

Concept of the postgraduate Master course "Master of Ecological Competence"

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Idea

In an economically shaped world dominated by profit and dividends, the ability to consider ecological factors in strategic decisions will be a critical aspect of any successful management career in the future. At executive level of enterprises, there will be senior executives, not only having the responsibility to comply with all environmental standards but also promoting a reorientation of the entire company policy towards sustainable processes with a profit perspective. Moreover, similar responsibilities will increasingly play a leading role for specialists operating in the area of tax and assurance.

The course provides a basic understanding of ecological, economic and social contexts in dealing with natural resources, habitat and environment, nature protection and health for graduates with no scientific background. The postgraduate "BOKU-Executive" program is designed to provide the know-how, complementary to the background of economists and lawyers. This expertise is considered as a prerequisite to assess and decide all economical-environmental concerns of companies in a holistic manner.

Target group and implementation

The university course sees itself as a postgraduate training offer for graduates of economic, legal or technical studies with several years experience in senior management area. In this context, managers, corporate consultants and young professionals who are primarily economic-legally oriented, as well as public accountants and business lawyers are particularly addressed.

Overview of the modules

- Module 1: Natural Landscape Management
- Module 2: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
- Module 3: Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
- Module 4: Corporate Sustainability Management
- Module 5: Global Change
- Module 6: Nutrition and Health
- Module 7: Research for Development
- Module 8: Tools (tool box)
- Module 9: Electives
- Module 10: Collaborative Project
- Module 11: Summer School
- Module 12: Master Thesis

Competencies

- Soil and land ecosystems (procedures and techniques for sustainable use and protection of speciose land use systems in the context of agricultural and forestry production)
- Habitat and landscape (methods and techniques to incorporate ecological, economic and social claims to the landscape in a sustainable spatial development)
- Renewable resources and resource-oriented technologies (procedures and methods to optimize the efficiency and quality of raw materials originated from renewable primary products and the careful exploitation of non-renewable, natural resources and energy)
- Resources and societal dynamics (processes and techniques to evaluate resources and their alternative use and to assess economic and social processes for cost-benefit ratios or risk assessments)

Developers of the course and specialists

• Univ.Prof. Dipl.-Biol. Dr.rer.nat. Klaus Hackländer, Department of Integrative Biology and Biodiversity Research

• Univ.Prof. Dr.phil. Wolfgang Holzner, Center for Environmental Studies and Nature Conservation

• Ao.Univ. Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. MAS (GIS) Harald Vacik, Institute of Siviculture