

Global Sustainable Development – Undergraduate Offer Holder live chat - Come and chat to our current students and academic staff

Global Sustainable Development – Offer Holder live chat - Come and chat to our current students and academic staff to find out what it's like to study GSD and what makes Warwick so unique.



5-March-2021



Hi everyone, welcome to our Offer Holders chat and congratulations on your offer! We are so excited about meeting you all in October. I am the Director of Undergraduate Admissions for GSD and a Teaching Fellow. Today, I am joined by Marta Guerriero, the Deputy Head of GSD, Bodrun Nahar, the GSD Employability and Placement Manager and Amalia Thomas, who is a GSD and Politics joint honours, third year, student. We are here to answer any questions you have. No question is too small or unimportant, just ask us.



Hi everyone! My name is Amalia and as Peter mentioned, I am a third year GSD PAIS (politics and international studies) student. Feel free to ask me any questions you might have about general student life :)



Hi everyone! Welcome to this live chat. I'm Marta Guerriero. I'm Deputy Head of GSD and Admissions Tutor for Economic Studies and GSD.



Hi everyone, please feel free to start asking questions. We have until 5pm.



Hi Everyone! I am Bodrun Nahar the Employability and Placements Manager for the GSD degree programmes. I look forward to chatting to you today. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have in relation to your future career, placements or anything else. There are no wrong/silly questions. :-)



Hi, what are some of the career opportunities that GSD provides? thank you!



Hiya, I have an offer for GSD and Economics! I was just wondering to what extent Warwick help us with summer internships?



I believe it to be about 20% group work with presentations. Could you explain that a little more as to how it will work. I love the interactivensess of it and ability to cooperate



Hi, how many students do you expect will be starting the GSD course this year?



Hi, what are some of the careers that graduates of the GSD course have gone on to pursue?



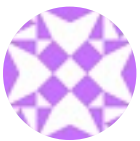
I believe it to be about 20% group work with presentations. Could you explain that a little more as to how it will work. I love the interactiveness of it and ability to cooperate

Hi Francesca, do you mean in the first year generally?



Hi, how many students do you expect will be starting the GSD course this year?

Hi Jade! We normally have around 120-130 students every year, across all degrees (both Single honours and Joint honours).



Hi, what are some of the career opportunities that GSD provides? thank you!

Hi Isla, thank you for your question! There are a wide variety of career paths that are open to GSD students. This is because, our degree programme is designed to develop employability skills that are sought by employers. This is supported by our professional development courses such as in Digital Literacy and Communication. But as examples, we have students who have gone in to become Risk Analyst in the Finance sector, Sustainability Officers, Human Resources, Recruitment! The list goes on. I am here to support you throughout your studies to help you in identifying a suitable career path.



Hi, what are some of the careers that graduates of the GSD course have gone on to pursue?

Hi Michael, Bodrun will reply soon, she is just replying to some earlier questions.



Hi, what are some of the careers that graduates of the GSD course have gone on to pursue?

Hi Michael, thank you for your question! There are a wide variety of career paths that are open to GSD students. This is because, our degree programme is designed to develop employability skills that are sought by employers. This is supported by our professional development courses such as in Digital Literacy and Communication. But as examples, we have students who have gone in to become Risk Analyst in the Finance sector, Sustainability Officers, Human Resources, Recruitment! The list goes on. I am here to support you throughout your studies to help you in identifying a suitable career path.



Good afternoon Peter, I mean over the whole degree by looking at the assessment method it contains group presentations



Hiya, I have an offer for GSD and Economics! I was just wondering to what extent Warwick help us with summer internships?

Hi Sabira, Thank you for your question. My role is to support you throughout the placement process. This involves everything from identifying who to contact, how to go about it, CV, interviews the whole process. I also work with employers to generate summer placements for our students. In addition to this, we have our wider Careers Service that are here to support you. So overall there is a lot of support available to you.



Amalia, I just wanted to ask about what are some of your favourite parts of campus as well as some general facilities that any students may find useful?



Hey, I wanted to know more about the coursework - do students regularly take action/hold events ect or is this course more research based with assignments like writing policy briefs ect? (Single Hons)



What is the likelihood of receiving a placement to study abroad in, say, Melbourne?



Good afternoon Peter, I mean over the whole degree by looking at the assessment method it contains group presentations

Hi Francesca, I am not sure what the overall percentage is for the number of presentations but certainly on GSD modules there are group presentations in 3 of the 4 core first year modules. Then throughout your time with GSD we pride ourselves in assessing you in a wide variety of ways. This is for a number of reasons, not least because essays and exams are not something you will be asked to do once you enter the world of work, but you may have to do presentations, policy briefs, research papers and posters etc, all of which we ask you to do.



Thank you Bodrun, sounds great!



Amazing! Will these presentations be in small or big groups chosen our selves and presenting to each other?



Amalia, can you explain why you chose this course over other courses/ unis. And why you would recommend this to us?



Hi, I read on the website that there are no exams for the sociology and GSD course - is this true? How will we be assessed instead?



Thank you Bodrun, sounds great!
You're welcome! :-)



Concerning Monash, do you have a list of modules that students have previously chosen to take over there, just to get an idea? Also, if we are doing a joint degree do we get to take modules from GSD and our other subject?



Also - is it common amongst GSD students to do a semester or a year abroad? If so, what are some popular destinations and is it competitive? Like do you have to apply for it and then chosen or is it that any one who can fund it can go?



What is the likelihood of receiving a placement to study abroad in, say, Melbourne?

Hi Matilda, we are working on these still being able to happen. As we are sure you will appreciate, these things are beyond the control of GSD and the University right now, but they are still a core component of our degree. But dont worry we will keep you fully abreast of developments once you are here.



Hey, I wanted to know more about the coursework - do students regularly take action/hold events ect or is this course more research based with assignments like writing policy briefs ect? (Single Hons)

There's a very wide range of assessment formats, including online activities, group projects, reflective journals, research papers, policy briefings, posters, portfolios, reports and presentations. For certain modules, for example the dissertation in final year, students can choose to submit what we call a 'creative output' instead of a traditional written piece of work, which can be very practical.



Amazing! Will these presentations be in small or big groups chosen our selves and presenting to each other?

In the first year, the group sizes are no more than 6 and you present to your peers and of course us!



Thank you Peter; can't wait



Hi, I read on the website that there are no exams for the sociology and GSD course - is this true? How will we be assessed instead?

Hello! There's a very wide range of assessment formats (including online activities, group projects, reflective journals, research papers, policy briefings, posters, portfolios, reports and presentations). However, we do have also the more traditional exams. For example, two core modules in first year, Economic Principles of GSD and Environmental Principles of GSD, have an exam.



Thank you Peter; can't wait

We can't wait either to meet new students!



Thank you Marta!!



Thank you Marta!



Amalia, I just wanted to ask about what are some of your favourite parts of campus as well as some general facilities that any students may find useful?

Some of my favourite parts of campus are definitely all the green spaces that you can go to for walks (one of the main benefits of a campus uni), and I'm also quite biased towards the sports facilities as they're very new and host all sorts of sports societies (so I'm mainly in tennis, women's netball and mixed netball). The oculus is also a lovely building to study in as they have huge windows, which let lots of sunlight in and they also have a waffle café downstairs. In terms of more useful facilities, there's the library, which I have personally spent lots of time in, and there are also course specific common rooms, which is useful if you want to meet people in your course or just go there to have lunch/ study.



Good afternoon Peter, I mean over the whole degree by looking at the assessment method it contains group presentations

I've personally found that the teaching style does rely on students engaging with the material and presenting their own viewpoints and ideas in discussions and seminars, so it's quite an interactive teaching approach. I definitely have had plenty of opportunities throughout my degree so far to participate in group discussions and group presentations.



Thank you Marta!!

You're welcome!



Thank you Marta!
You're welcome!



Concerning Monash, do you have a list of modules that students have previously chosen to take over there, just to get an idea? Also, if we are doing a joint degree do we get to take modules from GSD and our other subject?

Once you are here , we can give you a link to their module catalogue. Broadly, you can choose any module they offer as long as it has a GSD focus. As a major global University, they have lots of great courses.



Thank you Amalia! I agree I feel like its such a current topic that provides a lot of opportunity for engaging interactions



That's a nice coincidence cause I'm very much into tennis as well. Does the university have a BUCS team and if so how many?



Amalia, can you explain why you chose this course over other courses/ unis. And why you would recommend this to us?

I chose this course because I really liked how they framed the modules around the UNs 17 Sustainable Development Goals, so this allows the course to provide a very relevant and interdisciplinary approach to learning about sustainability. So, in your first year not only do you learn about economic principles and social principles, relating to the 17 sustainable development goals, but you also get to look at environmental principles which is a bit more scientific and I personally really enjoyed it. There's also a really good range of modules that you can choose from in your second and third year, which allows you to tailor your degree more to your interests.



A question for Amalia or Marta: what is your favourite aspect of the university of Warwick as a whole?



Also - is it common amongst GSD students to do a semester or a year abroad? If so, what are some popular destinations and is it competitive? Like do you have to apply for it and then chosen or is it that any one who can fund it can go?

There are two study abroad options: the integrated year abroad at Monash University (either in Melbourne, Australia, or in Malaysia) and the intercalated year abroad. In the integrated option (exchange only with Monash University), you go abroad in your second year (term 2 and 3). In the intercalated option, you go abroad for a whole year, between your second and your final year - your degree becomes a 4-year course. There are several different choices of Universities for the intercalated option. Normally, approximately 20 students per year choose the integrated programme with Monash University and 10 students choose the intercalated option.



Amalia, can you explain why you chose this course over other courses/ unis. And why you would recommend this to us?

I also found that GSD just uses a very engaging learning style, so in addition to essays, you also can get the chance to write policy briefs, do group presentations, do pitches and so on :)



Hi Marta, I'm curious as to what an Admissions Tutor does, and are there Heads and Deputy Heads for all courses? Also, what is the student government like? Is one selected by the current government or it is based purely on votes?



That's a nice coincidence cause I'm very much into tennis as well. Does the university have a BUCS team and if so how many?

Hi Michael, yes there are lots of BUCS teams, depending on the popularity of the specific sport at Warwick, there may be several, for example tennis or football teams.



Also, what are course specific common rooms? They sound very interesting



Thank you Amalia! Did you study abroad last year (or did covid prevent that?) What do you plan on doing once you have left uni? Career path etc.



Thanks Peter, good to know!



We will play a short video for you now. But feel free to keep asking questions.

GSD students: Be the change you want to be



GSD students video: Luke

<https://youtu.be/ulrYdqSLbnU>



Concerning Monash, do you have a list of modules that students have previously chosen to take over there, just to get an idea? Also, if we are doing a joint degree do we get to take modules from GSD and our other subject?

I went to monash in Melbourne last year and I took ATS3546 (environmental assessment and decision making), ATS3563 (Global consumption), ATS3627 (Global cultures, media flows...) and ECC2800 (Prosperity, poverty and sustainability in a globalised world- more of an economics module) :)



Concerning Monash, do you have a list of modules that students have previously chosen to take over there, just to get an idea? Also, if we are doing a joint degree do we get to take modules from GSD and our other subject?

and yes if you take a joint honours, your course is split 50/50 between GSD and your other subject



Hi Marta, I'm curious as to what an Admissions Tutor does, and are there Heads and Deputy Heads for all courses? Also, what is the student government like? Is one selected by the current government or it is based purely on votes?

Hi Sherebanu! Admissions Tutors read through your applications and (since you received an offer - congratulations!) accept you on the course. The GSD department has a Head (Dr Stephanie Panichelli-Batalla) and a Deputy Head (myself) - these are for all GSD courses. Students have reps who are elected every year and they meet regularly in the SSLC (Student Staff Liaison Committee). Student reps are elected by students. There are reps for each cohort and each degree.



Hi there, I recently got an offer for GSD the other day. I was just wondering, as I've applied for straight GSD with no placement year abroad, will I still be able to apply for it ?



Thank you so much



You're welcome.



What are the additional costs relating to the study abroad schemes ?



Hi there, I recently got an offer for GSD the other day. I was just wondering, as I've applied for straight GSD with no placement year abroad, will I still be able to apply for it ?

Hi Neil! Yes, absolutely. That's not a problem at all. You will apply for the work placement year or the study abroad year once you've started the course.



Is there any difference in going to Singapore or Australia course/module wise?



Thanks, Amalia those modules sound interesting! What made you choose Melbourne over Malaysia, they both seem like great campuses?



Hey, another question - what do you guys do for fun? Does living in a campus university get claustrophobic after the second or third year? And do many students regularly go to neighbouring cities?



Thank you Amalia! Did you study abroad last year (or did covid prevent that?) What do you plan on doing once you have left uni? Career path etc.

I did do the study abroad last year (just for the term though) and I could not recommend it enough! The study abroad was probably one of the main reasons I wanted to do GSD because it lets you take modules that aren't necessarily available here, and it also lets you work with a whole new cohort so really it benefits you from an academic perspective! Plans wise for next year, I've been applying to masters courses relating to international development, and after that I'm hoping to join the Civil service or UN :)



Is there any difference in going to Singapore or Australia course/module wise?

Hi Lilly, Monash is in Malaysia, not Singapore, and there will be different modules on each campus, However, they are all overseen by Monash University so the quality and standards will be the same.



Thank you again Amalia! Good luck with all of that!



Sorry about that! However, thank you for your answer!



Hi there, I recently got an offer for GSD the other day. I was just wondering, as I've applied for straight GSD with no placement year abroad, will I still be able to apply for it ?

Hi Neil, I just wanted to add that you do not need to make a decision about a placement year when you start with us, in fact you can still be undecided in your first year. It's only when you get to your second year that you will need to make a decision. So don't worry, you have plenty of time and we support you in helping you to make that decision.



What are the additional costs relating to the study abroad schemes ?

There aren't many additional costs, but you will have to pay for flights/ accommodation/ food and things like that :) luckily university fees are still paid to warwick though so they won't increase



Amalia, that sounds like a solid plan! Have you heard of UN Youth Leaders? Are there any GSD students who have been or are currently Youth Leaders?



Perfect ! Thanks Amalia



Thanks, Amalia those modules sound interesting!
What made you choose Melbourne over Malaysia, they both seem like great campuses?

Honestly I was torn between the two, but I went with Australia just because I used to live in Indonesia and most of the people I went to school with there ended up in Australian Universities, so I thought it would be nice to be able to reconnect with them! Some of my GSD friends went to Malaysia though and they loved it!



Sorry about that! However, thank you for your answer!

No Problem! Everyone has their own reasons for picking a specific campus. I have travelled extensively in both countries. For Europeans, I think Australia is more like Europe/US Whereas Malaysia is not. And the foood in Malaysia! Yummmmy!



Are accommodation and food costs paid via student loans?



What are the additional costs relating to the study abroad schemes ?

Hi Jade, I thought you might be interested to know that it is a reduced tuition fee that you would pay to the University of Warwick for your study abroad year or work placement year.



thanks!!! Malaysia sounds tempting!!



Amalia, that sounds like a solid plan! Have you heard of UN Youth Leaders? Are there any GSD students who have been or are currently Youth Leaders?

I have heard of them, and whilst I don't know of any in GSD now (but there could still be), we have students who have been part of the UK youth parliament and students who have been part of other youth movements such as the School Strikes for Climate and Extinction Rebellion, so it's a great mix of people!



That's incredible, thank you for sharing that Peter



I hope to pursue a career in public policy and Warwick really seems the place that will help me get there



thanks!!! Malaysia sounds tempting!!

And a very safe and stunning country to travel around, much underrated protected marine areas.



Hey, another question - what do you guys do for fun? Does living in a campus university get claustrophobic after the second or third year? And do many students regularly go to neighbouring cities?

There are lots of things to do for fun! For instance there are loads of different societies (sports/ academic/ artistic/social) that host lots of events throughout the year. So there's a GSD society which I found to be a great way to meet the rest of your cohort since they do various sober and non sober events (bar crawls/ movie nights/ bowling), but it's also good academically because they host and promote various speaker events usually relating to sustainability so that can add some depth to your knowledge. The GSD society also organised a trip to Copenhagen to do a sustainable tour of the city since it's one of the greenest cities in Europe. So in addition to learning about how they were achieving their COP21 goals, we also got the chance to enjoy many danish pastries. There's also plenty of cafés around campus to enjoy, and an on campus club which has a club event every Wednesday called POP (which is a big thing here).



As we have had questions about Monash we will play the short video about it.

GSD: Unique Study Abroad Programme



Monash study abroad

<https://youtu.be/lWOa6EvzmKo>



Hey, another question - what do you guys do for fun? Does living in a campus university get claustrophobic after the second or third year? And do many students regularly go to neighbouring cities?

I personally don't think living in a campus university gets claustrophobic mainly because it is a very big campus, but also because most 2nd/3rd years live off campus in either Leamington Spa or Coventry :)



Can someone please elaborate on the yearly sustainability field trips Warwick has planned in the past (I read about them on the student blog)? Are these still planning on going forth in the next years?



Hey, another question - what do you guys do for fun? Does living in a campus university get claustrophobic after the second or third year? And do many students regularly go to neighbouring cities?

And yes before covid, we used to go to Birmingham quite a lot for certain events and also the christmas market in December! You soon realise that nothing is that far away by train/ bus here so you can travel around as much as you want :)



Thank you again Amalia! Good luck with all of that!
No worries Matilda, thank you! :)



Thanks Amalia!!



I hope to pursue a career in public policy and Warwick really seems the place that will help me get there

Hi Sherebanu, yes our students are interested in getting in to this field and so we ensure that our assessments are designed to reflect task that are sought in the real world. For example, some of the assignments require you to write policy briefs and therefore you get a better understanding of what it involves to work in shaping policy. (from Bodrun)



Last 10 minutes. Have you any last questions, no matter how small, there are only questions. We like questions!



Can someone please elaborate on the yearly sustainability field trips Warwick has planned in the past (I read about them on the student blog)? Are these still planning on going forth in the next years?

Of course. Some of our modules include field trips. Unfortunately, this year we were not able to organise any because of the pandemic, but I'm sure that there will be more in the future. For example, as part of our second year 'Food' module, students visit a sustainable farm and a food bank, to discuss issues of food sustainability and food security.



Oh thank you for that Bodrun! Yes, my only concern was that in a development studies styled course, there can grow a gap between what students learn and what the reality is in the real world. I just wanted to ensure that we would be learning the necessary skills we need to truly navigate problems in real life effectively



Thank you Marta, that sounds incredibly interesting!



One last short video.



Thank you Marta, that sounds incredibly interesting!

It is! :)

GSD: Meet our team



Meet our team

<https://youtu.be/Q1eYn1dKDe0>



Oh thank you for that Bodrun! Yes, my only concern was that in a development studies styled course, there can grow a gap between what students learn and what the reality is in the real world. I just wanted to ensure that we would be learning the necessary skills we need to truly navigate problems in real life effectively

Our GSD degree is very current and focussed on the real world in every way! :-)



Are accommodation and food costs paid via student loans?

Apologies, we missed this! Yes, they are.



Also, what are course specific common rooms?
They sound very interesting

Basically each course should have their own space with chairs/ sofas/ sometimes desks, so GSD has their's in the Ramphal building and it just is a nice small space only meant for people doing GSD to get together and hang out :)



That's cool



Last 5 minutes!



Hey guys what is the best way to meet other offer holders as I dont know anyone who has applied to the course?



One last question, what does the certificate of professional communication entail?



Also, I couldn't find any GSD students on Unibuddy!
Is it just me?



Hey guys what is the best way to meet other offer holders as I don't know anyone who has applied to the course?

Hi Saboor, there is a Facebook page and I will get my colleague to send you the link.



A question for Amalia or Marta: what is your favourite aspect of the university of Warwick as a whole?

I love how you get to meet and work with people from such a diverse range of backgrounds, and there are so many opportunities to meet people through sports or societies that have their own social events (so it's a very sociable community :)).



okay excellent thank you!



Peter, could you send me the link to the Facebook page too please? Thank you



Hi Peter, can I get that link too?



Yes sure.



Could I have the link too please ?



Me too please!



Me too, thanks



Thanks!!



Me too, thanks

Sure, I will make sure you all get it and you can start chatting!



Also, one last question. Are there any accommodation houses that are specifically catered to GSD students?



Or better said, any that you would recommend as they are more populated with GSD students?



Could I have the link too please ?
Hi Jade what is your surname please?



One last question, what does the certificate of professional communication entail?

Hi Sabira, the Certificate in Professional Communication is an optional course that provides you with an understanding and overview of the world of work in relation to communication. There are 5 workshops and each one covers a different topic. After you complete the certificate, you complete a short work placement (1 month) in the summer. This then gets recognised on your Higher Education Achievement Report. Here is the link to this just for your reference

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/certificates/professionalcommunication>

Certificate of Professional Communication

Certificate of Professional Communication with Work Placement



Also, I couldn't find any GSD students on Unibuddy!
Is it just me?

We cant answer that as we dont access it! But you now have some GSD buddies form this chat to meet on Facebook!



Or better said, any that you would recommend as they are more populated with GSD students?

Accommodation wise you just select your top 3 and then you usually get allocated quite randomly, so you'll be mixed with all sorts of people from different degrees :) From my knowledge Jack Martin and Arthur Vick did have quite a few GSD students, as well as Sherbourne (which I was in) :)



One last minute and we will end the chat.



Thank you Bodrun, is it selective?



Thank you Amalia :))



Thank you Bodrun, is it selective?

Hi Sabira, the Certificate is open to year 1 and year 2 students and places are capped. Therefore, if you cannot do it in year 1, you will have the opportunity again in year 2.



OK everyone, we are going now. Thank you soooo much for keeping us so busy with your great questions. We are really looking forward to meeting you all! If you have any further questions please email me peter.dwyer@warwick.ac.uk



Ok thank you, Bodrun! GSD sounds so exciting, thank you everyone for your answers!



Thank you everyone!!



Thank you everyone! We look forward to meeting you all soon!



It's been lovely chatting to you all and I really do look forward to welcoming and working with you throughout your study programme. :-)



Thank you !



Thank you for coming! :)