



Blended Intensive Programme in Oulu, Finland: **Resilience and sustainable development**

Course title: Resilience and sustainable development

Credit points awarded: 5 ECTS

Organiser: Oulu Business School, University of Oulu

Field of education: Business

Main teaching language: English

Country of venue: Finland

City of venue: Oulu

Participants

Type of participants: Students

Level of study: Bachelor, Master

Total number of participants: 30

Number of participants per partner: 8

Duration

Physical	start	date	2.9.2024
Physical	end	date	6.9.2024
Virtual component timing 19. - 31.8.			

Course specifics

Objectives and Description:

Global megatrends, such as climate change and digitalization change people's lives and affect regional development. These megatrends lead to challenges and threats, but also provide opportunities for regions. The question is about resilience: our capability to adapt to these changes. How can individuals, organizations, interorganizational networks and regions develop resilient strategies and innovation cooperation to meet changes in their operational environment when developing sustainability? People, firms, and other types of organizations, and regions face unexpected changes in their economic and technological environment. How can we improve and support, for example, with the help of new technologies, our ability to adapt to these changes and promote our social and economic well-being? How can digital transition support the green transition, and thereby improve sustainable development?

This course is designed for master and bachelor students interested in the theme "Resilience and sustainable development". During the course students will familiarize themselves with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations. Regional sustainable development will be investigated from the perspective of resilience paying attention to the links and interaction between actors at different levels.

Methods and outcomes

The first part of the course includes 5 lectures, which will be recorded and become available in Moodle in August 2024. All course materials of the course will be available for students in Google Drive.

The following topics will be covered by the lectures:

1. "Regional resilience and Sustainable Development", Assoc. prof. Jaakko Simonen, Oulu Business School, University of Oulu
2. "Sustainable Growth and Circular Economy", Prof. Michael Roos, The Faculty of Management and Economics, Ruhr University Bochum
3. "Sustainable Development and Tourism" Assis. prof. Alberto Amore, Department of Geography, University of Oulu
4. "Energy Economics and Sustainable development", Prof. Maria Kopsakangas-Savolainen, Oulu Business School, University of Oulu & Finnish Environment Institute
5. *TBA, from Ruhr University Bochum*

After the recorded sessions, there will be 4 hybrid workshops, where students will receive guidance on group work and activities during the summer school week. In the workshops students will develop an idea about resilience and sustainable development, and what it means from the point of view of their discipline and the regions they live in. Cross-border hybrid workshops will be organized by Associate professor Jaakko Simonen and Doctoral student Joonas Lohtander, both from Oulu Business School, University of Oulu. In these workshops, students are informed about the week in Oulu, and they will be given guidance on the activities of the week.

The physical exchange week in Oulu is organized in the first week of September. During the week students will familiarise themselves with the local challenges and problems of sustainable development and present possible concrete plans and solutions to solve them. The visit in Oulu is five days long and it includes visits, for example, to the municipality of Ii near Oulu (<https://ii.fi/en/climate-actions-and-renewable-energy>), and visits to local firms and organizations promoting sustainable development. Furthermore, evening events will be organized for students. Activities of the summer school week will be organized by Associate professor Jaakko Simonen, Professor Satu Nätti and Doctoral student Joonas Lohtander, all from Oulu Business School, University of Oulu.

Collaboration with local stakeholders

The course will be implemented in close cooperation with local authorities and business life. Authorities from the cities of Oulu and Bochum, and the Regional Council of Oulu will help students to explore the challenges of sustainable development. In addition to possible participation in lectures and workshops, they will give feedback in the final session (Friday morning of the physical exchange week), where students present their ideas regarding the possible concrete plans and solutions to enhance resilience and sustainable development.

Course requirements

To participate in this special course, students must be enrolled in a master's or bachelor's program in the University of Oulu, Ruhr University Bochum, University of Lodz or University of Liege, and they must have a strong interest in the theme "Resilience and sustainable development". A level of B2 English is required.

Participants must attend the physical exchange period in Oulu to pass the course. In addition to active participation in the virtual lectures and summer school week, students must return a learning diary. A maximum of 30 students can be admitted to the course. Participants who have passed all the course requirements are awarded 5 ECTS for the course.

Priorities addressed:

- Participation in democratic life
- Digital transformation
- Environment and fight against climate change
- Inclusion and diversity
- Other

Application process

Partner universities select the students based on their own criteria as discussed with the course organiser. The deadline for applications is 1st of May 2024. Successful applicants will be notified by 10th of May 2024.

Sending institutions will nominate the selected students to UniOulu International Mobility Services, who will then provide instructions for students on how to apply in the SoleMove system. Learning agreements are handled digitally using Online Learning Agreements (OLA).

Each selected student applies for their home university's Erasmus+ funding to cover any possible travel and accommodation costs. The University of Oulu does not cover any costs related to travel or accommodation.

Contact information

UniOulu International Mobility Services

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Erasmus+ coordinator	Sari Vähäkangas	Sari.vahakangas@oulu.fi

Oulu Business School

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