

# FAQ

MA IN  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*The only stupid question is the question that is never asked.*  
Ramon Bautista



ALMA MATER  
EUROPAEA  
ECM

## WHAT IS ALMA MATER EUROPAEA?

Alma Mater Europaea is an international university initiated by the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in Salzburg, Austria. The Academy unites about 2,000 top scientists, including 34 Nobel Prize winners. Over 2,000 students from 30+ countries study at Alma Mater's doctoral, master, and bachelor programs in humanities, project management, artificial intelligence, sustainable development, business, strategic communication, social gerontology, physical therapy and nursing.

Numerous leading scholars have taught or lectured at Alma Mater or its events. They include: Jeffrey Sachs, the economist and global sustainable development leader; Harvard Law School professor Mark Tushnet; Oxford professors Jacob Rowbottom and Martin Kemp; German political scientist Werner Weidenfeld, András Sajó, Facebook and Instagram oversight board member and former European Court of Human Rights vice-president; Yale University professor Fred Volkmar; and Cambridge's David Erdos. Slovenian Constitutional Court judge Klemen Jaklič taught at Harvard for seven years before joining Alma Mater. Prominent philosophers Alain Badiou, Jean-Luc Nancy, and Srećko Horvat have addressed Alma Mater students.

# 1. GENERAL QUESTIONS



Alma Mater faculty have partnered with or presented their research at universities worldwide, including at Oxford, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, UCLA, and Yale. Their expert opinions have appeared in media outlets such as the Financial Times, the Guardian, the Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal. Students meet and receive direct insight from the world's political and business leaders, including presidents, prime ministers, and European Union (EU) commissioners Maroš Šefčovič, Mariya Gabriel, and Dubravka Šuica.

Students enroll in Alma Mater Europaea ECM in Slovenia. At the successful conclusion of their studies they obtain a university degree in Slovenia, an EU member state, making the diplomas fully recognizable in all European countries and worldwide.

### **WHERE IS ALMA MATER EUROPAEA BASED?**

The largest Alma Mater campus is in Maribor, Slovenia and hosts over a thousand students, who come from over twenty different countries - this enables them to be part of a unique environment. Branch offices are in Murska Sobota, Celje, Koper, and Ljubljana.

### **WHAT IS THE MA IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?**

The MA in Sustainable Development (SD) is the first program of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe. It encourages you to pursue your interests as you explore the sustainability of human societies, the economy, and the natural environment.

At Alma Mater you will work with scholars, leading academics, and practitioners as you contemplate the complex challenges of sustainable development. Your education and research will contribute directly to understanding social responsibility, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability. Whether you intend to continue your studies or to take advantage of the growing demand for highly qualified personnel in the public and private sectors, you will be preparing to contribute. You will connect with organizations striving to minimize environmental harm while contributing to the economic and social advancement of the communities in which they operate. You will also be preparing yourself for a career at the frontiers of the green economy and social enterprise.

As a dedicated sustainability studies student committed to enacting change, you can pursue interdisciplinary inquiry and solve problems through coursework, research, and experiential learning. With the support of leading academics and practitioners, your research will contribute directly to existing scholarship and professional practice related to social responsibility, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability.

Sustainable development (SD) is based on three pillars: social, economic, and environmental. These pillars form the basis of the SD program at Alma Mater. Its objective is to find the perfect intersection of all three, where we attain social inclusion, economic prosperity for all, and a better understanding of our natural environment, such that we enjoy a better life while not adversely affecting the generations to follow.



## WHAT IS THE CURRICULUM OF THE MA IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

In the first year there are seven courses; in the second year there are five. They are:

### First year

Technology and Ecosystems (10 ECTS)

Introduction to sustainable development (10 ECTS)

ERM (Environmental remediation) of terrestrial and water ecosystems (10 ECTS)

Environmental Law (10 ECTS)

Economics of Sustainable Transformation (10 ECTS)

Research Methodology (5 ECTS)

Elective course I (5 ECTS)

### Second year

Ethics in Sustainable Development (10 ECTS)

Cities and rural areas and sustainability (10 ECTS)

SD in Slovenia and Globally (10 ECTS)

Elective course II (5 ECTS)

Elective course III (5 ECTS)

Master thesis (20 ECTS)

## IS THE STUDY PROGRAM ACCREDITED?

Official state accreditation bodies fully accredit all Alma Mater Europaea study programs. Its diplomas are fully recognized in all European countries and worldwide.

# 2. THE STUDIES





### **HOW LONG DO THE STUDIES LAST, AND IS IT ONLINE?**

Duration: Four semesters over two years.

Credits: 120 ECTS.

Title: Master of Sustainable Development

Language: English

Location: Virtual with annual sessions in Austria or Slovenia Applications for grants to cover travel expenses are welcome and will be considered case by case.

Program delivery: Hybrid (virtual and three in-person sessions).

Start date: October 2023

Expected graduation: September 2025.

### **HOW IS THE PROGRAM STRUCTURED?**

The usual duration of the study program is 20 months, but you may be able to finish it earlier. There are four semesters, each of five months. If you have completed a four-year undergraduate program, you may receive credits for some of your undergraduate courses, subject to their evaluation, in which case you may be able to graduate in fewer than four semesters.

The first two semesters of the master's program consist of lectures, discussion sessions, and online activities designed by the Sustainable Development Academy. Internships with sustainability industry leaders across the European Union are offered in the third semester. You will spend the fourth semester writing your master's thesis.

To graduate, a student must complete nine mandatory courses, three elective courses, and a thesis. You may choose from among several elective courses in sustainable development and courses at other master's programs offered by Alma Mater Europaea.

The thesis is a research paper or a business plan of 30–50 pages for sustainable corporate transformation. The student prepares an outline by the end of the third semester, and submits and presents the work during the fourth semester. Alma Mater encourages the subsequent publication of the work.

In each of the program's two years, students meet in person for intensive five-day sessions, once on the Slovenian coast and once in Vienna and Maribor. They gain direct experience of and insight into sustainability in nature, the environment, and urban life. Students present and discuss their work, undertake research, and meet with corporate leaders in sustainability.

### **HOW MANY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDY AT ALMA MATER EUROPAEA?**

The Alma Mater student body is diverse. There are students from over 20 countries and five continents. A vast majority of the MA and PhD students are from abroad.

### **WHAT KIND OF EXPERIENCE DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HAVE AT ALMA MATER EUROPAEA?**

Watch the video.

### WHEN DO CLASSES START AND END AT THE ALMA MATER?

Classes start in mid-October and end in early June each academic year.

### IS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS MANDATORY?

We expect our students to attend meetings, submit assignments, and contribute to the Alma Mater community. Attendance is compulsory for the theoretical lessons held online and for the hours of training provided each year.

### HOW ARE THE COURSES ORGANIZED?

The courses in the academic year take place in hybrid form.

- In each course, students carry out a series of modules prepared by the Sustainable Development Academy or the professor, submit assignments, and meet with a professor and fellow students for lectures, presentations, and discussions. In each of the 10 credit courses, they meet eight times. In the five credit classes, they meet four times. In each semester there is a total of 24 two-hour meetings, one per week.
- There is one intensive face-to-face cycle at Maribor, with compulsory attendance at practical laboratory exercises, seminars, and exams.
- There is a practical internship, which you can carry out in your area of residence.

- The calendar of lessons is distributed at the beginning of the academic year.
- For in-class lectures, we practice live streaming and record the lectures.

### HOW HAVE STUDENTS EVALUATED THE INNOVATIVE STUDY METHODS AT ALMA MATER?

The results of the student surveys carried out each year show that they find the quality of execution of the lessons and exercises to be exceedingly high.

### DOES AN ALMA MATER STUDENT GET HEALTH INSURANCE, MEAL DISCOUNT, AND VISA?

Yes. The Alma Mater student has legal status under Slovenian law and so is eligible for an EU visa, health insurance, and meal vouchers in Slovenia, subject to national laws.

### WHAT INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES DOES ALMA MATER USE WITH STUDENTS?

Alma Mater uses modern information and communication technologies (student e-booklet, internet classroom, e-mails, SMS messages). Study combines live lessons, videoconferences, recorded lessons, electronic communication, and suitable electronic material.

### WHO ARE THE INSTRUCTORS ON THE MA IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Alma Mater Europaea's professors and lecturers are excellent academicians, scientists, and in many cases, business leaders. CEOs of international corporations often give guest lectures and share their experience with students. They offer unparalleled knowledge and experience that students find invaluable in their careers and everyday lives. See the list on the [website](#).

### WHY ARE THE STUDY GROUPS SMALL?

Lectures and discussions take place in groups of fewer than 40 students. Small groups encourage more communication and connections among participants and with the professors. Students are encouraged to view themselves as colleagues rather than students and, in so doing, become more than just anonymous students. Those studying online do so in groups of up to 40 students, and collaborate and share knowledge in joint projects with other students worldwide.

### I AM A NON-EUROPEAN STUDENT. WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THE STUDIES?

Alma Mater students – many of whom are not European – receive the benefit of getting to know Europe, including its culture and business habits, to its fullest extent. Students from outside the EU can study and work part-time under an EU visa while residing in Slovenia or Austria.



### **WHEN ARE THE LECTURES AND MEETINGS USUALLY HELD?**

Sessions usually take place on Fridays, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. CET. Lectures and activities during the in-person sessions in mid-March are held throughout the day. The design of the online study program enables those studying online to do so at their preferred time.

### **WHAT IS AN INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP?**

During your studies, you can work in an EU member state working in a corporate, governmental, or nonprofit office.

### **HOW DO STUDENTS TAKE EXAMS?**

Most of the exams will be available online. Two courses will be completed during in-person meetings. Some exams will be assignments that the student must complete and submit, whether individually or in a group.

### **IN WHAT LANGUAGE WILL THE LECTURES BE DELIVERED?**

All lectures, activities, and student submissions are in English.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT TAKE ALL THE EXAMS REQUIRED BY THE STUDY PLAN?**

Each student must obtain 60 credits in the first year in order to progress to the second year. Additional exam sessions can be organized at the university's discretion, upon request by the student, and at additional cost.

A student unable to accumulate the necessary credits can request an extension, or can take a sabbatical year during which the missing exams can be taken.

### **WHAT DEGREE IS AWARDED AFTER COMPLETING THE COURSE OF STUDY?**

The title obtained is: Master of Sustainable Development.



# 3. APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT

## DOES ALMA MATER ORGANIZE OPEN DAYS OR ONLINE ORIENTATIONS?

Alma Mater organizes open days each year, usually before the start of the academic year. Online orientations take place about once a month.

## IS IT NECESSARY TO PASS AN ADMISSION TEST TO BECOME A STUDENT?

No, there is no admission test. The university will evaluate your CV and application.

## HOW CAN I APPLY?

Get in touch with us by completing a simple online form. In doing so, you are not agreeing to enrol in the program. The form merely tells us something about you as a candidate.

A representative of the university will contact you, and will answer your questions. If chosen by the selection board, we will invite you to enrol.

When registering for the Sustainable Development program, the student submits their bachelor's degree final certificate and the transcript of grades along with a diploma supplement.

## CAN I REQUEST RECOGNITION OF CREDITS AND HAVE SOME EXAMS VALIDATED?

Yes, it is possible to request recognition for credits from other institutions. When you complete the form, give details of the credits you obtained at another institution. The cost of the credit recognition procedure is EUR 1,000.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

To enroll in the MA in Sustainable Development, a student must have completed at least a three-year undergraduate program. A limited number of students will be accepted.





# 4.

## THE UNIVERSITY FEE

### WHAT ARE THE TUITION FEES FOR STUDY COURSES AT ALMA MATER?

They are published on [website](#).

### WHAT IS THE COST OF THE ENTIRE PROGRAM?

Tuition is EUR 8,600 per year (two semesters). If you have completed a four-year undergraduate program and can graduate early from Alma Mater Europaea because of the credits you received from your undergraduate classes, a cost reduction may be possible. The cost includes all courses, literature and materials, and access to an e-classroom with videos of all lectures.

### CAN I PAY IN INSTALLMENTS?

A payment of EUR 2,000 is required upon enrollment. You can pay the remainder in equal amounts over five or eight installments. If an installment plan is used, we will add an administration fee of EUR 20 to each payment.

### CAN I APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

Applicants can apply for the scholarship provided by the Academicus Foundation. Its fund provides scholarships for three

years of study for up to EUR 6,000 (EUR 2,000 per year). Academicus scholarships are intended for successful and talented students, students with financial needs, and other students. The scholarship can be requested using the [form](#). This application does not oblige the candidate to enroll and is not binding. Applicants will receive information on the approved scholarship amount within 10 days after the application deadline.

### BESIDES THE UNIVERSITY FEE, WHAT OTHER COSTS MUST THE STUDENT COVER?

The student must pay an admission fee of EUR 100 for each year of study.

### CAN I PAY THE TUITION FEE AND OTHER FEES IN CASH AT THE ALMA MATER STUDENT OFFICE?

No. Payment in cash at the Student Office is not possible. Alma Mater accepts credit card payments or bank transfers.

### CAN A LEGAL ENTITY PAY THE TUITION FOR ME?

Yes. A legal entity such as a corporation can also pay the tuition for a student.



# 5. CAREER PATHWAYS

## WHERE CAN I FIND WORK WITH THE QUALIFICATION OBTAINED?

Job prospects are numerous. They include careers in government, business, non-governmental organizations, and research institutions.

## WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD OF EMPLOYMENT FOR A GRADUATE OF ALMA MATER EUROPAEA?

Alma Mater Europaea graduates have the highest employment of all Slovenian higher education institutions. It offers graduates a rich and diverse academic environment, and provides opportunities for intellectual development and the acquisition of professional knowledge and skills. Most importantly, it can lead to employment at home or abroad.

## WILL I HAVE TO GET MY DEGREE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED IN MY COUNTRY?

A degree from Alma Mater Europaea is acknowledged and valid in all EU member states and other countries. If you want the recognition of your degree officially confirmed by your country's authorities, Alma Mater Europaea can assist you in getting such authorization through its partnerships in various countries.



# 6. STUDENT LIFE

## WHERE CAN I STAY WHEN ATTENDING IN-PERSON MEETINGS?

Alma Mater can arrange a discounted rate at a hotel that will not exceed EUR 140 a night, but you may book any other accommodation. Students are responsible for their travel to the location of the in-person sessions in mid-March each year. Alma Mater will provide lunch free of charge.

Grant applications for travel expenses are welcome and will be considered case by case.

## WHAT STUDENT GROUPS CAN I JOIN, AND WHAT IS THE ALMA MATER STUDENT COUNCIL?

The Student Council is the representative body of the students of the Alma Mater, in which all study programs are equally represented. Its primary purpose is to ensure quality programs and extra-curricular activities, practical cooperation between students, the faculty council, and management, and to strengthen the sense of belonging to the profession and to the Alma Mater.

## DOES ALMA MATER ORGANIZE STUDENT EXCHANGES AS PART OF THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAM?

Yes. Alma Mater has signed Erasmus+ mobility agreements with more than 100 universities throughout Europe. Among them are highly ranked universities such as KU Leuven and Sapienza University of Rome. For more information on mobility, visit the [website](#).

## IN WHAT PROJECTS DO ALMA MATER STUDENTS PARTICIPATE?

We support students in all their activities and endeavors. More than 20 social activities take place at Alma Mater, including: Team Alma Mater, a sports association (an inter-university football, basketball, and volleyball league); the University Sports Association, where students as members benefit from such advantages as cheaper exercise and cheaper ski tickets; the Alma Mater Alumni Club, and the like.

Students often participate in international conferences.

The Student Council organizes social events for students in collaboration with the tutors or, the Alma Mater Team. Students are active as volunteers in the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

A German course is offered free of charge to students. Upon request they can also learn the German terminology in their field of study, since after graduating, many of our students find work in neighboring Austria.

## IS ALMA MATER PRESENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

Alma Mater has social media profiles on many platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Alma Mater regularly publishes its Newsletter.

6.6 Where can I find more information on the content of the individual courses offered by Alma Mater?

Visit our [website](#).

A better world for today's people and the generations to follow.



*Our MA in Sustainable Development is tailored to the student's needs. A carefully selected team of mentors deliver the courses. Both academic and administrative staff provide engaged support on every step of the flexible studying process.*

*By involving yourself with the program, you gain access to brilliant people. A rigorous selection process ensures that everyone you meet is impressive in their own way, from professors to students. Such an environment fosters the exchange of ideas, plurality of opinions and growth of all involved individuals.*

*Alma Mater is a boutique higher-education institution. It operates under the auspices of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, which connects more than 2000 senior scholars, including 34 Nobel laureates. This ensures Alma Mater education has a high degree of credibility and renown.*

*You will get the hands-on skills employers want through practically oriented yet theoretically rigorous learning. Our professors connect what you learn with real-life situations and examples. We craft our courses carefully, ensuring you graduate with the skills employers seek.*



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Paris

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Salzburg

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Maribor

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