

MSc Climate Change, Society and Sustainable Futures

First intake 2026-27

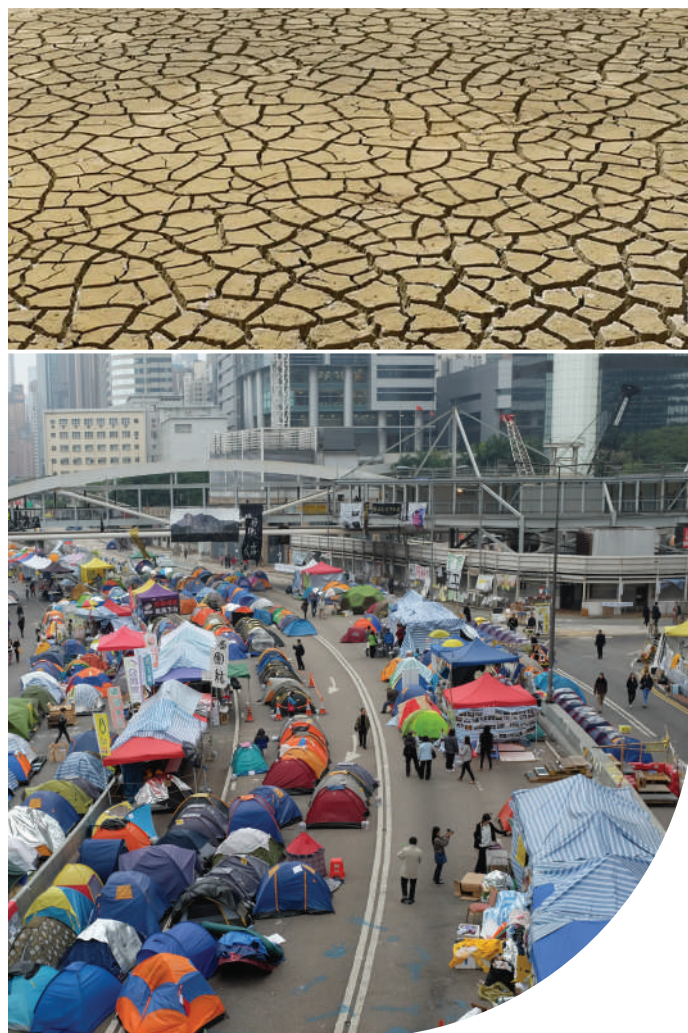
Understand the challenges that climate change poses to the world, and explore, evaluate and propose solutions that aim to create sustainable futures.

Introduction

Anthropogenic climate change and associated global environmental challenges pose profound questions for the future of human and non-human life. What futures might climate change bring, as environmental crises intersect and overlap with other global challenges? Amid loss and damage, what futures might be desirable and possible? And how can we cultivate sustainable futures given global inequalities, vulnerabilities, and unequal capacities?

This MSc takes a **social science approach** to respond to the profound challenge of developing 'sustainable futures' amid climate change. It will focus on both a) understanding the relations between climate change and society, and b) exploring and evaluating alternatives and experiments across the globe that aim to create sustainable futures from within intersecting environmental crises. You'll learn about how climate change is profoundly affecting societies and is being responded to across the globe, in the wider context of efforts to generate sustainable futures (for example through the UN's Sustainable Development Goals). You will also develop a series of research skills, alongside the leadership and engagement and communication skills necessary to help you contribute to global efforts to enhance environmental sustainability.

Students will exit the programme understanding the societal causes and consequences of anthropogenic climate change at different scales, having developed expertise about a range of solutions and experiments, and equipped with the skills to research, evaluate, propose and lead solutions that foster environmental sustainability.



Course Timetable

Term 1 October to December	Term 2 January to March	Term 3 April to June	Summer June to August
Sustainable Futures (30 credits)	Cities and Climate Change (15 credits)	Sustainable Transitions and Transformations (30 credits)	Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits)
Climate Change and Society (15 credits)	Sustainable Transitions and Transformations (30 credits)	Knowledge for Action and Leadership (15 credits)	
Research Methods for Global Challenges (15 credits)	Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits)	Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits)	

List of Modules

You will take the following modules which, together, add up to 180 credits:

Sustainable Futures (30 credits) (Term 1)

This module introduces the causes of climate change and a range of other complex global crises, and explores emerging solutions around the promise of 'sustainable futures', building from the Sustainable Development Goals.

Climate Change and Society (15 credits) (Term 1)

This module will expand students' comprehension of the diverse processes underpinning climate change and its impacts in particular places across the globe.

Research Methods for Global Challenges (15 credits) (Term 1)

This module will provide advanced training in the use of research skills and techniques, with the aim of developing a range of transferable skills relevant to researching sustainable futures amid global challenges.

Cities and Climate Change (15 credits) (Term 2)

This module explores how the very nature of urbanization is profoundly connected to the challenges of sustainability and responding to climate change.

Sustainable Transitions and Transformations (30 credits) (Terms 2/3)

This inquiry led module explores practical experiments that attempt to generate sustainable transitions and transformations at global, national and local scales, with a particular focus on climate change impacts for students on the MSc in Climate Change, Society and Sustainable Futures. It involves visits to local sites and a fieldtrip to a UK city.

Knowledge for Action and Leadership (15 credits) (Term 3)

This module develops practical skills of leadership, engagement and dissemination relevant to creating sustainable futures.

Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits) (Terms 2 and 3)

and execute an extended piece of research on a particular problem, challenge, or issue at the intersection of climate change and society. The Vocational Dissertation option is based on working with a non-academic partner.

Contact

For more information please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/2ntn2594>

Find out about our Open Days and Virtual Tours visit:
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