

Online and Hybrid Programs in Sustainability Leadership

Master of Sustainability Leadership (MSL)

A fully online program that teaches organizational leadership skills through the lens of sustainability. Students can customize their area of focus through electives. The final capstone experience demonstrates mastery of the principles covered in the program.

Executive Master of Sustainability Leadership (EMSL)

A hybrid in-person and online program with an international immersive experience that expands organizational leadership skills with a focus on sustainability. Experienced professionals learn from the faculty, a network of guest speakers and each other in this cohort-based program, developing knowledge and skills while building valuable professional connections.



	MSL	EMSL
Class size	30-40	15-25
Program duration	18-24 months	12 months
Application deadlines and start dates	August 1 for August start; December 15 for January start	November 30 for January start
Credits required	35	30
Course modality	Online	Online with 3 in-person sessions (2 in Tempe; 1)
Faculty interaction	Virtual	Personalized
Webinars with thought leaders and sustainability scientists	Recorded material	Optional live interaction (recording available after event)
Electives	Yes	No
Approximate program cost*	\$25-30K	\$41K AZ resident** \$59K non-resident**

*Program costs include student fees, but do not include application, cost of living, books, graduation, etc. Tuition and fees associated with elective courses may vary.

**Lodging for the international immersive experience and some meals during the three in-person workshop sessions covered by tuition and fees. Students book and pay their own airfare for immersives.

Tempe Campus Master's Programs

Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Science (MS) in Sustainability

These traditional master's programs are best suited to students interested in knowledge generation and designing new ways to address sustainability challenges. The MA is geared toward students interested in social sciences, humanities, planning or related fields. The MS is designed for those inclined toward the natural sciences, economics, engineering or related fields.



	MA & MS	MSUS	MS-GSS (ASU cohort)
Program duration	2 years	1.5-2 years	2 years
Credits required	37	33	42
Culminating experience	Thesis or scientific paper and public defense	Applied project and public presentation	Scientific paper and public defense
Faculty guidance	Interdisciplinary supervisory committee of 3+ faculty members	MSUS supervisory committee with option of selecting a faculty advisor	Interdisciplinary supervisory committee of 3+ faculty members
Approximate program cost*	\$25K AZ resident \$49K non-resident \$56K international	\$25K AZ resident \$49K non-resident \$56K international	\$20K AZ resident \$38K non-resident \$45K international
Possible funding options	TA and RA positions; research, travel and project grants; fellowships and scholarships	Research, travel and project grants; fellowships and scholarships	Travel stipend for 1 semester at Leuphana; TA and RA positions; research, travel and project grants; fellowships and scholarships

*Program costs include student fees, but do not include application, cost of living, books, graduation, etc.

Master of Science, Global Sustainability Science (MS-GSS)

In this two-year consecutive degree program, students earn an MS in Global Sustainability Science from Arizona State University and an MSc in Global Sustainability Science from Leuphana University in Germany. Students collaborate with colleagues from Leuphana University throughout their program and spend one semester studying in Germany to engage in a global nexus of sustainability inquiry.



Master of Sustainability Solutions (MSUS)

This applied master's degree in sustainability prepares students to implement sustainability initiatives, projects and new ideas. MSUS students complete an Applied Project rather than a thesis.

The MSUS requires students to use project management skills including: identifying a sustainability problem and accompanying solution, project development, time management, and identifying and meeting with stakeholders.

Previous partners include APS, Valley Metro, City of Tempe, SRP, NCAA, Aramark and Stern Produce.

Application requirements include:

- Bachelor's degree
- 3.25 GPA (3.0 for MSUS)
- Statement of intent
- Resume/CV
- 3 recommendation letters
- GRE scores
- English proficiency

Additional Options

- USAID Global Development Research program
- Concurrent degree arrangements
- Internships
- Study abroad programs



Tempe Campus Doctoral Programs

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Sustainability

The doctoral program allows students to focus intensively on sustainability problems of interest to them. Students draw upon relevant knowledge from a variety of disciplines and perform original research under the guidance of their interdisciplinary faculty supervisory committees.



Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Sustainable Energy

The PhD in Sustainable Energy transcends the boundaries of traditional methodologies and disciplines to train researchers and leaders for a sustainable energy future. Students holistically integrate energy science with societal and policy insights to explore and address urgent challenges in energy systems.

Complex Adaptive Systems Science (CASS) Concentration

Complex adaptive systems science is the study of interactive and dynamic systems that change over time. The CASS program introduces scholars to new system approaches and offers them a role in seeking solutions to a broad array of critical issues facing our society today.

	PhD Programs
Program duration	4-6 years
Credits required*	54 if entering with master's; 84 if entering with bachelor's
Culminating experience	Dissertation and public defense
Faculty guidance	Interdisciplinary supervisory committee of 3+ faculty members
Approximate program cost**	\$58-90K AZ resident \$84-130K non-resident \$137-212K international
Possible funding options	TA and RA positions; research, travel and project grants; fellowships and scholarships

*Competitive applicants to Sustainability PhD programs typically have a master's degree.

**Program costs include student fees, but do not include application, cost of living, books, graduation, etc.



“This degree will make me a better project manager, innovator, collaborator, interdisciplinary navigator and complex problem-solver. I see more opportunity than I did before, and I understand more the evolution of business, environmental ethics and the complex origins of many of our current sustainability issues.”

—Samantha Zah, MSUS '19

ASU is among the **top 16%** in the world for graduate employability according to an international survey of 500 higher education institutions.



“Going to ASU's School of Sustainability was the best choice I've made in my professional life. I grew so much as a person through conversations with insightful peers in my cohort, and was able to learn through hands-on experiences from world class professors.”

—Alex Slaymaker, MSUS '16

#1 in the U.S. for innovation

ASU ahead of Stanford and MIT

—U.S. News & World Report 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019



98%

of graduate students

are very satisfied with the quality of their graduate education

97%

of alumni

are employed or pursuing additional education

82%

of employed alumni

have jobs directly related to sustainability

38%

of students

expand their education by studying abroad

15

countries

of origin represented by SOS graduate students

1st

school

of its kind in the nation

Sustainability

As the nation's first School of Sustainability, we are home to world-class faculty, a community of change agents and a diverse set of graduate programs to help you achieve your goals. Join us in creating knowledge and solutions that will shape our quality of life and that of future generations.

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Climate Change and Adaptation

Economics and Natural Capital

Energy, Materials and Technology

Ethical Business Practices

Food Systems

Future and Systems Thinking

International Development

Policy and Governance

Social and Behavioral Change

Urbanization

Water Quality and Quantity

ASU School of Sustainability
Arizona State University

Change the world

Contact the School of Sustainability

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Learn to thrive.

FSC logo

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Graduate degrees

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