

Call for Summer/Spring School

“Islands as Laboratories for Sustainability: The case of Lesbos”

Application Deadline: February 28, 2022

Courses Dates: May 1-8, 2022

Location: Lesbos Island, Greece

The summer/spring school is an initiative of the Sustainable Landscapes research group of the University of Groningen and the Research Master Islands and Sustainability program. The Sustainable Landscapes research group at UG is devoted to developing knowledge for better landscape governance by combining cutting-edge disciplinary and integrative research from widely differing scientific fields.

Islands and Sustainability is a track within the Research Master in Spatial Sciences. It combines thorough training in scientific research with a thematic specialization on Islands and Sustainability.

Course Description

Islands are special cases for Sustainable Development. Methodologically and scientifically, islands are ideal 'laboratories' for sustainable landscape stewardship. Islands are unique in both attractiveness and climate vulnerability, they are relatively isolated and 'on their own' compared to mainland areas, yet they are also more dependent and need to be well-connected to other areas more than mainland areas. The summer school is aimed at combining all these different perspectives.

The summer school focuses on the Mediterranean island of Lesbos which is home to what is known as Aristotle's lagoon and has also been described as the birthplace of the science of biology; an island well-known for its unique biodiversity, a petrified forest and many scenic landscapes reflecting in its UNESCO Geopark status. The island is also the birthplace of great literary figures and has a very rich cultural history. It has also long been a popular tourism (and eco-tourism) destination. More recently it has been at the centre of global media attention as the crossing land of refugees' flight to safety and key gateway to Europe.

Overall the central question of the summer school is:

- ✓ How to come to sustainable development amidst starkly different island dynamics?

Students in this summer school are challenged to blend perspectives towards sustainability: to understand the current situation and to research possible sustainable futures via a multi-disciplinary approach. Questions that will be considered and addressed include:

- ✓ How can an island like Lesvos (as a case study) move towards an ambitious and successful energy transition?
- ✓ How to combine conservation in core nature areas with development in the surrounding landscapes?
- ✓ How can the challenges and opportunities of the refugee crisis can be met in socially sustainable ways?
- ✓ What are the prospects for sustainable social and economic development?

Learning outcomes

After this course you will be able to demonstrate:

- An enhanced understanding of current scientific theories, concepts and principles of islands as special and privileged places and of the natural and human-induced processes that are essential for understanding their past, present and future.
- An enhanced understanding of the existing political, economic, legal, geopolitical, and social implications of human interactions with the environment on a specific space, islands.
- An enhanced understanding of socio-spatial, cultural and economic processes that are specific to islandness.
- An enhanced understanding of economic, social and environmental policy processes and principles of effective management and planning for islands.
- An enhanced understanding of the way the public and private sectors can handle environmental issues on islands.
- An understanding of how Social Network Analysis, multi-criteria analysis and GIS story maps can be used for analysis pertaining to the learning outcomes

Workload-ECTS

- ✓ **Preparation:** 38 hours
- ✓ **Lectures:** 18 hours
- ✓ **Discussion/interaction with teaching staff and other students:** 6 hours
- ✓ **Assignment:** 24 hours

Upon successful completion of the programme, the Summer School offers a **Certificate of Attendance that mentions the workload of 84 hours (28 hours corresponds to 1 ECTS)**. Students can apply for recognition of these credits to the relevant authorities in their home institutions; therefore the final decision on awarding credits is at the discretion of their home institutions. We will be happy to provide any necessary information that might be requested in addition to the certificate of attendance.

Requirements

The main target group will comprise postgraduate students (taught master as well as PhD candidates) and post-doctoral researchers. It may also include excellent undergraduate students (both in terms of academic performance as well as relevant extra-curricular activities and demonstrated interest in the themes covered by the summer school) and external stakeholders (e.g. employees of local authorities, NGOs and any other organisation that is relevant to the summer school themes).

It is expected that the participants have a sufficient command of the English language to actively participate in the discussions and to present their own work in English.

There will be a fee waiver available for 2 ERUA students.

Students who wish to be considered for this need to mention this in their letter of motivation (is part of the application for the summer school).

The decisions on the award of the fee waivers for ERUA students will be made by the Summer School scientific committee on the basis of the overall quality of the application (letter of motivation and CV) by early March 2022 (and applicants who have applied for a fee waiver will be notified accordingly).

Application procedure

To apply, kindly fill out the [online application form](#).

Please note that you will be asked to submit the following documents:

- **CV**
- **Letter of motivation**

Deadline for application: 28 February 2022.

Practical Information

- ✓ **Dates:** 1-8 May 2022
- ✓ **Location:** Lesvos island, Greece
- ✓ **Level of studies:** BA/MA/PhD/Practitioners
- ✓ **Academic coordinators:** Dimitris Ballas and Frans Sijtsma, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, Raymond Klaassen, Faculty of Science and Engineering
Thanasis Kizos, Department of Geography, University of the Aegean
- ✓ **Contact:** islas@rug.nl
- ✓ For additional information about ***Islands as Laboratories for Sustainability: The case of Lesvos***: <https://www.rug.nl/education/summer-winter-schools/islands-and-sustainability/>
- ✓ **Accommodation:** Participants are advised to organise their accommodation independently. You may find more information on possible options on the page of [the EUROGEO2022 conference](#)

ERUA Support

- ✓ For additional information about the European Reform University Alliance: <https://erua-eui.eu>
- ✓ Ask UAegeans: erua-eui@aegean.gr
- ✓ Contact with: **ERUA Mobilities Manager in UAegean:** Tel. : +30-22510 36093,
Email : ktoskou@aegean.gr

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