Don’t worry about the future. Fix it.

Global Sustainable Development

Undergraduate Programmes
Are you ready for GSD?

We study, research and teach Global Sustainable Development (GSD) because it is an urgent priority for our social, economic and environmental wellbeing. Our BASc degrees are the first undergraduate programmes of this kind in the United Kingdom. These courses are challenging and ambitious, dealing with contemporary problems that have local and global impact. We use a transdisciplinary, problem-based and solution-focused approach to learning, allowing you to engage with complex issues and explore creative resolutions. Beyond our undergraduate degrees, we offer you the opportunity to further your studies with us through our new postgraduate programmes in GSD.

Studying GSD is your opportunity to contest longstanding inequalities and to actively promote change. As you join us on this journey, collaboration will be key. Together we need to listen. And together we need to act*.

Prof. Stéphanie Panichelli-Batalla, Head of the School for Cross-faculty Studies

Global Sustainable Development is often defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Our innovative undergraduate programmes challenge you to think critically about some of the world’s big questions and to consider practical solutions to these problems.

In 2005, the United Nations (UN) World Summit affirmed the concept of the three pillars of sustainability – economic, social and environmental – and our degrees are structured around these three pillars. This means that our modules provide an opportunity to engage critically and creatively with the UN Goals.

Our courses examine global issues from a variety of perspectives in order to fully investigate and understand issues; they look at and evaluate the different solutions offered, their implications, limitations and interconnectivity, and they give you the chance to explore your own alternative solutions. Along the way you’ll develop knowledge and understanding of a range of global sustainable development debates, as well as a host of valuable skills that will enhance your employability prospects and support your future as a global citizen. We’ll prepare you to be able to contribute to, stimulate and lead the debate on complex issues such as: what constitutes global citizenship and good governance, sustainable resource use, and the determination of ecological limits.

You can choose to study either our single honours GSD degree or select from our range of joint honours degree programmes which combine the study of GSD with that of another, more traditional academic discipline.

* Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres.
Unique study abroad programme
We’ll support you if you want to extend your learning and broaden your perspective by studying overseas. You’ll have the unique opportunity to spend part of your second year studying abroad at our partner institution, Monash University, home to the Monash Sustainable Development Institute.

For more information on studying abroad see page 18.

Employability skills
Employers need graduates who can consider global challenges from different perspectives, understand their complexity and competently contribute potential solutions using a variety of approaches. Our courses address this need by equipping you to work and live in a way that safeguards environmental, social and economic wellbeing in the present and for future generations, and by giving you the skills, knowledge and understanding to enable you to contribute to and lead on international debates at the highest levels on the world’s stage.

For more information on professional development see page 20.

Institute for Global Sustainable Development
The School for Cross-faculty Studies is home to Warwick’s Institute for Global Sustainable Development (IGSD). IGSD directs the Leverhulme Trust Postgraduate Scholarship Programme ‘Transformations of Human-Environment Interactions to Sustainable Development’.

IGSD provides a focal point for Warwick’s sustainable development research, contributing towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but still challenging of them. IGSD’s vision is to be at the forefront of knowledge creation, enabling transformations towards a more sustainable, prosperous, healthier and just world for all. It undertakes innovative transdisciplinary research to tackle global challenges and enable changes in human-environment interactions.

By establishing equitable partnerships with researchers and non-scientific stakeholders across the Global North and the Global South, IGSD works on challenge-led research projects that cross disciplinary boundaries, and achieve impact towards the SDGs.

Unique BASc degrees
Our Bachelor of Arts and Science (BASc) degrees take a transdisciplinary approach that equips you to pursue careers in a variety of fields using skills that range across social sciences, sciences and the arts.

Transdisciplinary approach
The world faces a number of unprecedented challenges with widespread human and ecological ramifications. The consequences of which will occur across social equity, individual wellbeing, cultural cohesion, migration, governance, environmental change, and the production, distribution and use of food, material and resources. These challenges are interconnected and can’t be solved in isolation. All of our degrees offer a transdisciplinary approach which will allow you to confront issues from a diverse array of perspectives in order to identify innovative solutions.

For more information on how you’ll learn see page 6.

Expert academics
Our staff are expert academics and researchers drawn from a variety of disciplines across the humanities, social sciences and scientific fields, including politics, economics, history, sociology and many other fields of enquiry. All are passionate about defining, investigating and exploring solutions to those issues which are of vital importance to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of society.

“We’re empowering our students to engage actively with the Sustainable Development Agenda to help us flip the narrative in global change from negative to positive.”

Dr Jess Savage, Senior Teaching Fellow in GSD

Why study GSD at Warwick?

Warwick is ranked 6th in the UK
Warwick has been ranked as having the 6th highest earning graduates in the UK
(Thomson and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021)

Warwick is ranked 4th in the UK for sustainability
(UF GreenMetric World University Rankings 2020)

Warwick is 77th in the World University Rankings
(The Times Higher Education Rankings 2020)
How will I study & learn?

Whether you study our single honours degree or one of our joint honours programmes, you’ll gain a thorough grounding of the principles surrounding sustainable development. You’ll also have the flexibility to study the areas most interesting to you.

Practical activities are at the heart of the way in which issues are examined, so there will be plenty of opportunities for you to work with your fellow GSD students to think about how problems within the field of sustainable development could be tackled.

"GSD is unique compared to all other courses as it has some of the most passionate lecturers and encourages its students to not only think critically but also practically about viable solutions to sustainable development."

Natalya, Politics, International Studies and GSD graduate

It’s not all about exams and essays...

Of course, exams and essays can be useful assessment tools for testing knowledge, but in the workplace, people don’t often get their point across by means of an academic essay.

We want to prepare you to be effective and successful professionals, so we assess your progress and understanding using different methods designed to correspond with the types of outputs that you’ll be expected to produce in the work environment. For example, you’ll produce research papers, reports, policy briefings, posters, portfolios and presentations.

You’ll contribute to group projects, as well as have the opportunity to present your work in a public forum such as the British Conference of Undergraduate Research or the International Conference of Undergraduate Research.

Support

Personal tutor

You’ll be assigned a personal tutor who you can talk to about any issues or queries you might have about your academic life and student journey. You’ll meet your personal tutor regularly, however, you’ll also be able to contact your personal tutor at any point should you need to.

Office hours

Our academics allocate several hours a week just so you can arrange to meet with them to discuss your studies.

Directors of Student Experience

GSD has two Directors of Student Experience who are dedicated to helping you get the most out of your time at Warwick and reach your potential in your degree.

Undergraduate Office

Our Undergraduate Office is open throughout the week during term time to answer your general queries.

Joint honours degrees

If you choose to study one of our joint honours degrees, your teaching will be equally split between modules in GSD and modules from your chosen discipline. This structure ensures that you’re taught the key principles and theories that underpin your studies and that you’re able to apply them to problems of contemporary significance. You’ll gain both depth of understanding and knowledge, and practical experience in tackling issues – ideal preparation for a global change maker.

You can study GSD alongside the following disciplines:

- Business Studies
- Economic Studies
- Education Studies
- Hispanic Studies
- History
- Life Sciences
- Philosophy
- Politics and International Studies (PAIS)
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Theatre and Performance Studies

Single honours degree

Our flexible single honours course offers you a unique transdisciplinary and international learning experience in which you’ll examine, in depth, the economic, social, environmental and governance factors that shape our understanding of GSD. Using a range of methods of enquiry from the social sciences, humanities and sciences you’ll explore a number of big problems such as food security and inequality. You’ll engage with the concepts of social justice, ethics and wellbeing to assess how they relate to ecological and economic factors.

The course aims to give you in-depth knowledge of key challenges in sustainable development alongside how they are being and could be tackled, fostering the acquisition of a future facing outlook in which you think about the consequences of actions, and how systems and societies can be adapted to ensure sustainability. Your core modules in each year of the course are complemented by optional modules that allow you to focus on the issues of sustainable development of most interest to you, preparing you to make significant, meaningful interventions.

Should richer countries get vaccinated before poorer countries during a pandemic?

"Should richer countries get vaccinated before poorer countries during a pandemic?"

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Year One
In your first year, regardless of the course you choose, your core modules will teach you the principles of GSD as identified by the UN and will give you the chance to see how those principles apply to a real case affecting a local community through a research project.

The research which you’ll undertake won’t just be desk-based. You’ll be out in the local community speaking to people and using research techniques employed by the professionals. So, you’ll learn the theories and then have an opportunity to put your learning into practice.

This is a key feature of the way in which our courses are taught and it means that you’re developing research skills right from the start of your degree that are going to stand you in good stead when it comes to the rest of the course and your life beyond Warwick.

Year Two
In your second year you’re able to start investigating the big problems that concern you as an aspiring global citizen, with the knowledge to execute meaningful interventions. You’ll choose from three GSD modules focusing on food, health, or inequalities - these are complex topics affecting societies across the world which the UN has pledged to address. You’ll learn and use a range of methods from the sciences, social sciences and humanities to delve into the relationships between each and the challenge of sustainable development.

In your second year you can also study other issues of sustainable development as you’ll be able to pursue modules offered both by GSD and other academic departments around the University which are investigating global issues.

Final Year
In your final year you’ll have the opportunity to bring together everything that you’ve learned about GSD in a dissertation by presenting your knowledge, ideas and conclusions on an issue or question which is of particular concern or interest to you - a problem that you want to address. You’ll be supported in your research activity by supervisors with expertise on your chosen topic.
Economics and GSD

Economics modules in your first and second years will develop your understanding of the fundamental concepts in micro- and macro-economic analysis. They will also introduce you to analytical skills and statistical techniques, including the use of statistical computer packages, and consider how these can be applied to real-world economic problems.

In your final year, core Economics modules will explore key economic and policy issues facing developing countries, including poverty, malnutrition, international trade, gender inequality, healthcare and education. You can also choose modules from within the Economics Department that focus on issues that will inform your research for the final-year GSD dissertation.

“Both Economics and GSD are concerned with wellbeing and allocation of finite resources. On the one hand, economic policy is at the core of sustainable development solutions. On the other hand, economic development has long been pursued without considerations of social justice and environmental sustainability. Undoubtedly, the combination of Economics and GSD allows you to critically consider this complicated relationship, while providing you with a set of highly complementary skills, ranging from advanced quantitative and statistical techniques to critical thinking and analytical skills.”

Dr Marta Guerriero, Associate Professor in GSD

Education Studies and GSD

First-year core modules in Education Studies will introduce you to the contested nature of education, state of the art theorising within the field, and creative approaches to teaching and learning. Second-year modules in Education Studies will develop a deeper understanding of the role of education within society. You’ll have the unique opportunity to undertake an integrated work placement module, allowing you to explore career paths and apply your learning. In your final year, you’ll focus on either society, culture, creativity or learning and you’ll take core Education Studies modules that develop the theoretical and research-based underpinnings of the subject.

“This degree offers students an in-depth understanding of the contemporary social-economic and environmental challenges that face our world, but also how education might be conceived and practiced, in a manner that finally realises its long touted potential to respond. Education must be a core component of the Sustainable Development Agenda and this degree will well equip students to make sure of this!”

Dr Alastair Smith, Senior Teaching Fellow in GSD

Hispanic Studies and GSD

Hispanic Studies modules in your first year will help you develop your knowledge of the Spanish language either from a beginners’ level or from a more advanced level (GCSE, AS or A level). You’ll also learn about Hispanic cultures and societies through the Hispanic cultural modules. In your second and final year, your Hispanic Studies modules will be divided between core language modules and a selection of optional Hispanic cultural modules, where you’ll be able to develop in-depth knowledge in topics of your interest about the Spanish-speaking world, while at the same time acquiring excellent communication and research skills. Cultural module choices available to our current students include topics such as film, human rights, and nature in Hispanic countries.

“This course offers you a unique opportunity to study a language and its cultural context from a different but complementary perspective. You’ll spend time looking at Latin America and the Caribbean, examining topics such as environmental issues, economic inequalities, and human rights violations. Using a problem-based approach, you’ll explore current issues while taking into consideration their respective cultural and linguistic context.”

Dr Mariana Carignan, Associate Professor in Hispanic Studies

“History and GSD has combined my interests in our world’s past, present, and future. This allows me to explore and understand how culture, science, politics, money, and our ever-changing environment shapes the decisions we make. By studying a joint degree, I can better understand topics such as the global economic situation by drawing on the history of colonialism and slavery, and what impact these chains of events are having on global sustainability.”

Emily, History and GSD student
Life Sciences and GSD

Your Life Sciences modules will provide you with crucial knowledge of biological theories and ecological processes that underpin our natural world. You’ll be introduced to evolution, genetics, population studies, and a range of theoretical frameworks. You’ll also take part in hands-on workshops, innovative labs, and thought-provoking field trips. As the course progresses, you’ll have the opportunity to choose either a Biological Sciences or Ecology route, allowing you to study modules tailored to your interests and career aspirations. Current students are taking options such as Environmental Science and Management, Exploiting Innovation in Biology, Principles of Development, and Science Communication. There are also a number of opportunities to get involved with key research projects.

Philosophy and GSD

A first-year introductory Philosophy module examines the ideas and arguments of some of the major philosophers in the history of the subject, and addresses key issues at the frontiers of philosophical debate and research. In your second year, Philosophy modules, you’ll focus on developing a range of analytical skills and considering how these can be applied to problems in the world around us. Throughout your degree, you’ll also be able to select from a range of optional modules offered by the Department of Philosophy enabling you to focus your degree on the areas or issues that you want to explore more fully. Optional Philosophy modules available to our current students range from ethics to the philosophy of religion and terrorism.

“Marcus Aurelius wrote that ‘the soul becomes dyed with the colour of its thoughts’. This defines what it means to study Philosophy and GSD. Philosophy is the foundation of everything we do; if we do not first understand how to think, we cannot understand how to act. The more we learn of ourselves, others, and the universe, the more our connections our souls can make; this interconnectedness is perhaps how we might learn to live beyond ourselves.”

Dr Jess Savage, Senior Teaching Fellow in GSD

PAIS and GSD

During your first year, core PAIS modules introduce the main issues, theoretical perspectives, processes and problems associated with the study of politics. You’ll also gain an overview of international politics and the theoretical and empirical study of international relations. Second-year core PAIS modules examine the political philosophy of some of the most important European writers from 1640 onwards. A final-year PAIS core module on Issues of Political Theory analyses and assesses opposing arguments in political philosophy and relates those arguments to contemporary political and social issues.

In your second and third years, you’ll also be able to choose from a variety of optional PAIS modules. For current students these include Politics of International Development, International Security, and Gender and Development – enabling you to examine specialised topics in depth.

“I have found PAIS and GSD to interlink so much, and any time I feel like I am thinking about one side, I find the reading from the other somehow always links and helps me with my understanding of what I am learning. I feel really lucky to work with students from a broad range of disciplines, in seminars we constantly critically analyse global challenges and solutions from different perspectives, which for far too long have been separate discussions.”

Holly, PAIS and GSD graduate

Psychology and GSD

First-year Psychology modules provide a general introduction to the subject of Psychology, its core topics and its history, while also giving an introduction to the study of the discipline. You’ll then explore some of these issues in more depth through your choice of second-year Psychology modules. For current students, these options include Language and Cognition, Psychology; Social Psychology; and Perception, Planning and Action. In your third year, you’ll complete your study of the subject by choosing Psychology modules that focus on contemporary topics, which may enrich the focus of your dissertation.

An understanding of how and why people act and react in the way that they do, gained through a study of Psychology, can support the change in human attitude and action that is required in order to positively impact the planet and secure its future survival.

“Whenever I tell anyone that I study Theatre and GSD, there’s always this sense of incredulity, followed by a pleasant surprise that it exists. Having such a unique combination has allowed me to view the world from different perspectives, but more importantly apply different approaches to timely issues. It is also this that encourages me to push for more creative and innovative solutions that affect a wider range of people.”

Dr Leon Sealey-Huggins, Assistant Professor in GSD

Sociology and GSD

First-year Sociology modules will build a solid foundation of essential analytical, professional, and research-based skills. In your second-year Sociology modules you’ll be taught about the development of Sociology as an academic discipline, and approaches taken by practitioners, as well as different ways societies have been organised. You’ll learn how to analyse courses of events, practical skills for planning and carrying out social research. In your final year, you’ll hand-pick Sociology modules that focus on contemporary issues, which may enrich the focus of your dissertation.

“Sociology, as the study of society, is perfectly placed to accompany the study of GSD. Too often sustainability is discussed in terms of its environmental dimensions without enough attention paid to questions about why the organisation of society might itself be unsustainable, or how we might develop social-environmental relationships that are less environmentally harmful. Studying Sociology and GSD together helps to put you at the forefront of the study of sustainability in addressing these neglected questions.”

Anna, Psychology and GSD graduate

Dr Leon Sealey-Huggins, Assistant Professor in GSD

Theatre and Performance Studies and GSD

First-year Theatre and Performance Studies modules will introduce you to the key issues and theoretical concepts underpinning the study of theatre and performance. You’ll also explore how these intersect with political and philosophical questions and the process of taking text from page to performance. In your second and third years, you can choose from a variety of modules offered by Theatre and Performance Studies to explore those issues that interest you the most. Your third-year choices can be tailored to feed into your chosen dissertation topic. Second and third-year options available to current students include Writing for Theatre and Performance, Theatre and National Identities, and Performing Gender and Sexuality.

Angela, Theatre and Performance Studies and GSD student graduate

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Angela, Theatre and Performance Studies and GSD student graduate
Core GSD modules

Year One

Economic Principles of GSD
Why and how do economists address issues of global sustainable development? In this module, you’ll learn about the relationship between economic activity, social justice and environmental sustainability, the economic theories that underpin sustainable development policy interventions and how those theories impact upon policy design.

By the end of this module, you’ll be able to apply fundamental economic principles to the analysis of global sustainable development problems. You’ll also understand how economic policies intended to address those problems are developed and be able to offer informed critiques of such policies.

Social Principles of GSD
This module examines concepts that enable you to analyse and interpret social and political issues related to global sustainable development. You’ll learn to understand and evaluate pressing social and political dimensions of sustainability at national and international levels.

By the end of this module, you’ll be able to offer a well-informed and evidence-based explanation of the key challenges facing our world, focusing on the social and political dimensions. You’ll also be able to explain the global social problems caused by forms of economic development, reflect critically on why some countries have developed while others have stayed poor, and critically consider continuing challenges in leaving no one behind.

Environmental Principles of GSD
This module focuses on the natural science of the world’s most pressing environmental issues. We’ll cover well-known topics like climate change and biodiversity loss and less prominent problems like biochemical flows. You’ll evaluate existing governance and management efforts and develop innovative responses of your own. You’ll learn how to write a policy briefing and create a policy briefing paper and policy pitch, aimed at a specific decision-making audience. By the end of this module, you’ll possess key knowledge of environmental principles and skills valuable for creating meaningful change in the world of work, governance and/or activism.

GSD Project
This is an exciting, innovative, and practical module. It’s designed to give you research and analysis skills and to enable you to apply the theories from your other first-year core modules. You’ll learn how to research sustainability by designing and developing a group project on the topic of sustainable transport, under the guidance of an academic supervisor. Staff from across the GSD Department with expertise in transport policy as well as research methods are involved in the module.

Year Two

Security, Sovereignty and Sustainability in the Global Food System
Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to end hunger, end all forms of malnutrition, and ensure sustainable food production systems. However, the world population will likely increase to nearly 10 billion people by 2050. After decades of positive change, the incidence of malnourishment is again on the rise, global stocks of key food are contracting and it is currently more expensive to buy food than for most of our planet’s modern history.

This module addresses these significant challenges by encouraging students to adopt a ‘food systems approach’ in responding to the imperative agendas of food security, sovereignty and sustainability. The module is taught in collaboration with researchers from across various disciplines at Warwick, especially those involved in the University’s Global Research Priority on Food Security, Sovereignty and Sustainable Development.

Health and Sustainable Development
Viable and equitable solutions in health and sustainable development require interdisciplinary and critical thinking. The first part of the module will introduce you to fundamental concepts of global health governance and health systems, and acquaint you with key global health priorities like drug resistance and mental health from the perspective of global sustainable development.

The second part of the module will focus on issues that relate to policies and behavioural change, and are also applicable beyond health, for example in areas like education or technology transfer.

Alongside the module content, you’ll have the opportunity to develop your analytical skills to make independent, critical, and constructive contributions to Health and Sustainable Development.

Inequalities and Sustainable Development: Inclusion and Dignity for All
This module focuses on how inequalities shape our societies, economies, environments and politics.

Starting with the question ‘Does inequality matter?’, you’ll critically reflect on the UN’s decision to integrate inequalities into the Sustainable Development Agenda. You’ll then explore six different dimensions of inequalities (work, politics, environmental justice, societal discrimination, automation and globalisation, empowerment) and gain an understanding of the complexities of these problems.

Finally, you’ll appreciate the challenges faced by today’s policymakers who aim to address issues of inequalities while taking into consideration all three pillars of sustainable development.

Why is sustainability important to our wellbeing?
In this final-year module you’ll bring together all of your learning and experiences on the course – the theoretical concepts and principles and your practical know-how – in order to address a specific sustainable development problem of your own choosing. This will be a problem that concerns you most and which you’d like to tackle.

You’ll be supported by an academic supervisor to devise a suitable project and to undertake research to explore the issue, taking a transdisciplinary approach to your investigation in order to produce an original research output. This may be a concept paper, a practical project, a film production, a long essay, an advocacy campaign etc. – use your creativity!

You’ll design a strategy for disseminating your findings (for example at a conference presentation, via online publication or an article in a journal, or at a public meeting that you’ve arranged). This provides you with an opportunity to get your voice heard in a forum where it matters and could have lasting impact.

“My favourite aspect of the GSD course at Warwick is the final-year dissertation. This is an opportunity for students to intervene in a genuine real-life issue and the best thing about this is that you can do so in a creative way.”

Rhys, Single honours GSD graduate
Study abroad

Your university experience could be a truly global one by studying overseas. You can access study abroad opportunities via two routes:

1. Study abroad for part of your second year

Spend the second and third terms of your second year studying at Monash University, home to the Monash Sustainable Development Institute. Your time at Monash will be part of your degree, so you’ll graduate in three years. You’ll therefore gain the benefits of studying abroad without extending the length of your course. Your academic achievements abroad will count towards your degree awarded by Warwick, meaning your studies will be both rewarding and rewarded! This is a unique opportunity exclusively available to you as a GSD student.

You’ll have the chance to enhance your global outlook as you experience Monash’s approach towards issues of global sustainable development. You’ll learn to appreciate that different corners of the world have different concerns and priorities for sustainable development, as well as different ways of tackling issues. You’ll broaden your learning in new and exciting ways by taking modules beyond the ones offered at Warwick.

2. Year-long study abroad

If you want to extend your learning and broaden your perspective by studying abroad for a year, Warwick has partnerships with universities across the world. You’ll spend your first and second years at Warwick, studying abroad in your third year. You’ll then return to Warwick for your final year. Your year abroad won’t count towards your overall final mark (but it will be recorded on your Higher Education Achievement Report), giving you the freedom to take chances with your module choices and push yourself outside of your comfort zone with your learning.

Depending on your destination, you’ll have the opportunity to learn a new language and immerse yourself in a new learning context.

“When I studied at Monash University in my second year, we had an introductory week where I came across ‘Borrow Cup’, a free reusable cup sharing system which cuts down on waste from campus coffee shops. The project was a student-led enterprise, supported by the University and its sustainability team. This was a great opportunity to get involved with something that I was passionate about and that was related to GSD.”

Maddie, PAIS and GSD graduate

“Living abroad has certainly benefited my attitudes, mostly due to the interaction with very international people. Although both Warwick and Monash attract many international students, very few students at Monash are European. Instead, the great majority come from India, China, Canada, and the US. This leads to the interaction with very different cultures and points of view, and the desire to understand these more profoundly.”

Josefa, GSD and Business Studies graduate

“Whilst my aim in picking modules was to be related to what I study back at Warwick, I really wanted to make use of the diversity and interdisciplinarity of courses in Canada, and take modules that wouldn’t be available when I get back home.”

Meredith, Sociology and GSD graduate, year-long study abroad at Queen’s University, Canada

We continually see our students immersing themselves in their Monash experience. GSD alumni, Hannah and Liam, studied at Monash and joined Monash SEED, a society empowering students to create a positive social impact. On returning to Warwick, Hannah and Liam co-founded Warwick SEED, a society promoting social impact careers and global collaboration. In 2019 Hannah and Liam were jointly awarded Warwick’s Outstanding Student Contribution Award for the significant difference they made to our community through Warwick SEED.

Monash University, Clayton campus.
Professional development

We acknowledge the importance of employability skills and we’ve embedded them as part of your studies.

Our degrees have been designed to develop the core professional skills that employers seek in graduates. These skills are embedded in our course content, teaching approach, and assessments. You’ll have the opportunity to complete unique professional development certificates and engage in different work placements.

Professional development certificates

We offer a series of certificates outside of the curriculum as a way of continuing your professional development. These certificates will help you enhance the skills identified by employers as being vital for success in the workplace. Your achievement will be recorded on your Higher Education Achievement Report and we’ve embedded them as part of your studies.

Certificate of Sustainability Consultancy

On this certificate you’ll develop consultancy skills by undertaking a sustainability-related audit with an internal University client. In a team, you’ll focus on one aspect of sustainability on campus and ways of addressing the problem, before reporting your findings and reflecting on your learning.

Certificate of Coaching Practice

This certificate aims to develop your ability and confidence to conduct effective coaching conversations. You’ll have the opportunity to practise the key skills - such as listening to understand, asking open questions, and building rapport and trust - that enable you to coach well. These skills are useful in many other contexts, including teaching, consultancy and managing people.

Certificate of Professional Communication

This certificate aims to develop your professional communication skills and promote your understanding of the working environment. It’s designed to make the link between communication and employability, which is pivotal for your personal and professional growth. Workshops will explore theories and concepts around communication in relation to the world of work. Using this preparation, you’ll undertake a short work placement which concludes the certificate.

Work placements

We encourage you to undertake a work placement as part of your study programme. This will enable you to engage in the world of work and learn about the professional environment. It’s an opportunity for you to apply theory to practice, develop skills, learn from industry professionals as well as explore a future career path. This ultimately supports you in developing your employability skills and prepares you for future employment.

As part of your degree you’ll have the opportunity to take part in both short and long work placements.

Year-long work placement

You’ll complete a four-year degree and your work placement will take place in your third year. The work placement can take place in the UK or globally and after completion, you’ll return to Warwick for your final year. Your year-long work placement will be formally recognised on your Higher Education Achievement Report.

Short work placement

As part of the Certificate of Professional Communication, you’ll undertake a short four-week work placement which takes place during the summer. This placement will be formally recognised on your Higher Education Achievement Report.

Our students have been successful in securing work placements with employers from the private, public, and third sectors. This includes Research Institutions, Governmental Bodies, NGOs, Intelligence Agencies, Environmental Consultancies, and many others. They have undertaken diverse roles from Marketing Assistant, Sustainability Officer, Intelligence Analyst, and Researchers.

Support

We have a dedicated Employability and Placement Manager who’ll provide you with one-to-one careers guidance. They work in collaboration with employers, so you’ll be supported in securing appropriate work placements. You’ll have access to specialist pre-placement advice, guidance and preparation, as well as on-going support during your placement.

You’ll also have access to the University’s Student Opportunity resources (including careers counselling, employment advice, and job fairs).

Warwick is the 6th most targeted university by the UK’s top 100 graduate employers

(The Graduate Market in 2021, High Fliers Research Ltd.)

“Certification is important to employers as it allows candidates to demonstrate a commitment to development. The certificate recognises your achievement and helps you stand out to potential employers.”

Alice, GSD and Business Studies graduate, year-long work placement at Outcomes Based Healthcare

“Work placements are a way for students to get experience in an area they think they may be interested in.”

“**The interns met and exceeded our expectations. We were impressed by how proactive and engaged they were. They are quick to learn and very open-minded. They were also clearly passionate about the environment which adds credibility in our line of work.**”

Kaushal, Founder and CEO, envoPAP

*Placements are a great opportunity to gain experience in a professional environment, and enable students to develop a range of skills and see how your degree could fit into the real world.*
Beyond the classroom

Like you, our students recognise the importance of making a practical difference.

That’s why they’re actively involved in projects and campaigns on campus and in our communities. You too can be part of these changes by getting involved.

Warwick GSD Society
Warwick GSD Society is the social home and discussion space for all Warwick students who are interested in the present and future social, economic, and environmental challenges of sustainable development. The society aims to promote and educate students about sustainable development and organises academic discussions and talks and various social activities for its members.

GLOBUS Warwick
GLOBUS is an online magazine created and run by GSD students. It features articles, videos, news and advice which address aspects of our culture, society, science and the arts that raise issues of sustainability, as well as items about what it’s like to be a GSD student at Warwick.

The GLOBUS team also run a number of outreach projects in the community which have included the inaugural Warwick Climate Negotiating Forum in 2019, and the recent Climate Emergency campaign that led to the University’s commitments to carbon neutrality.

Warwick SEED
Warwick SEED (Socio-Economic Engagement and Development), established in 2018, was co-founded by two GSD students. The society encourages students to embrace positive business impact and pursue social impact careers such as social enterprises, start-ups and B-corporations.

Warwick Cup
Inspired by their time spent studying abroad at Monash University, GSD students launched Warwick Cup on campus. This is a student-led social enterprise which aims to end campus dependency on single-use cups by creating a closed-loop sharing system.

Entry requirements

Please note all our courses require a minimum of grade B (grade 6) in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE or equivalent.

BAc Global Sustainable Development (LBA1)
A level: AAB
We make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances at AAB
IB: 38 to include English and Mathematics

BAc GSD and Business Studies (LUN1)
A level: AAA
We make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances at AAB
IB: 38 to include English and Mathematics

BAc Economic Studies and GSD (LTL1)
A level: *AAA to include A in Mathematics
We make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances at AAB including grade A in Mathematics
IB: 38 to include Mathematics (either ‘Analysis and Approaches’ or ‘Applications and Interpretation’ at Higher Level 6) and English

BAc Education Studies and GSD (XL3B)
A level: AAB
We make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances at ABB
IB: 36 points to include English and Mathematics

BAc Hispanic Studies and GSD (RL4B)
A level: AAB to include a modem or classical language
We make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances at ABB including Spanish
IB: 36 to include a modem or classical language at Higher Level 5, and English and Mathematics

BAc History and GSD (V1L8)
A level: AAA to include History
We make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances at AAB including grade A in History
IB: 38 to include History (at Higher Level 6), English and Mathematics

BAc Life Sciences and GSD (CT1B)
A level: AAB to include Biology
We make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances at ABB to include Biology
IB: 36 to include Biology (at Higher Level 5), and English and Mathematics

BAc Philosophy and GSD (VS1B)
A level: AAA
We make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances at AAB
IB: 38 to include English and Mathematics

We welcome applications from students taking a wide range of qualifications. For more information please visit warwick.ac.uk/ugoffers
How to apply
Applications are made through UCAS ucas.com
If you are made and accept an offer, and meet any outstanding conditions, we will confirm your place and look forward to warmly welcoming you at the start of your life here at Warwick.
For more detailed information about how we process applications please visit warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply

Overseas applicants
At Warwick, we welcome applications from across the globe, and have dedicated teams available to advise and support, as well as a global network of Agents and Representatives. For more information on applying from your country see warwick.ac.uk/io

Student fees and funding
We want to ensure that, whenever possible, financial circumstances do not become a barrier to studying at Warwick. We provide extra financial support for qualifying students from lower income families. warwick.ac.uk/studentfunding

Accommodation
We believe that where you live underpins your University experience. Warwick Accommodation manages around 7,000 self-catering residences on campus. At Warwick, you’ll enjoy the freedom of independent living alongside your fellow students but with the security of knowing you’re surrounded by people who can support you should you need it. For more information visit warwick.ac.uk/accommodation

Discover more
To find out more about the University, including opportunities to visit and engage with your department of choice, visit warwick.ac.uk/undergraduate/visits

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CV4 7AL
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warwick.ac.uk/gsd

This course information was accurate at the time of publication (August, 2021). While the University tries to ensure that the information is accurate, it does not warrant that this is the case. The University may need to make changes including to the course content, syllabus, delivery, methods of assessment, or to comply with external accrediting or reviewing bodies. It is therefore important that you revisit the relevant course website before you apply and when you accept an offer to ensure you are viewing the most up to date information. This information should not be construed as an offer and nor does it create a contract or other legally binding relationship between the University and you or a third party. For full terms and conditions, please visit warwick.ac.uk/ugtermsandconditions