

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! Welcome to our first Live Chat of the summer. I am Dr Peter Dwyer and I am a Teaching Fellow and Director of Undergraduate Studies and today I am joined by my colleagues Bodrun Nahar our Employability and Placement Manager, second year Economics and GSD student Szebastian and Jess Holt our Recruitment and Communications Officer. Please feel free to ask us anything and no question is too big or too small.



Welcome to our Global Sustainable Development live chat, we're looking forward to speaking to you today! I'm Jess and I'm a Recruitment and Communications Officer in the Global Sustainable Development Department. Today's live chat is a straightforward questions and answers session, so when you're ready please feel free to introduce yourself and ask us your questions 😊



Hi everyone, please feel free to start asking questions, we have until 2pm.



Do you consider EPQs in the application process?



Are the second year students in Sep 21 still going on the placement in Melbourne? And how are you planning to work around restrictions for overseas placements?



Do you consider EPQs in the application process?

Hi Rachel, no we dont. But its good to say what you studies in your EPQ.



Hi, is there a video/audio information resource regarding this course we could access?



What would an average week look like when studying GSD, in terms of lectures and other stuff like that



Hi, my name is Tessa . I have firmed Warwick for Sociology and GSD. I was just wondering about the work placement. Could you please explain how that works and the term abroad as well?



Are the second year students in Sep 21 still going on the placement in Melbourne? And how are you planning to work around restrictions for overseas placements?

We hope so, but as with much in our lives it depends on the virus and what the Australian government and Monash University say.



Hi, although you don't consider EPQs do you consider AS level qualifications in the application process?



Hi, is there a video/audio information resource regarding this course we could access?

Hi Abigail, I hope you're well! We have a handy web page with all of our videos on, including one of our recent Open Day recordings (which gives you lots of information about the courses):

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

Useful Resources

Our undergraduate brochure provides information about our Department, our single honours course and joint honours courses, modules, studying abroad, and professional development opportunities.



Are all your IB offers 38 points and above or do you give offers to students that have a predicted score of less than 38?



A question for Szebastian - what intrigued you most about GSD when you were applying for the course?



Hi, my name is Tessa . I have firmed Warwick for Sociology and GSD. I was just wondering about the work placement. Could you please explain how that works and the term abroad as well?

Hi Tessa, Bodrun is trying to log on and will hopefully answer that soon.



What are typical contact hours for GSD? Are you expecting to deliver seminars live in Sep 21?



How much weighting does fieldwork - if any - have in gradings and whatnot?



Are all your IB offers 38 points and above or do you give offers to students that have a predicted score of less than 38?

Hi India, what is it you are interested in applying for and what type of IB are you studying.



Do you consider EPQs in the application process?

Hi Rachel, just to add to what Peter has said, on this web page it says "Applicants presenting the Extended Project are encouraged to discuss their research in their personal statement and reflect on how undertaking the project will help prepare them for studying their chosen degree at Warwick. Offers will not normally be made conditional on achievement of an Extended Project." -

<https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/entry-requirements/>

Entry Requirements for the University of Warwick

We are committed to giving full and fair consideration to all entry qualification information presented by individual applicants. We welcome applications from candidates offering many different qualifications, including A and AS levels, Scottish Advanced Highers, the International Baccalaureate, the Cambridge Pre-U, Access to HE Diplomas, and many overseas qualifications. Typical offers for a number of qualifications are listed under each course entry and you should check the listed entry requirements for the course you are interested in. If you have questions regarding the acceptability of a particular qualification or the level of achievement required, we encourage you to contact the Undergraduate Admissions Team.



Are we able to do both the semester in Australia and a year abroad?



Hi, although you don't consider EPQs do you consider AS level qualifications in the application process?

Am checking for you.



How much weighting does fieldwork - if any - have in gradings and whatnot?

Hi Tasneem,
can you be more specific, that is a very broad question.



Hi, although you don't consider EPQs do you consider AS level qualifications in the application process?

We don't make offers based on AS levels but we take them into account when looking at the overall academic profile



What would an average week look like when studying GSD, in terms of lectures and other stuff like that

Hi Joey, Thanks for your question. Could you be a little bit more specific? We have lectures and seminars from Monday to Friday. Usually there are only 2 or 3 classes a day, so you have time for independent studying as well. We don't have any classes Wednesday afternoon and in the evenings because that is for student life (societies, sport clubs or just recreation). Do you have any question in specific regarding lectures or student life? Please feel free to ask them.



Are all your IB offers 38 points and above or do you give offers to students that have a predicted score of less than 38?

Hi India, you should be able to see the breakdown of IB entry requirements for each of our undergraduate courses here (as you'll see, some courses require 38, whilst others require 36):

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

Entry Requirements - BAsc Global Sustainable Development

Entry requirements for our single and joint honours Global Sustainable Development degrees at the University of Warwick.



What kind of things do you look for in a personal statement?



If there is specific fieldwork linked to the course, does any work produced from said fieldwork be taken into the year grading or any examination projects that will be heavily based on fieldwork topics?



Hi, my name is Tessa . I have firmed Warwick for Sociology and GSD. I was just wondering about the work placement. Could you please explain how that works and the term abroad as well?

Hi Tessa, thank you for your question. The work placement can take place as part of the certificate of professional communication (1 month in the summer) in year 1 or year 2. The yearlong placement (intercalated) takes place after you have completed your second year. It is for a minimum of 7 months and you work for an employer . There are no requirements for you to attend lectures/seminar as all the learning takes place in the work environment. I am here to support you through every stage of this process. I hope this has answered your question ;-)



Peter I'm applying for the 2022 GSD BAsc and I'm studying the International Baccalaureate diploma programme



What kind of things do you look for in a personal statement?

Hi Rachel, why you are interested in GSD, what studies, voluntary work and other things have you done linked to GSD.



Are we able to do both the semester in Australia and a year abroad?

Hi India, in terms of doing the integrated year abroad (for part of your second year to Monash University in Australia) and the intercalated year long study abroad, it's technically possible for you to do both, but our advice is that you discuss this as soon as possible with your Director of Student Experience when you arrive at Warwick



How does the joint honours degree with GSD and economics work?



Thank you Szebasztian, I was just wondering how many contact hours there would tend to be day to day, and how many times a week I would be in a lecture or a seminar for example.



Are we able to do both the semester in Australia and a year abroad?

I did mean to say Australia or Malaysia in terms of Monash University 😊



Thank you Bodrun. This was very helpful !



what are the usual contact hours for GSD? Are you planning to teach live or online in Sep 21?



Thank you Bodrun. This was very helpful !

You are most welcome!



If there is specific fieldwork linked to the course, does any work produced from said fieldwork be taken into the year grading or any examination projects that will be heavily based on fieldwork topics?

In the first year module in term 2-3 the group Research Project you have the option to do your own primary data collection and that counts towards 50% of the mark.



A question for Szebastian - what intrigued you most about GSD when you were applying for the course?

Hi Milly, Thanks for the question! I was very interested in Econ before Uni, but I also wanted to study something more "human". I was always interested in Developmental Economics and Sustainability, so I was very happy when I found this course (that, I think, is good base if you want to work/get a Masters in this field). It is quite a flexible course and you can move around even in GSD depending on which part you are most interested in (social, economic, environmental).



Hi, my name is George. I am interested in the combined GSD and Business Studies course. Please could you explain how this combined course works?



Oh 9kay, thank you very much Peter :)



If there is specific fieldwork linked to the course, does any work produced from said fieldwork be taken into the year grading or any examination projects that will be heavily based on fieldwork topics?

Hi Tasneem, here's the link to the first-year core GSD Project module that Peter just mentioned:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/currentstudents/modules/gsdproject>

Global Sustainable Development Project

Information about the module Global Sustainable Development Project offered by the Global Sustainable Development Division of the School for Cross-faculty Studies at the University of Warwick.



How does the joint honours degree with GSD and economics work?

Hi Jess Szeb will reply in a minute.



Thank you Jess and Peter!



Thank you Jess, I'll check it out



A question for Szebastian - what intrigued you most about GSD when you were applying for the course?

Overall, the flexibility. I remember, I was thinking that with this degree I could end up almost anywhere if I change my mind during my uni years.



What is the process of applying for a year abroad? is it through the initialucas application, or do you decide once you are in for the normal course?



A question for Szebastian - what intrigued you most about GSD when you were applying for the course?

I hope I could answer your question. Feel free to ask more if you have any questions



Peter I'm applying for the 2022 GSD BAsc and I'm studying the International Baccalaureate diploma programme

IB:
38 to include English and Mathematics



Thank you Szebasztian!



I can see that we're having some questions on how the joint honours courses work. I'm sure Szeb will give you some more insight into this as an Economic Studies and GSD student. Just as a bit of an overview, the teaching on our joint honours courses is equally split between the Global Sustainable Development (GSD) Department and your chosen joint department - you will spend half your time with the GSD Department and the other with the other department (for example, Economics)



If I apply for Joint Honours Sociology / GSD are there options to move to the GSD in Year 2 / 3?



Thanks Jess, this has helped!



Hi, my name is George. I am interested in the combined GSD and Business Studies course. Please could you explain how this combined course works?

Hi George, we'll play a short video for you from one of our GSD and Business Studies students - I hope this might help. Of course, if you have any specific questions please do let us know!

GSD and Business Studies: Šimon



GSD and Business - Simon

<https://youtu.be/hmfVBMGP4r0>



what are the usual contact hours for GSD? Are you planning to teach live or online in Sep 21?

Hi Max, it will be a mix ('blended learning') of face-to-face seminars and online lectures for all our core modules. The online lectures may be live on Microsoft Teams or recorded for you to watch anytime-each lecturer will choose and let students know via the Moodle for that module.



Please can you confirm if you are expecting to be teaching live in Sep 21.



OK thanks Peter



What is the process of applying for a year abroad? is it through the initial ucas application, or do you decide once you are in for the normal course?

Hi Rachel,
you let us know once you are here and we give you plenty of notice so dont worry.



What are typical contact hours for GSD? Are you expecting to deliver seminars live in Sep 21?

Hi Max, Thanks for your question. Currently, the contact hours for this course is 20 hours. In September, we are currently expecting "blended teaching", which in most cases means live seminars. You can find up-to-date information on "blended teaching" here:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/coronavirus/nextyear/>

How will Covid 19 affect the academic year 2021-2022 at Warwick?

Discover what the academic year 2021 to 2022 will look like, and find answers to some of your frequently asked questions



For anyone who did the optional stint at Monash, what was your experience like and would you recommend it in hindsight?



If I apply for Joint Honours Sociology / GSD are there options to move to the GSD in Year 2 / 3?

Hi Max,
there may be, but its not guaranteed. What is it you are not sure about-joint honours or single or both?



For anyone who did the optional stint at Monash, what was your experience like and would you recommend it in hindsight?

Hi Jess, I can play a short video from some of our students who went to Monash for you, to give you an idea of how they found their experiences



Please can you confirm if you are expecting to be teaching live in Sep 21.

Hi Max, please see Peter's response to this question earlier. We are planning on delivering blended learning which will be online and hopefully some face to face.

GSD: Unique Study Abroad Programme



Study abroad video

<https://youtu.be/lWOa6EvzmKo>



Thank you Jess, I've just finished the video and it was very helpful! This combined course sounds really interesting to me.



For anyone who did the optional stint at Monash, what was your experience like and would you recommend it in hindsight?

Hi Jess, for those that go, they all, without exception, love it!



Hi Peter



What careers do people tend to go into after taking a GSD degree, or does it vary massively?



Great - thank you for the video!



I am interested in both Sociology and GSD but was interested in flexibility once I had some experience of both on the course.



How does the joint honours degree with GSD and economics work?

Hi Jess, Sorry for the late reply and thanks for your question! Half of my modules are in the GSD department and the other half is in the Econ department. My GSD modules in the past two years were, for example: Economic principles of GSD, Environmental principles of GSD, Social principles of GSD, Inequalities. My Econ modules were more like Maths, Stats, Econometrics, Microecon, Macroecon and next year I will be able to choose more specialised modules (just like in GSD)

GSD Single Honours - Kristina



Single honours - Kristina

https://youtu.be/jEpP5n8O_Pg



We'll now play a video from one of our single honours GSD graduates, Kristina. Any questions based on this video, please do let us know



How does the joint honours degree with GSD and economics work?

It's a bit like taking the most important modules from both courses. I hope I could answer your question. Please feel free to ask more



What careers do people tend to go into after taking a GSD degree, or does it vary massively?

Hi Joey, it really does vary. GSD students have gone to pursue careers in the finance world, recruitment, governance and many more. Please have a look at the slide on where do our graduates go which provides you with a sample of careers. GSD opens your career opportunities. It really depends on what you are interested in and I will support you through this.



I am interested in both Sociology and GSD but was interested in flexibility once I had some experience of both on the course.

Hi Max, well, you can start on joint honours and then take the chance of seeing if you can transfer at the end of year one to single honours. We do approve such requests, but it depends on a whole number of factors that are too many and too complicated to list now and that's why I can't say for sure if you would be allowed to transfer.



What careers do people tend to go into after taking a GSD degree, or does it vary massively?

Hi Joey, we'll show the slide Bodrun mentioned in a moment



okay, thank you very much Bodrun, thank you too Jess!

Where do our graduates go?

Employment

- » Consultant | Recruitment
- » Social Value Advisor | Public Policy
- » Risk Analyst | Financial Services
- » Junior Risk Consultant | Accounting
- » Space Analyst | Space Economics Consultancy
- » eCommerce Trading and Marketing Executive | Retail
- » Communications Intern | Non-profit Organisation
- » Research Assistant | Environmental Services
- » Analyst | Independent Think Tank
- » HR Business Specialist for Strategy, R&D and Assurance | Telecommunications
- » Energy Procurement Coordinator | Utilities
- » Analyst | International Affairs



Where do our grads go 01



Thank you Szebasztian - this was really helpful! What part of the course have you most enjoyed so far and why?



Is GSD and economics very essay heavy?



okay, thank you very much Bodrun, thank you too Jess!

You are welcome!



okay, thank you very much Bodrun, thank you too Jess!

Here you go Joey, this slide I believe is where some of our graduates have gone in terms of employment

Where do our graduates go?

Further studies

- » Media and Communications
- » International Management and Sustainability
- » Development Studies
- » International Business and Management
- » Spatial Data Science and Visualisation
- » Humanitarian Engineering
- » Philosophy



Where do our grads go 02



okay, thank you very much Bodrun, thank you too Jess!

And here's the slide on where they've gone in terms of further studies



Hello, thank you for your time today. I was wondering about the single GSD degree: would it allow me to choose the same optional modules, that I would study on one of your joint degrees? For example, if I would study single GSD degree, can I choose to take "Psychology in the Real World" as one of my optional modules? Thank you in advance for your answer.



Thank you Szebasztian, I was just wondering how many contact hours there would tend to be day to day, and how many times a week I would be in a lecture or a seminar for example.

Hi Joey, Thanks for your question. In my two years, the contact hours were around 12-14 hours a week. This might sound easy, but including the independent studying, preparation for seminars and group work, this can be even 40 hours. However, this usually depends on what week you are in (e.g. first week, exam season, end of term etc). I hope I could answer your question



Welcome slide



Okay, thank you Szebasztian, that is very useful information, I guess that it just varies alot!



Hello, thank you for your time today. I was wondering about the single GSD degree: would it allow me to choose the same optional modules, that I would study on one of your joint degrees? For example, if I would study single GSD degree, can I choose to take "Psychology in the Real World" as one of my optional modules? Thank you in advance for your answer.

Hi Elle, you get much more choice what optional modules to choose if you take single honours. As long as a module is open to a GSD student in a partner department you can take any module that has a GSD focus.



That sounds great, thank you!



How many exams are there in 1st year?



Hi How many students apply v the number of offers made, for the single GSD course? And how many students were on the course last year?



How many exams are there in 1st year?

Hi Abigail, it depends what degree you are doing, but in GSD there are very few exams.



How many exams are there in 1st year?

Hi Abigail, in terms of the core Global Sustainable Development modules in the first year, you will have an exam in two of these modules. In terms of any other exams in the first year, it will depend on which optional modules you take as a single honours student, or which modules you will be studying in the joint department as a joint honours student. I hope this makes sense!



Thank you Szebasztian - this was really helpful!
What part of the course have you most enjoyed so far and why?

Hi Jess, Wow that's a very hard question. There are group projects in both Econ and GSD modules. I think I enjoyed those the most. They were a bit different. The Econ projects were more like Data Analysis, Econometrics report, whereas the GSD projects involved less numbers and more presentations. I enjoyed carrying out a huge project on Improving the cycling infrastructure in London and its environmental, economic and social implications. I had an amazing team.



Thank you Szebasztian - this was really helpful!
What part of the course have you most enjoyed so far and why?

Please feel free to ask more, if you have any questions



Hi How many students apply v the number of offers made, for the single GSD course? And how many students were on the course last year?

I dont have those figures to hand, but single honours is increasingly popular and fast becomeing our biggest degree. last year we had about 140 students in total-our biggest yet-double our first ever cohort.



How many exams are there in 1st year?

The first year Global Sustainable Development modules currently with exams are: Economic Principles of Global Sustainable Development, and Environmental Principles of Global Sustainable Development

GSD Core Module: Environmental Principles of Global Sustainable Development



Environmental Principles video

<https://youtu.be/MnU1eywHTNE>



A question for Szabaszián - is the GSD and economics course mainly essay based?



We'll now play a video from one of our recent graduates, Ismini, talking about the first-year core Global Sustainable Development module called 'Environmental Principles of Global Sustainable Development'



How many exams are there in 1st year?

Hi Abigail, I wanted to add that the GSD degree has different assessment methods designed to enhance your employability skills. For example, some of your assessments might include a policy brief, a pitch presentation, or critical reflection.



Thank you everyone



We'll now play a video from one of our recent graduates, Ismini, talking about the first-year core Global Sustainable Development module called 'Environmental Principles of Global Sustainable Development'

For this module, students create policy briefings and pitches as part of the assessment for the module (I think Ismini touches on this in the video). We publish some of these briefings and pitches online, and you can view these here:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/engagement/studentresearch/policiesandbriefings/>

Briefings and Policy Pitches - Student Research - GSD

Students who take our first year module Environmental Principles of Global Sustainable Development are required to research and present professional Policy Briefings. Discover the very best of our students' work in this policy briefs and pitches platform.



In terms of applying for this course - what are the expected grades for A Levels and do you accept BTEC?



Is GSD and economics very essay heavy?

Hi Rachel, Thanks for your question and sorry for the late reply. Actually, it depends on the module you choose. My econ modules aren't really essay heavy. We do have to write some reports, but those are usually only 500-1000 words, so you really have to get to the point. However, most GSD modules have either essay or research papers as assessment. In first year, I had to write essays around 1800-2000 words, this year I wrote essays around 3000 words. This might sound scary, but you don't have to write many essays. This year, I only had to submit 5-6 essays. Not too many, but I had to make sure they are well-written



Thank you ever



In terms of applying for this course - what are the expected grades for A Levels and do you accept BTEC?

Hi Abigail, please could you let us know which course? Hopefully this page might be useful:
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/prospectivestudents/undergraduate/entryrequirements/>

Entry Requirements - BSc Global Sustainable Development

Entry requirements for our single and joint honours Global Sustainable Development degrees at the University of Warwick.



*everyone. This sounds perfect for me!



If you opted to spend a year abroad is there a particular institution which is the best for GSD?



In terms of applying for this course - what are the expected grades for A Levels and do you accept BTEC?

If you have any questions based on the information on this web page please do let us know



Thank you!!



A question for Szebasztián - is the GSD and economics course mainly essay based?

Hi Rachel, Thanks for your question and sorry for the late reply. Actually, it depends on the module you choose. My econ modules aren't really essay heavy. We do have to write some reports, but those are usually only 500-1000 words, so you really have to get to the point. However, most GSD modules have either essay or research papers as assessment. In first year, I had to write essays around 1800-2000 words, this year I wrote essays around 3000 words. This might sound scary, but you don't have to write many essays. This year, I only had to submit 5-6 essays. Not too many, but I had to make sure they are well-written



Just to note, you can go back and watch any of the videos we've been playing in today's live chat here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/gsd/prospectivestudents/undergraduate/usefulresources>

Useful Resources

Our undergraduate brochure provides information about our Department, our single honours course and joint honours courses, modules, studying abroad, and professional development opportunities.



Are the different subjects I take A-level accounted for in the application process, for example are some subjects more favoured than others?



If you opted to spend a year abroad is there a particular institution which is the best for GSD?

Hi Katrina, in short, no. It more depends on what country you are interested in studying in and whats available, as whilst we have a large range of partner universities across the world it changes from year to year. Have you any country in mind?



Course I am interested is BAsc GSD & Business Studies - Thank you, I can see entry requirements.



A question for Szebasztián - is the GSD and economics course mainly essay based?

Last year, essays were worth around 40% of my GSD modules. This year, my GSD module did not include an exam, so 70% of the assessment was based on my essays/research papers



A question for Szebasztián - is the GSD and economics course mainly essay based?

I hope I could answer your question. Please feel free to ask more



Are the different subjects I take A-level accounted for in the application process, for example are some subjects more favoured than others?

Hi Joey, we re more focussed on why you are interested in GSD as opposed to the subjects you studied for A level.



Thanks Peter, currently I don't have any country in mind but that is helpful to know!



We're now into the final 10 minutes of this live chat - thanks for all your great questions! We hope you've found it useful so far. Please do use the rest of the session to ask us any other questions you might have - for example, questions about teaching style in the GSD Department, societies (Szeb would be best to answer this one!), campus etc



Hi Bodrun, and would this specified intrest come more in the second personal statement that we're made to do?



Thanks Peter, currently I don't have any country in mind but that is helpful to know!

Hi Katrina, persoanlly, I would go for somewhere culturally very different to the UK/USA/Oz/Europe. But I am biased as I have spent many years travelling and also researching and working in Africa.



Hi Bodrun, and would this specified interest come more in the second personal statement that we're made to do?

Hi Joey, yes we expect this in the second statement.



Okay thank you, everyone has been very useful today!



Last 9 minutes everyone! So if you haven't asked any questions, now is the time to do so.

GSD: Meet our team



Meet our team video

<https://youtu.be/Q1eYn1dKDe0>



Okay thank you, everyone has been very useful today!

Great!



Last 9 minutes everyone! So if you havent asked any questions, now is the time to do so.

While everyone thinks of their final questions, we'll play a short video featuring members of staff from the GSD Department



Thank you all.



Thank you everyone, this has been very helpful!



Thank you for everything :)



We have just a few minutes left now - thanks again for joining us today. We really encourage you to keep in touch as you make your decisions about where and what to study. We'll be running Open Day sessions in October, so keep an eye out for these. We'll also be holding future live chats just like these - you're very welcome to join us again. Alternatively, please do get in touch at any point via email:

GlobalSustainableDev@warwick.ac.uk



End slide



Thank you everyone



Thank you all, it has been a pleasure chatting to you and I wish you all the best.



Thanks Everyone. I'm glad it was useful :)



Thanks everyone, lovely to meet you all and thanks for all the questions and keeping us all so busy! If you have any other questions you can email me peter.dwyer@warwick.ac.uk