



# Selective Master Track

## ‘Sustainable Development Diplomacy’ (SDD)

### 2017-19

- **MCL:** MSc Climate Studies (Specialization Climate, Society and Economics)
- **MES:** MSc Environmental Sciences (Major Environmental Policy)
- **MFN:** MSc Forest and Nature Conservation (Specialization Policy and Society)
- **MID:** MSc International Development Studies (Specialization Politics and Governance of Development)



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## **MSc Track ‘Sustainable Development Diplomacy’ (SDD)**

### **Introduction**

Sustainable Development Diplomacy is a special track within the master programs Climate Studies (MCL, Specialization Climate, Society and Economics), Environmental Sciences (MES, Major Environmental Policy), Forest and Nature Conservation (MFN, Specialization Policy & Society) and International Development Studies (MID, Specialization Politics & Governance of Development) of Wageningen University (WU), the Netherlands. This special track was designed in cooperation with the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University, Cambridge, Mass., USA (abbreviated as ‘Fletcher’ below), the World Bank from Washington DC, USA, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Hague, and the Sustainability Challenge Foundation (SCF) from the Netherlands. Currently, Fletcher and the World Bank are still involved, particularly with regard to internships. The purpose of the track is to provide future academics, practitioners and leaders in the public and private sectors a combination of theory and practice of (inter)national diplomacy in the field of sustainable development. This track should allow SDD students to better understand, analyze and tackle the world’s most challenging problems.

### **Background**

Rationales for this SDD master track are threefold: academic, normative and pragmatic. To start with the last, many alumni of Wageningen University continue their careers at international negotiation institutions, like the EU or the UN. Or they become involved – for example as mediators – in sustainability conflicts among stakeholders at local levels in Europe, Africa, Asia or Latin-America. Yet they are neither educated in theories of diplomacy and negotiations nor trained in related skills. This master track aims at filling this gap (*pragmatic* rationale).

Secondly, current global challenges – climate change, deforestation, desertification, food security, health, etc. – are challenging the world’s organizational and institutional capacity to address them. In fact, we appear to be confronted today not with a single crisis, but with multiple ones, from the financial to the ecological crisis. The international community has agreed, since the Rio Summit in 1992, that sustainable development should be the road to navigate out of these crises. This approach, though, implies both intra- and intergenerational equity as well as the maintenance of the carrying capacity of the earth. Yet governments alone are not capable of engaging in the negotiations of diplomacy and creating the institutions of governance that are required to move towards these objectives. New ways of diplomacy and new innovative governance arrangements seem therefore needed to better attain these goals. Such diplomacy and governance should, according to some scholars, be much more inclusive for stakeholders, more evidence-based, more cross-

sectoral, integrative rather than distributive and addressing the ‘real’ root causes of sustainability issues (*normative rationale*).

Thirdly, new types of diplomacy seems to emerge on – amongst others – sustainability issues, sometimes referred to as the ‘new’ diplomacy, ‘inclusive’ diplomacy, ‘informal’ diplomacy or ‘guerilla’ diplomacy. These terms refer to other ways of doing (inter)national negotiations than through the traditional, nation state, foreign affairs and international security oriented diplomacy. Some authors claim that this ‘new’ diplomacy is very different from the traditional one. It is multi-actor (including non-state actors in negotiations), multi-level (local issues and actors do appear at international negotiation tables, just as global issues and actors do), multi-rule (soft law is currently considered as relevant as hard law) and multi-sector (going beyond security issues and single issues, an example being sustainable development). Indeed, non-state actors are now allowed to play their roles in international diplomacy (think about environmental NGOs and their impact on international environmental treaties), whereas private or public-private instruments to address sustainability issues are emerging (e.g. certification schemes for sustainable products, payment for ecosystem services, REDD+, etc.). However, the nature of this ‘new’ diplomacy is neither well understood nor are its claims rigorously tested. Academic research and teaching are therefore badly needed (*academic rationale*).

### **Target group**

The track is selective and eligible for a limited number of MCL, MES, MFN and MID students who express their interest in, motivation for and commitment to the topic of SDD, and already exhibit some basic knowledge and skills in this field. All students of these master programs are invited to apply, but their motivation and competencies are checked during a selection procedure for which they have to write a motivation letter, submit an extended CV and – if possible – submit one or two recommendation letters. Moreover, students’ grades from their bachelor programs will be checked, particularly the bachelor thesis project. In a next step, the most promising candidates will be identified for a short interview after which the final group of students for the SDD track will be determined.

Each year, a group of about twelve students is allowed access to SDD, fairly divided over the four master programs. This number is determined by one of the main courses of the track that can only facilitate a limited number of students (International Environmental Policy Consultancy, see the list of SDD elements below). Moreover, we aim to be a selective, high-quality track, with the best students and with small-scale intensive teaching modes, where possible.

The selective procedure is organized in the second half of September just after the start of each academic year, starting with an information meeting close to September 15. Exact dates and steps in the procedure will be announced through study advisors of the respective master programs and on relevant social media in the beginning of September.

## **Learning outcomes**

The learning outcomes are those of the regular master programs (see Study Handbook Wageningen University, 2017-19). Within this context, we distinguish more specific learning outcomes for the SDD track, divided in three sections: contents, skills and competencies.

SDD graduates are expected to be able to:

Contents:

1. Understand (inter)national political, policy and governance processes by appropriate knowledge of social science theories;
2. Demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding of sustainable development, both from developmental and environmental perspectives;
3. Demonstrate in-depth insights into the nature of (inter)national diplomacy and negotiation processes;

Skills:

4. Demonstrate negotiation skills and diplomatic attitudes;
5. Formulate a research proposal at master level, analyze (inter)national or local SDD processes scientifically, and report on that.

Competencies:

6. Handle intercultural aspects of negotiations and diplomacy;
7. Clearly present, both orally and in writing, policy proposals, mutual gains options, and (intermediate) agreements in negotiations and diplomacy;
8. Reflect on ethical aspects of sustainability, diplomacy and negotiation processes.

## **SDD track elements**

As said, the track is embedded in four master programs (MCL, MES, MFN, MID). For each one, a specific SDD trajectory is developed, sharing a number of elements. The specific master trajectories are presented in the annexes at the end of this brochure, whereas the common SDD elements are listed here:

1. International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP-60312; 12 ECTS; Master year M1, Period P2; substitutes regular Academic Consultancy Training and Modular Skills Trainings; selective course, eligible for SDD students only, unless the number of SDD students allow others to be selected).
2. International Environmental Policy (ENP-30306; 6 ECTS; M1, P4; obligatory for MCL and MES students) OR Communities, Conservation and Development (FNP-31306 ; 6 ECTS; M1; P3; obligatory for MFN students only) OR Politics, Policy Making and

- Accountability in International Arenas for Development (PAP-31306; 6 ECTS, M1, P3; obligatory for MID students only).<sup>1</sup>
3. Capita Selecta Sustainable Development Diplomacy (FNP-50401; 1 ECTS, M1, P4-6; selective course, eligible for SDD students only)<sup>2</sup>
  4. One additional MOS (Modular Skills Training) module on ‘Negotiation Skills’ (ECS-65300; 1.5 ECTS, M1, P3 or 5).<sup>3</sup>
  5. Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy (ENP-39306; 6 ECTS; M1, P6).
  6. Internships (to be self-organized by SDD students, but *facilitated* by WU, World Bank, and Fletcher; 24 ECTS; M2, P1-2).
  7. SDD Major Thesis at WU (for MFN with the chair group Forest and Nature Conservation Policy, FNP, 36 ECTS; for MCL and MES with the chair group Environmental Policy, ENP, 36 ECTS; and for MID with the chair group Environmental Policy, ENP, or with the chair group Public Administration and Policy, PAP, 33 ECTS; M2, P 3-6).<sup>4</sup>

## Planning

The track is announced in the Study handbook. The first specific SDD element in the master programs starts in Period 2. Therefore, in Period 1, an information meeting is organized each year, after which the selection procedure immediately starts. If you consider participating in SDD, you can best contact the study advisor of your MSc program at the earliest possible moment. Students who will pass the final MSc examination will receive a specific SDD master track certificate, besides their regular master program diploma.

## Costs

As with the ‘regular’ MSc programs, the SDD master track program comes with additional costs for students, for example if one conducts an internship at the United Nations in New

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<sup>1</sup> Because MFN and MID students have to take other obligatory courses for their master program in period 4, they cannot join ENP-30306. As alternatives, they will take FNP-31306 and PAP-31306 as obligatory alternatives for their SDD master track in period 3, respectively.

<sup>2</sup> This Capita Selecta is specially organized for the SDD track, adding 1 ECTS to the 120 ECTS master program.

<sup>3</sup> Master students at WUR, including SDD students, have to take two MOS modules during their master program, but these are already covered by the International Environmental Consultancy Policy course (ENP-60312). Yet we oblige SDD students to take another MOS module of 1.5 ECTS on negotiations skills, either in period 3 or 5. These skills are crucial for SDD and prepare students well for the more advanced diplomacy skills they will obtain in the Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy course in period 6 (ENP-39306). With this additional MOS module and the additional SDD Capita Selecta (see previous footnote), the SDD track master program amounts to 122.5 ECTS.

<sup>4</sup> This sequence of SDD elements assumes that SDD students will do their internship first and then conduct their master thesis research. In practice, this sequence is often reversed. Such is to be decided by SDD students themselves, however in consultation with and by approval of their study advisors.

York and a master thesis research project in South Africa. Moreover, Fletcher does sometimes offer one or two internships for SDD students for an additional fee (USD 2,500 in 2017, which is a very low fee for American standards, where one semester of a master program can easily amount to USD 20,000) However, no specific SDD scholarships are available, unfortunately. Students should be willing and able to finance the track themselves, or find regular scholarships themselves.

### **SDD community**

SDD students from the 2015-17 and 2016-18 cohorts established their own ‘community of practice’ on sustainable development diplomacy (see: <https://sddwageningen.com/>). They organize events (master classes, drinks & bites, etc.), build and maintain networks (among students, alumni and staff), publish their own biannual ‘glossy’ on SDD (*The Envoy*) and they monitor and discuss the quality of the SDD track (with relevant staff at WU). The ambition is that any new cohort of SDD students joins this community and adopts tasks to maintain and maybe even expand it.

### **More information**

1. Master programs’ study advisors (see WU Study Handbook for the names of the advisors, or consult the websites indicated below).
2. Thesis and internship coordinators of the respective chair groups (ENP for MCL and MES students; FNP for MFN students; and ENP or PAP for MID students; see WU Study Handbook for the names of the coordinators).<sup>5</sup>
3. SDD Track coordinator Prof. dr. Bas Arts, Chair of the Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, [bas.arts@wur.nl](mailto:bas.arts@wur.nl), +31 317 486196.<sup>6</sup>
4. Website of WU (<http://www.wur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Environmental-Sciences/Forest-and-Nature-Conservation-Policy-Group/Education-2/Master-Track-SDD.htm>)
5. Website of the SDD students’ community (<https://sddwageningen.com/>).

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<sup>5</sup> Every SDD students (like any WU students) should ensure that he/she talks with the coordinator of the correct chair group ample time before he/she starts with either an internship or a thesis project.

<sup>6</sup> Prof Arts does not substitute for anyone of the study advisors, thesis/internship coordinators or master program directors. He only coordinates the overall track. For specific issues concerning master program, internship, thesis, etc., students have to consult the correct study advisors of master programs or the correct coordinators within chair groups.

<b>SDD Track MCL</b>	<i>Period 1 (Sep-Oct)</i>	<i>Period 2 (Nov-Dec)</i>	<i>Period 3 (Jan)</i>	<i>Period 4 (Feb)</i>	<i>Period 5 (March-April)</i>	<i>Period 6 (May-June)</i>	
<i>Master year 1 / morning</i>	Introduction to Global Change (ESA-23306)	International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP-60312)	Quantitative Research Methodology and Statistics (MAT-22306)  OR Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	International environmental policy (ENP-30306)	Climate Governance (ENP-36306)	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy (ENP-39306)
<i>Master year 1 / afternoon</i>	Principles of Earth and Ecosystem Science (ESS-21306)  OR Principles of Climate Change Economics and Policy (ENR-22806)		<i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser  <i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		
				Capita Selecta Sustainable Development Diplomacy (FNP-50401)			
<i>Master year 2</i>	Internship (24 credits) at:  Any relevant organization (to be facilitated and approved by SDD coordination)		SDD major thesis at WU (ENP-80436)				

[1] You can either take this module in period 3 or 5 afternoon

Grey cells: SDD track program

SDD Track 2017-19

SDD Track MES [1]	Period 1 (Sep-Oct)	Period 2 (Nov-Dec)	Period 3 (Jan)	Period 4 (Feb)	Period 5 (March-April)	Period 6 (May-June)	
<i>Master year 1 / morning</i>	Research methods in environmental sciences (YRM-20306)  OR  other course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP60312)  (ACT)	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser   <i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>	International environmental policy (ENP-30306)	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy (ENP-39306)
<i>Master year 1 / afternoon</i>	Principles of Environmental Sciences (ESA-20806)  OR  other course in consultation and agreement with study adviser				Environmental Quality and Governance (ENP-35806)  <i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		
Capita Selecta Sustainable Development Diplomacy (FNP-50401)							
<i>Master year 2</i>	Internship (24 credits) at:  Any relevant organization (to be facilitated and approved by SDD coordination)		SDD major thesis at WUR (ENP-80436)				

[1] You can either take this module in period 3 or 5 afternoon

Grey cells: SDD track program

SDD Track 2017-19

<b>SDD Track MFN (within Spec. A)</b>	<i>Period 1 (Sep-Oct)</i>	<i>Period 2 (Nov-Dec)</i>	<i>Period 3 (Jan)</i>	<i>Period 4 (Feb)</i>	<i>Period 5 (March-April)</i>	<i>Period 6 (May-June)</i>	
<i>Master year 1 / morning</i>	Research methods in environmental sciences (YRM-20306)  OR  other course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP-60312)	Communities, conservation and development (FNP-31306)  <i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>	Social and political theory for forest and nature conservation research (FNP-31806)	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	Methodology for Field research in the social sciences (SDC-33306)	Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy (ENP-39306)
<i>Master year 1 / afternoon</i>	Trends in forest and nature conservation (REG-31306)  OR  other course in consultation and agreement with study adviser [3]				Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser  <i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		
Capita Selecta Sustainable Development Diplomacy (FNP-50401)							
<i>Master year 2</i>	Internship (FNP-70424) at:  Any relevant organization (to be facilitated and approved by SDD coordination)	SDD major thesis at WUR (FNP-80436)					

[1] You can either take this module in period 3 or 5 afternoon

Grey cells: SDD track program

SDD Track 2017-19

<b>SDD Track MID</b>	<i>Period 1 (Sep-Oct)</i>	<i>Period 2 (Nov-Dec)</i>	<i>Period 3 (Jan)</i>	<i>Period 4 (Feb)</i>	<i>Period 5 (March-April)</i>	<i>Period 6 (May-June) (week 37-40) + (week 41-44)</i>	<i>July-August</i>		
<i>Master year 1 / morning</i>	Perspectives and Themes in International Development Studies (SDC-36306)	International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP-60312 )	Politics, Policy Making and Accountability in International Arenas for Development (PAP-31306)	Critical Reflection on Research in International Development Practice (CPT-36806)	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser (unless you need to do SDC-33306) [2]	If required by study advisor: Methodology for Field Research in the Social Sciences (SDC-33306) [1]  OR  Room to prepare Internship/ MSc Thesis research proposal	Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy (ENP-39306)	Internship at any relevant organization (to be facilitated and approved by SDD coordination) (ENP-70424 or PAP-70324)	
<i>Master year 1 / afternoon</i>	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser [2]		<i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		Politics of Development: State, Property and Resistance (SDC-35806)				<i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>
			Capita Selecta Sustainable Development Diplomacy (FNP-50401)						
<i>Master year 2</i>	Internship at any relevant organization (to be facilitated and approved by SDD coordination) (ENP-70424 or PAP-70324)	Theories on Politics and Governance (ENP-30506) / <i>morning</i>  + Work on MSc Thesis research proposal + Seminar Social Sciences (YSS-34803)	SDD Thesis at WUR (ENP-80433 or PAP-80333) + Seminar Social Sciences (YSS-34803)						

[1] You can either take this module in period 3 or 5 afternoon

[2] Dependent on your educational background, the study advisor can determine that certain courses are obligatory for a student.

Grey cells: SDD track program