

Academic Feedback Policy

Written or verbal feedback will normally be provided within two weeks of the submission date for any assessed work, unless this falls over holiday periods, in which case coursework is returned at the start of the next term.

Imperial's Policy on Academic Feedback and guidance on issuing provisional marks to students is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Re-sit Policy

Imperial's Policy on Re-sits is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Mitigating Circumstances Policy

Imperial's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Additional Programme Costs

This section should outline any additional costs relevant to this programme which are not included in students' tuition fees.

Description	Mandatory/Optional	Approximate cost
Equipment (course materials and books)	Mandatory	Provided
Personal Protective Equipment	Mandatory	Provided
Field trips (all fully catered trips)	Mandatory	Extra travel cost, up to £20 per trip

Important notice: The Programme Specifications are the result of a large curriculum and pedagogy reform implemented by the Department and supported by the Learning and Teaching Strategy of Imperial College London. The modules, structure, and assessments presented in this Programme Specification are correct at time of publication but might change as a result of student and staff feedback and the introduction of new or innovative approaches to teaching and learning. You will be consulted and notified in a timely manner of any changes to this document.

Programme Structure					
Year 1 – FHEQ Level 7 You will study all core[3] and compulsory modules (A). You must select four elective modules. Select one from group B, one from group F, and two more from the same group of C, D, or E.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
Autumn Term (1)					
ENVI70001	Human World - Environmental Policy, Law, Economics, Innovation	Compulsory	A	Autumn	10
ENVI70002	Natural World - Ecology and Biodiversity, Pollution and Depletion	Compulsory	A	Autumn	10
ENVI70039	Food Systems	Elective	B	Autumn	5
ENVI70040	Contested Environments	Elective	B	Autumn	5
ENVI70041	Sustainability Science and Transformation	Elective	B	Autumn	5
ENVI70042	Sustainability Practice	Elective	B	Autumn	5
Spring Term (2 - specialist pathways) C – Policy, Innovation and Sustainable Futures Pathway D – Environmental Systems and Solutions Pathway E – Energy Policy and Systems Innovation Pathway (F – sustainability electives for all pathways.)					
ENVI70006	Sustainable Business and Transformation	Elective	C	Spring	10
ENVI70008	Innovating for Sustainable Futures	Elective	C	Spring	10
ENVI70015	Environmental Economics and Policy	Elective	C	Spring	10
ENVI70021	Climate Change and Sustainability	Elective	C	Spring	10
ENVI70023	Implementing Climate Change and Sustainability Solutions	Elective	C	Spring	10
ENVI70012	Circular Economy	Elective	D	Spring	10
ENVI70014	Environmental Quality	Elective	D	Spring	10
ENVI70024	Integrated Water Systems and Technology	Elective	D	Spring	10
ENVI70020	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management	Elective	D	Spring	10
ENVI70026	Sustainable Urban Infrastructure: Systems & Integration	Elective	D	Spring	10
ENVI70027	Sustainable Urban Transitions: Governance & Professional Practice	Elective	D	Spring	10
ENVI70009	Energy Systems and Technologies	Elective	E	Spring	10

[3] **Core** modules are those which serve a fundamental role within the curriculum, and for which achievement of the credits for that module is essential for the achievement of the target award. Core modules must therefore be taken and passed in order to achieve that named award. **Compulsory** modules are those which are designated as necessary to be taken as part of the programme syllabus. Compulsory modules can be compensated. **Elective** modules are those which are in the same subject area as the field of study and are offered to students in order to offer an element of choice in the curriculum and from which students are able to select. Elective modules can be compensated.

ENVI70010	Energy Systems and Markets	Elective	E	Spring	10
ENVI70047	Modelling Energy Systems	Elective	E	Spring	10
ENVI70043	Market Mechanisms for Accelerating Sustainable Transitions	Elective	E	Spring	10
ENVI70013	Tools for Environmental Decision Making	Elective	F	Spring	5
ENVI70044	Climate Impacts and Adaptation Across the World	Elective	F	Spring	5
ENVI70045	Life Cycle Thinking	Elective	F	Spring	5
ENVI70046	Citizen Science - Innovation, Theory, Policy & Practice	Elective	F	Spring	5
Summer Term (3 - research project term)					
ENVI70048	Methods in Sustainability Research	Compulsory	A	Summer	5
ENVI70005	Independent Research Project	Core	A	Summer	35
				Credit total	**90**

Progression and Classification

Award and Classification for Postgraduate Students

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert)

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate certificate you must have a minimum of 30 credits at Level 7 (this may include a maximum of 10 credits from Level 6 where this is approved as part of the award).

Award of a Masters Degree

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate degree you must have:

1. accumulated credit to the value of no fewer than 90 credits across levels 6 and 7 (of which 75 credits must be at Level 7);
2. and no more than 15 credits as a Compensated Pass;
3. met any specific requirements for an award as outlined in the approved programme specification for that award.

Classification of Postgraduate Taught Awards

The university sets the class of Degree that may be awarded as follows:

1. Distinction: 70.00% or above
2. Merit: 60.00% or above but less than 70.00%.
3. Pass: 50.00% or above but less than 60.00%.

For a Masters, your classification will be determined through:

The Programme Overall Weighted Average (POWA) and the designated dissertation or final major project (module) meeting the threshold for the relevant classification band.

Your degree algorithm provides an appropriate and reliable summary of your performance against the programme learning outcomes. It reflects the design, delivery, and structure of your programme without unduly over-emphasising particular aspects.

Programme Specific Regulations

N/A

Supporting Information
The Programme Handbook is available from the department
The Module Handbook is available from the department
Imperial's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements
Imperial's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance
Imperial's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations
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Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS) www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/
This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that you may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is primarily intended as a reference point for prospective and current students, academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement, for its assessment by internal and external examiners, and in subsequent monitoring and review.