

FAQ's

# Sustainable Mobilities

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Degree Program - Sustainable Mobilities M.Sc.

May 2021

# 1 Application and Admission

## 1.1 How can I apply for the program?

- All information regarding application is mentioned on the website of our admission office under "[Online Application](#)"
- All applications are processed by uni-assist: [www.uni-assist.de](http://www.uni-assist.de).

### Application Procedure

- **Create an online account**  
It is necessary for the application to register. After your registration you will receive an email. Please confirm your registration. After the confirmation you will receive a user account.
- **Fill out the application online**  
Select a study program (Wählen Sie einen Studiengang aus). You can apply for up to three study programs. Fill out the application online. Please pay attention to the mandatory fields.
- **Pay the handling fee**  
Who is not affected by the handling fee?
  - Citizens of the European Union
  - Citizens of the European Economic Area
  - Citizens of Switzerland
  - Applicants with a German Bachelor's degree

Please note, that your application will only be processed by uni-assist after receipt of payment.

You can find out the status of your application online at uni-assist. uni-assist forwards all processed applications to the HfWU. The HfWU then decides on the admission.

## 1.2 Which documents are necessary?

- Proof of first academic degree in either
  - Business Sciences
  - Social Science (e.g. sociology, political science, anthropology etc.)
  - Spatial Sciences (e.g. geography, town, land use, traffic or landscape planning)
  - Industrial, Traffic or Environmental Engineering
  - Architecture.

The degree has to be from a German University or Berufsakademie/Duale Hochschule or an equivalent degree from a foreign institute of higher education.

- Proof of English – either:
  - Toefl at least 500 points (paper-based), 173 (computer based), 61 (internet-based)
  - IELTS 5,5
  - Cambridge English: BEC Vantage First
  - Cambridge English: First FCE
  - Cambridge English: Advanced - CAE
  - Cambridge English: Proficiency - CPE
  - APIEL 4
  - TOEIC 785
  - Language certificate level B2 according to the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages"

Proof of English is not required if the 1st degree was taught in English or if English was the main subject. It is also not required if applicants provide a GMAT with at least 500 points or if they are nationals of a country where English is the official language or if they are native speakers.

- Letter of motivation for the program
- Curriculum Vitae
- Chinese, Mongolian, and Vietnamese applicants also need to attach the Original Certificate of the "Akademische Prüfstelle des Kulturreferates der Deutschen Botschaft" (APS) from their country

### 1.3 How to write the Letter of Motivation?

- It has to be typed in English and must not be longer than two pages.
- It should become clear why the applicant wants to participate in the master program.
- The Letter of Motivation is a part of the application and has to be handed in together with the other documents before the deadline.
- The evaluation of the Letter of Motivation will be based on the following criteria: explanation and rational transparency why the master's program is being aimed at, clarification why the program fits the personal attitude of the applicant, grammatical comprehensibility, correctness of the wording and the overall appearance.
- You can improve your average mark with a good motivation letter and admission is carried out by a ranking list!

### 1.4 What to do if I have not received my first degree yet?

- If, at the time of application, the first degree program at a German university or Berufsakademie/Duale Hochschule or at an equivalent foreign European university using the ECTS grading system has not been completed, preliminary admission might be granted provided that proof of having completed the first degree program is provided at the time of enrolment at the latest. In this case, at least 150 ECTS credits must have been achieved in the degree program at the time of application. If proof of having completed the first degree program cannot be supplied before the deadline, admission is revoked.

### 1.5 What are the application deadlines?

- December 15th for admission to the summer semester (semester start: mid March)
- July 15th for admission to the winter semester (semester start: beginning of October).

## 2 Profile of the program

### 2.1 What does the program have to offer?

- An internationally recognized degree qualifying you for a professional career
- Learning in a collaborative, international and inspiring environment
- Experienced and highly renowned lecturers
- The link to practice and future employers
- The road map to new businesses, better concepts, successful services and products

### 2.2 How many semester does it include?

- 4 including the master thesis.

### 2.3 Is it completely in English language?

- Yes, it is.

### 2.4 Is it required to hand in proof of English?

- Yes, please see 1.2.

### 2.5 Is it located in Nürtingen or in Geislingen?

- It is located at the Geislingen campus of HfWU.

## 2.6 Who is responsible for the program?

- The program director is Prof. Dr. Sven Kesselring.

## 2.7 How many Credit Points does the program have?

- The program has 120 ECTS all in all.

## 2.8 Is it possible to do a semester abroad?

- Yes, international exchanges are possible, for example with other European Universities, the US or Australia.

## 2.9 Are there many practical parts included in the program?

- Yes, there are lots of problem based research projects as well as field trips.

## 2.10 Is it possible to write the master thesis together with a company?

- Yes, it is. The master thesis can be written in collaboration with a company, an organization or public authorities.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> supervisor always needs to be a professor of HfWU.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> supervisor can be an employee of the company or organization (she/he needs to have at least a master's degree her/himself).

### **2.11 When was the master program Sustainable Mobilities introduced?**

- The master program started in the summer semester 2017.

### **2.12 Where to find the lecture timetable and further documents?**

- You can find all necessary documents in neo - our e-learning management system. You can log in as soon as you have received your university account.

### **2.13 What to learn from the program?**

- Key competences in mobility theory, concepts and approaches
- Research methods & market research
- Insights into technological developments
- Expertise in urban planning and design
- Mobility governance and mobility and transport legal conditions
- Problem-based project work
- Solution oriented skills in mobility design and planning for industry administration and the non-profit sector

### **2.14 Where do I get further information about the program?**

- You can get further information about the program on the website of the degree program:  
<https://www.hfwu.de/studium/studienangebot/sustainable-mobilities/>



## 3 Content of the program

### 3.1 What does mobility mean in general?

- Mobility is a big sector – truck, plane, car, ship, train, virtual mobility, etc. There are various issues you can individually deal with in what you are most interested in.

### 3.2 What is sustainable mobilities about?

- Sustainable mobilities is about the rapidly changing mobility world and what mobility could look like in the future. It is about new sustainable ideas, modes of transport and disciplines. A very important part here are the people and how they are connected.

### 3.3 What is the general orientation of the education?

- It is not like in a business administration course where you use your “tools” like a SWOT analysis to answer questions. This program is more about how to reflect on things, how to come up with new ideas or finding new ways, how to handle issues and therefore solve problems. There is no right or wrong, it is more about how to argue in a way that new (business) ideas have the possibility to be accepted by the broad society.

### 3.4 What are potential topics during the semesters?

The topics vary due to the dynamics and diversity of the program. Some potential topics that can come up during the semesters are:

- New mobility concepts (car sharing, on-demand services, free public transport)
- Legal framework conditions in the EU on the different levels (linked to sustainability)
- General theories about mobilities from historical perspectives but also connected to today’s generation and new technologies
- Sustainable mobilities from an overall perspective
- United Nations and their sustainable development goals
- Theoretical information and introduction on how to work on research topics (different qualitative research methods)

- Changes in the individual mobility behaviour (change from car-centric to a user-centric concept)
- Field Research (Field Trips to companies, NGO's, city governments)

**3.5 Sustainable mobilities means continuous movement of people from one place to another through environment friendly transport. Right? And also at low costs and pollution control?**

- Movement is more than just travelling from A to B. It is to get an understanding why people and things are mobile. What are they doing between place A and place B? It is also about the thought of how to probably reduce mobility in order to be more sustainable which is connected to the phenomenon of immobility. It is not only the engineering perspective which is about developing new technologies to reduce emissions, but as well about including ideas in regard to the fact that the infrastructure is limited and in a lot of areas the infrastructure already achieved its limits. Existing systems are being reflected on and new concepts are being researched. Of course the costs and the pollution control play a huge role here as well when it comes to implementing sustainable mobilities.

**3.6 Are we in the position to bring in our own ideas or are we just doing the management of given ideas?**

- This is dependent on the student's interests at the university as well as in the job afterwards. The students can design their own research topics in which they are interested in but they of course need to fit into the program and the modules. The professors give ideas about how to work on topics and how questions should be answered in a scientific way.

**3.7 Are we doing architecture and urban planning in the program?**

- As the students who are participating in this program have different backgrounds, you don't have to have previous knowledge about architecture or urban planning. The master is very diverse, so there are aspects from a lot of different disciplines and fields included but you will learn about all the important contexts while taking part in the program. The main goal of the program is to see the bigger picture of sustainable mobility and to reflect on things from different angles.

### **3.8 In which direction does our research lead? Is it to give new ideas for the protection of green environment?**

- The students deal with various fields and get in touch with them like in other programs. First, the students get an overview which topics exist and then the students can focus on their personal interests.

### **3.9 What does virtual mobility mean? Making mobile apps and technique to reach people?**

- Virtual mobility is quite diverse. Taking the example of UBER. UBER is one possible app that students can evaluate. The concept of UBER is to offer an app in the context of mobility. You can identify barriers to make this concept more attractive. But if you like to give an idea for a new solution (app) you can also work on that. But Virtual Mobility is more than that. Virtual mobility is also happening for example via email or social media. In general, it is to make communication easier and faster as well as to shorten real life distances.

### **3.10 What are the modules of the program?**

- Semester 1:
  - I.1 Sustainable mobilities – theories, concepts, approaches
  - I.2 Applied philosophy of science
  - I.3 Research methods
  - I.4 Mobility solution design 1
- Semester 2:
  - II.1 Basic knowledge for the mobility transition
  - II.2 Urban mobilities
  - II.3 Mobility solution design 2
  - II.4 Mobility policies 1
- Semester 3:
  - III.1 Elective Module 1
  - III.2 Mobility policies 2
  - III.3 Problem based research project I
  - III.4 Problem based research project II
  - III.5 Mobility solution design 3

- Semester 4:  
IV.1 Elective Module 2  
IV.2 Master Thesis  
IV.3 Master Colloquium

### 3.11 What are the single modules about?

- Please have a look at the module description on our website (Study Content)  
<https://www.hfwu.de/studium/studienangebot/sustainable-mobilities/>

### 3.12 Additional offers during the semesters?

- During the semester, the program gets an additional value due to guest lectures and field trips organised by the lecturer/professors.
- Follow our social media channels:  
Facebook: <https://de-de.facebook.com/mobilitygermany/>  
Instagramm: <https://www.instagram.com/sum.hfwu/>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SMobilities>  
LinkedIn: <https://linkedin.com/school/sustainablemobilitieshfwugeislingen>

### 3.13 Some book recommendations upfront

- [https://www.amazon.de/Exploring-Networked-Urban-Mobilities-Theories/dp/1138708860/ref=nodl\\_](https://www.amazon.de/Exploring-Networked-Urban-Mobilities-Theories/dp/1138708860/ref=nodl_)
- [https://books.google.de/books?id=MDoIDwAAQBAJ&source=gbs\\_book\\_other\\_versions](https://books.google.de/books?id=MDoIDwAAQBAJ&source=gbs_book_other_versions)
- <https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783319765891>
- <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23800127.2016.1150562>

## 4 What to do after the master program?

### 4.1 What are the career prospects?

The career prospects after the master program depend on the personal interests. Sustainable mobilities is an issue all over the world, therefore there are a lot of job opportunities. Possible fields to work in could be:

- Leading positions in research and development
- Consulting
- Concept design at
  - Sharing economy (car, bike, ride sharing companies)
  - Cities
  - Public authorities
  - Non-profit organizations
  - Start-ups
  - Car producers

### 4.2 Is it possible to do a PhD afterwards?

- Yes, it is.