

Global Sustainable Development (GSD) Undergraduate live chat at Warwick

An opportunity for you to speak to our tutors and current students about studying Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development and life at Warwick.



Hi everyone! Thanks so much for joining this event. I'm Naomi and I'm a final year student currently studying the single-honours Global Sustainable Development BAsc degree. Feel free to ask me anything student life related :)



Welcome! It's great to have you here with us today. I'm Jess and I'm a Recruitment and Communications Officer in the Global Sustainable Development Department. This live chat is a straight forward questions and answers session, so when you're ready please do introduce yourself and ask us any of your questions. In this live chat you'll be able to speak to one of our current students Naomi; our Director of Student Experience, Romain Chenet; and our Employability and Placement Manager, Bodrun Nahar, will also be stopping by 😊



Hi Naomi and Jess. I'm Nicky. I was wondering if there is an opportunity to do a 3rd year abroad, or international work placements?



Hi Naomi, what would you say was your favourite aspect of your degree?



Hello Naomi and Jess. I am Ines, I am applying to Life Sciences and GSD.



Hi I'm Emma! I'm really interested in climate change and mitigation, is there much of that on your course?



Welcome everyone, I made it!



Hi Emma, yes we cover climate in quite a few modules, you certainly will have the opportunity to cover it - probably from a few different perspectives



hi I'm Keira! would you say this course lends itself well to work in humanitarian aid ?



I would like to know what are the main differences between GSD and Life Sciences and GSD. Which one is more competitive?



Hi Naomi and Jess. I'm Nicky. I was wondering if there is an opportunity to do a 3rd year abroad, or international work placements?

Hi Nicky, I hope you're well! We offer two options for studying abroad - one option is to study abroad as part of your second year at Monash University, and the other option is to do a full year abroad (which would extend your degree by a year - you would go abroad in the third year) at one of Warwick's partner Universities. Please let me know if you have any questions on these options!



Emma, if you head to this webpage you will see several modules that discussed climate change <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/prospectivestudents/undergraduate/gdsinglehons>



Hi Naomi and Jess. I'm Nicky. I was wondering if there is an opportunity to do a 3rd year abroad, or international work placements?

When Bodrun has the chance to I will let her answer your question about international work placements if that's okay



Are there many green spaces on campus and how often do people usually leave to go into coventry



Hi Naomi, what would you say was your favourite aspect of your degree?

Hi India, hmm I'd say that my favourite part of the degree is the flexibility you have in choosing modules that you are most interested in and also how much independence you have in choosing your assignment topic. It allows you to choose topics and modules that are in your interest areas. For single honours, you have loads of choice in terms of modules and can pick from external departments so for example, I've done modules in sociology, french and drama!



Hello Naomi and Jess. I am Ines, I am applying to Life Sciences and GSD.

Welcome!



Welcome Everyone! My name is Bodrun Nahar and I am the Employability and Placements Manager. Please feel free to ask any questions relating to this topic! :-)



Hi Keira, yes humanitarian aid and development are closely connected so it is certainly an opportunity you could explore as a graduate. I'm a former NGO worker myself and we cover both sides (aid / development) extensively throughout the degree



How easy would you say it is to ask your lecturers questions?



Thank you!



Thanks Naomi! I'm applying for the same course and I'm really excited to explore all the different modules! Any advice on how to stand out in my personal statement for this course?



What is expected of me for the 2nd personal statement, and when will it be requested?



Are there many green spaces on campus and how often do people usually leave to go into coventry

Hey Khushi, I think there are a load of green spaces on campus. Quite a few small lakes and foresty areas too. In terms of going to Coventry, it's really easy to get to. I think students tend to go to Leamington Spa more, but Coventry is also a popular place to go out for a night out or just to visit.



Well Khushi, you're asking me one now :) We are very approachable as a team and much of our teaching is interactive where we expect you to ask questions - it's invited!



Hi Bodrun. Could you provide a link to a list of partner universities, (I presume there are many) and Monash Uni please.



Thank you!



Roughly how many people do the course each year?



How easy would you say it is to ask your lecturers questions?

From my perspective, very easy. It's easy to ask in the seminar or via email or they have advice and feedback hours where you can drop-in and ask whatever you want about the course



Hi Nicky, thank you for your question. Yes, there definitely is opportunities for you do to international placements. In fact we encourage this. You can also do study abroad in your third year. I hope this has answered your question.



I would like to know what are the main differences between GSD and Life Sciences and GSD. Which one is more competitive?

Hi Ines, thank you for your question. With Life Sciences and GSD, your teaching will be equally split between the GSD Department and the Life Sciences Department. You will have a little flexibility in the second and final years with studying modules around the University with a GSD focus. In comparison, with the single honours degree you will have a lot more flexibility in terms of studying modules from across the university which have a GSD focus. With all of our degrees, you will all study core GSD modules (no matter if you're a single honours student or a joint honours student). Is this helpful?



Hi Emma, across the single honours and joint degrees it's about 130 per year



that's good that you can do both an international placement and a year abroad. Exciting!

Study abroad

1. Integrated

- » Unique to GSD
- » Terms 2 and 3 of second year
- » Monash University in Australia or Malaysia
- » Counts towards overall degree
- » GSD focused modules

2. Intercalated

- » Four year course, study abroad in third year
- » Remain a Warwick student
- » Doesn't count towards overall degree
- » Recorded on your Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)



Study abroad



How has safety on campus improved of the last few years?



that's good that you can do both an international placement and a year abroad. Exciting!

Hi Nicky, I've just popped a slide on the screen for you which covers the two study abroad options. You can also find out more about studying abroad here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/prospectivestudents/undergraduate/studyabroad/>

Study Abroad

GSD offers you the chance for a truly global experience, with either our intercalated year-long study abroad programme, or integrated programme at Monash University in either Melbourne or Malaysia





When did this degree start being offered?



Hi William, we are not asking for second statements as a default this year. You may be asked for one, but it's not mandatory at first



thanks Jess



for this degree, is it mainly essay based, coursework or practical?



Will giving a 2nd statement increase our chances of getting onto the course?



Thank Jess, I have noticed the entry requirements are slightly higher for GSD than Life Sciences and GSD. Why is that?



Hi Khushi, we started 6 years ago, and we do not ask for a second statement anymore. At least not when you apply.



Hi Nicky, I don't have the list to hand at present, but we can definitely provide this to you if you leave your email address.



Your grades / projected grades are the most important criteria as the degree is very competitive



How has safety on campus improved of the last few years?

There is on site campus security all the time, I can't say what it was like compared to a few years ago but it's felt quite supportive. There's lots of resources available like 'report & support' and as I said on campus security. I've had to call on campus security (health emergency for someone else) and they've always been very fast to get to the place.



Do we have to pay uni fees during work experience placement years



GSD Single honours has higher entry requirements as it's the most competitive of them all. That's the main reason as we have a limit on how many students we can accept each year



Thank Jess, I have noticed the entry requirements are slightly higher for GSD than Life Sciences and GSD. Why is that?

Hi Ines, as you may know, the entry requirements for Life Sciences and GSD is AAB to include A level in Biology. This is slightly lower than the entry requirements for the single honours degree (AAA) - just to note, the single honours degree doesn't have any subject specific requirements



Thank Jess, I have noticed the entry requirements are slightly higher for GSD than Life Sciences and GSD. Why is that?

And please see Romain's response below for a follow up on the reason behind this



When did this degree start being offered?

Hi Khushi, hopefully you can see Romain's reply to this question below



for this degree, is it mainly essay based, coursework or practical?

My assignments have been really mixed including group presentations, essays, creating policy briefs, making a visual campaign. Each module has different assignment requirements.



What's the workload like for single honours - do you have time for yourselves?



Hi Khusi, it is reduced tuition fees for the placement year.



Is the dual honours course with this and psychology BPS accredited?



Hi Bodrun. Could you provide a link to a list of partner universities, (I presume there are many) and Monash Uni please.

Hi Nicky, just following up on this - please see here for information regarding Warwick's partner universities for studying abroad:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/studentopportunity/studentmobility/studyabroad/partnerinstitutions/>

Our partner institutions

Student Mobility, Student Opportunity, University of Warwick, CV4 8UW Contact



Hi Bodrun. Could you provide a link to a list of partner universities, (I presume there are many) and Monash Uni please.

And the link to Monash University is here:

<https://www.monash.edu/>

Monash University

Monash University is one of Australia's leading universities and ranks among the world's top 100. We help change lives through research and education. Learn more.



And how do tuition fees work if we do a year abroad



great, thanks



Hi Khushi, it is still reduced fees if you choose to study abroad for your third year.



Thanks



And how do tuition fees work if we do a year abroad

Hi Khushi, you may find out study abroad FAQs useful in answer to these questions (in particular the 'How much will it cost me to study abroad' one:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/prospectivestudents/undergraduate/faq/#Abroad>

FAQs - Global Sustainable Development - University of Warwick

Do you have any questions about our Global Sustainable Development degrees at the University of Warwick? Find out about our courses and if you have any more questions for us, get in touch.

GSD: Unique Study Abroad Programme



Study abroad video

<https://youtu.be/IWOa6EvzmKo>



What's the workload like for single honours - do you have time for yourselves?

Hi Khushi, the workload is pretty heavy - you kinda have to learn how much you're willing to dedicate to things because there is ALWAYS more reading that you can do.. sometimes it's about saying you need to prioritise your social life over doing an extra reading.. Realistically, this is a top uni and it is a lot of work, but it's completely worth it because you find it interesting! It's also up to you in a way how much work you want to put in



Hi Keira, the GSD/Psychology page will have information on the joint honours, BPS accreditation will be noted more on the Psychology department's website, please have a look there



How has safety on campus improved of the last few years?

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/community-safety/campussafety/>

Safety at Warwick

Every year, bikes on campus are targeted by opportunist thieves because they can be easy to steal and then sell on. Please ensure you:



How long does it typically take students to get a job after graduating from GSD



Does the Life Science part of the degree allows you to do some modules in Chemistry. I am doing IB, Biology, Chemistry, Spanish at HL and Maths, Philosophy and English at SL.



As we've had quite a few study abroad questions (thank you for these!), we'll play our short study abroad video which features GSD students who went to Monash University (as part of their second year)



Thanks maximise



Naiomi **



hi I'm Keira! would you say this coarse lends itself well to work in humanitarian aid ?

Hi Keira, just coming back to your question, hopefully you can see Romain's response 😊



Hi Khushi, it's hard to give a typical time frame as students go on to do different things. But, if you are actively looking it could be immediately or 6 months after you graduate. There are a lot of factors that determine this such as the availability of the profession you are interested in. But rest assured we will support you through this from the moment you join us.



Thank you for all of your questions so far! If we've missed any, please feel free to post them again for us



What makes Warwick's GSD programme unique in comparison to other uni's?



The banner features a central image of a hand holding a small globe with greenery and a rainbow. Text on the left reads 'Global Sustainable Development Live Chat'. Below this, it says 'Monday 27 September 2021 1-2 pm UK time'. The Warwick University logo is in the bottom right corner.

Welcome slide



Are most of the contact hours of the single honours course lectures?



how many contact hours are there per week?



What are the sort of things you do don't want to see on our personal statements



How many people typically apply to gsd each year



Hi India, to reply to your question from earlier, I suggest you focus on showing in your personal statement why development and sustainability is an interest of yours. We know that our programme is a bit unique and so many applicants will be applying to us alongside Politics, Geography, or other courses, so don't worry about it but try and bring out what your interest in GSD is



Khushi, I can't advise more than what UCAS and other sources suggest, however your grades are the more important consideration in our Admissions



I see there isn't an option to do a BSc in Geography at Warwick - is there an opportunity to do geography modules within other degrees such as management?



We have around 800 applications a year across all our degrees



Are most of the contact hours of the single honours course lectures?

Hi India, for my experience, I had at least one hour seminar to accompany each lecture so it was fairly balanced.



We have no Geography BA or BSc, it is a quirk of Warwick. This is why GSD is listed under the Geography page on UCAS



To add on the personal statement, this is our guidance: In your UCAS personal statement, we are looking for a demonstration of your academic passion, a sense of what motivates you, and why you want to study sustainable development.



how many contact hours are there per week?

I think it varies with which modules you have, I had roughly 10-12 hours per week last year



Thanks



Nicky, I unfortunately can't speak for other departments, but often departments may offer some opportunity to study modules in other departments. We do, but others don't.



There have been quite a few questions so if we've missed yours, please do send again :)



Hello, I am interested in the joined degree GSD and Business. Initially I was planning to pursue a first degree in Business and a masters in Environment/sustainability. Could you suggest what option has better employment prospects ?



Hi, would you be disadvantaged if your personal statement is tailored toward alternative courses, such as geography, as GSD is not that common a course?



I'm currently working but I'm really interested in this course and the questions being asked. Could I get a copy of this chat sent to me? Thank you, Troy



Is there a dissertation in the final year and if so how much support is given on it



What are your least and most savouries parts about GSD bit also warwick



I am looking to do Economics and GSD, what is the cooperation like between departments for a dual honours course such as this?



Is there a dissertation in the final year and if so how much support is given on it

As of now, yes I am about to be doing my dissertation - it currently is a full year module. You get allocated a dissertation supervisor too - more information than that will have to come from staff



Favourite **



What other unis did u apply to naiomi



Hi Pasha, you wouldn't be disadvantaged, but you do need to note the interest in GSD. There have been several questions on this, have a look at the chat history for more details



Hi, for the Economic studies and GSD degree, I was wondering if there were any and if so what kind of work placements are offered?



Regarding employment prospects, these will of course depend on the type of employment you are seeking



What are your least and most savouries parts about GSD bit also warwick

Favourite parts: - amount of societies and sports clubs

- range of nationalities
- GSD has great teachers and great support - from speaking to friends in other departments, it's one of the best for having encouraging and interesting teaching

Least favourite parts:

- picking modules in the first few weeks of term from external departments is quite stressful and sometimes not organised very well (Warwick as a whole)

I can't think of many more bad parts from my own experience to be honest!



Yes Luc, we will have work placements with numerous organisations and companies for our students. These will often be sustainability-related however



Hi Troy, I suggest you look at joining one of our upcoming Open Days as these would be more relevant to you and give far more information



What other unis did u apply to naiomi

I had a weird and wonderful journey to university and it was not typical in the least. I went to drama school for two years before coming to this university. This was actually the first and only university I applied to. The rest were drama schools!



Thats so cool!!



I'm not sure we are sharing the chat transcript as this is a live event rather than formal overview of the degree. But please do ask any questions you might have



Hi, would you be disadvantaged if your personal statement is tailored toward alternative courses, such as geography, as GSD is not that common a course?

Again I can only speak from my own experience but honestly I had a personal statement that was for Acting degrees! It's probably changed quite a bit because this was where the second statement came in handy for me - Geography has a lot of crossover with GSD so maybe trying to find examples and interests that can be applied to both? - This is just student advice though



We mostly look at your grades ;)



Do u look at our gcse grades too



Yes we do, the entire profile from UCAS



But GCSE is less relevant



Ahh ok



Do u have a pre reading list available to us?



How similar are Economics and GSD, are there any overlaps? Thanks.



And what are the employability prospects?



Hi Juliette, there were several questions on this earlier, have a look at the chat history to see more. We also have a website... One sec



Would you say that our tutors and lecturers know us well? Like on a name to name basis?



<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/prospectivestudents/undergraduate/careers/>



It depends on the student, if you turn up we generally remember you :D



Haha



Romain, what did you major in ?



Would you say that our tutors and lecturers know us well? Like on a name to name basis?

Yes, in GSD department, they all know names :')



Do u have a pre reading list available to us?

Read the news is my advice, have an awareness of what's going on in the world and I enjoyed reading 'There's no planet B' before. Mostly the modules will give you plenty of reading once you're on the course.



What are some of the biggest mistakes students make in their first term?



Thanks naiomi



Juliette, there is some overlap which is why the joint honours is popular for GSD/Economics.



Generally GSD is what gives Economics character though, as it is focused on sustainability and development rather than pure economics



I did a joint honours in Politics and Sociology back in the day. Since then, more development-centred studies and research



Ah ok



What are some of the biggest mistakes students make in their first term?

I think from my experience and friends, it's going too far one way or the other in terms of either working ALL THE TIME (this was me) or not working at all - having too little fun made it feel horrible, but also having too much fun makes you miss some really interesting and useful content. Try to take first year seriously but also make sure you explore your options in terms of societies and clubs. First year is the time to do it.



Thanks!



I would add to make sure that you attend Skills modules so that you are empowered to navigate the studies more



We offer these to all students across all years



Romain, would you say the same for Life Science and GSD?



What are skills modules



I would but it's a much smaller cohort, generally for those focused on biodiversity and scientific solutions to development issues



Are there many formal events at the uni?



Hi Troy, I suggest you look at joining one of our upcoming Open Days as these would be more relevant to you and give far more information

Hi Troy, in case it's helpful, here's the link to book onto our Autumn Open Days:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/opendays/>

Undergraduate Open Days at the University of Warwick

We are delighted to offer a variety of on-campus and virtual Open Days this autumn. Find out more and book your space now.



Hi Juliette, having worked with a number of degree programmes, I really would say studying GSD maximises your career prospects. There are a number of fields you can go into. As examples, our students have gone into roles relating to finance, research, marketing and of course sustainability.



Can u tell me more about education and gsd e.g how many students apply etc.



Are there usually spaces on this course through clearing?



Thank you again for all your questions so far - we're now into the final five minutes of this live chat 😊



will it be possible to meet the teaching faculty on the open day on 23 Oct? I couldn't see an option to book for GSD



GSD is part of the Arts open day on November 6th



thanks Khushi



Any chance for a feedback on my question?



Just to note - we did not have clearing spaces this year.



will it be possible to meet the teaching faculty on the open day on 23 Oct? I couldn't see an option to book for GSD

Hi Nicky, the w/c 25 October is a virtual Open Week, and in the GSD Department we are hosting events on Wednesday 27 October (an Overview Session and a Taster Session). The in person Open Day for the Faculty of Arts is on Nov. 6, and the GSD Department will be running sessions 😊



Hi Aimilianos, sorry I didn't clarify this specifically.



Thank you!
Stay in touch

warwick.ac.uk/gsd
@warwicksd
globalsustainabledev@warwick.ac.uk

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

End slide



Regarding employability, it will depend of course on the type of job you are most interested in.



Is the taster sessions accessible to all because I don't think it was last time



The profile you gain as a GSD / Business / Economics student will place you in different opportunities. Although generally a degree from somewhere like Warwick is a good start no matter what. Then it also depends on how actively you are applying for roles and internships, in addition to our placement opportunities



There is more here:
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/prospectivestudents/undergraduate/careers/>



Hi Luc, work placements are available for all students who study GSD including joint degrees. It really depends on what you are looking for and I will support you with this through one to one guidance.



Is the taster sessions accessible to all because I don't think it was last time

Hi Khushi, yes you will be able to sign up to both the Taster Session and the Overview Session



I am looking to do Economics and GSD, what is the cooperation like between departments for a dual honours course such as this, as I had heard in previous years that the cooperation between some departments led to a poor experience on the course.



Thx!!



Thank you all for your time and answers! Super helpful! :)



Thank you for joining us today, we hope you found this live chat helpful! If you have any further questions we encourage you to join us for our virtual Open Day in October, or if you are able to, our on campus Open Day in November:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/opendays/>

Undergraduate Open Days at the University of Warwick

We are delighted to offer a variety of on-campus and virtual Open Days this autumn. Find out more and book your space now.



On our course William? Or other universities?
Generally the difficulty is having to adapt to two different departments and show proficiency across a range of topics on joint honours.



I have to go now but do attend the future events if of interest :)



thank you very much. It was really useful



Thanks guys



Thank you very much for your help today



Thank you for answering all the questions.



Thanks everyone for coming!