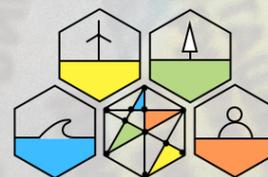


**Selective Master Track  
'Sustainable Development Diplomacy' (SDD)  
2018-20**



**WAGENINGEN**  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



SDD WAGENINGEN

**Selective Master Track**  
**‘Sustainable Development Diplomacy’ (SDD) 2017-19**

- MCL: MSc Climate Studies (Specialization Climate, Society and Economics)
- MES: MSc Environmental Sciences (Major Environmental Policy)
- MFN: MSc Forest and Nature Conservation (Specialization Policy and Society)
- MID: MSc International Development Studies (Specialization Politics and Governance of Development)

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# MSc Track ‘Sustainable Development Diplomacy’ (SDD)

## Introduction

Sustainable Development Diplomacy (SDD) is a special, selective track within the master programs Climate Studies (MCL, Specialization Climate, Society and Economics), Environmental Sciences (MES, Major Environmental Policy), Forest and Nature Conservation (MFN, Specialization Policy & Society) and International Development Studies (MID, Specialization Politics & Governance of Development) of Wageningen University & Research (WUR), the Netherlands. The purpose of the track is to provide students – who will be future academics, practitioners and leaders in the public and private sector – a combination of theory and practice of (inter)national diplomacy in the field of sustainable development. This track should thus allow SDD students to better understand, analyse and tackle the world’s most challenging sustainability problems.

## Background

Rationales for this SDD master track are threefold: academic, normative and pragmatic. To start with the last, many alumni of Wageningen University & Research continue their careers at international negotiation institutions, like the EU or the UN. Or they become involved – for example as mediators – in sustainability conflicts among stakeholders at local levels in Europe, Africa, Asia or Latin-America. Yet they are neither educated in theories of diplomacy and negotiations nor trained in related skills so far. This master track aims at filling this gap (pragmatic rationale).

Secondly, current global challenges – climate change, deforestation, desertification, food security, health, etc. – are challenging the world’s organizational and institutional capacity to address them. In fact, we appear to be confronted today not with a single crisis, but with multiple ones, from the financial to the ecological crisis. The international community has agreed, since the Rio Summit in 1992, that sustainable development should be the road to navigate out of these crises. This approach implies both intra- and intergenerational equity and the maintenance of the carrying capacity of the earth. Yet governments alone are not capable of engaging in the negotiations of diplomacy and creating the institutions of governance that are required to move towards these objectives. New ways of diplomacy and new innovative governance arrangements seem therefore needed to better attain these goals. Such diplomacy and governance should, according to some scholars, be much more inclusive for stakeholders, more evidence-based, more cross-sectoral, integrative rather than distributive, and addressing the ‘real’ root causes of sustainability issues (normative rationale).

Thirdly, new types of diplomacy seem to emerge on – amongst others – sustainability issues, sometimes referred to as the ‘new’ diplomacy, ‘inclusive’ diplomacy, ‘informal’ diplomacy or ‘guerrilla’ diplomacy.

These terms refer to other ways of doing (inter)national negotiations than through the traditional, nation state, foreign affairs and international security oriented diplomacy. Some authors claim that this ‘new’ diplomacy is very different from the traditional one. It is multi-actor (including non-state actors in negotiations), multi-level (local issues and actors do appear at international negotiation tables, just as global issues and actors do), multi-rule (soft law is currently considered as relevant as hard law) and multi-sector (going beyond security issues and single issues, an example being sustainable development). Indeed, non-state actors are now allowed to play their roles in international diplomacy (think about environmental NGOs and their impact on international environmental treaties), whereas private or public-private instruments to address sustainability issues are emerging (e.g. certification schemes for sustainable products, payment for ecosystem services, REDD+, etc.). However, the nature of this ‘new’ diplomacy is neither well understood nor are its claims rigorously tested. Academic research and teaching are therefore badly needed (academic rationale).

### **Target group**

The track is selective and eligible for a limited number of MCL, MES, MFN and MID students, who express their interest in, motivation for and commitment to the topic of SDD, and already exhibit some basic knowledge and skills in this field. All students of these master programs are invited to apply, but their motivation, bachelor grades and competencies are checked during a selection procedure for which they have to write a motivation letter, submit an extended CV and – if possible – submit one or two recommendation letters (see Annex I of this brochure for the details of the selection procedure). In a next step, the most promising candidates will be identified for a short interview after which the final group of students for the SDD track will be determined.

Each year, a group of twelve to sixteen students is allowed access to SDD, fairly divided over the four master programs. This number is determined by one of the key courses of the track that can only facilitate a limited number of students (International Environmental Policy Consultancy, see the list of SDD elements below). Moreover, we aim to be a selective, high-quality track, with the best students and with small-scale intensive teaching modes, where possible. Application is only possible if a student is admitted to and enrolled in one of the four participating master programs.



The selection procedure is organized in the second half of September, starting with an information meeting close to September 15. Exact dates and steps in the procedure will be announced through study advisors of the respective master programs and on relevant social media in the beginning of September.

## External partners

External partners of the track are the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University, Cambridge, Mass., USA (abbreviated as ‘Fletcher’ below), the World Bank from Washington DC, USA, and the Sustainability Challenge Foundation (SCF) from the Netherlands. These partners allow for an international network that facilitates the identification of SDD-related internships and master thesis projects for students.



## Learning outcomes

The learning outcomes are those of the regular master programs (see Study Handbook Wageningen University & Research). Within this context, we distinguish more specific learning outcomes for the SDD track, divided in three sections: contents, skills and competencies.

SDD graduates are expected to be able to:

### *Contents:*

1. Understand (inter)national political, policy and governance processes by appropriate knowledge of social science theories;
2. Demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding of sustainable development, both from developmental and environmental perspectives;
3. Demonstrate in-depth insights into the nature of (inter)national diplomacy and negotiation processes;

### *Skills:*

4. Demonstrate negotiation skills and diplomatic attitudes;
5. Formulate a research proposal at master level, analyze (inter)national or local SDD processes scientifically, and report on that.

### *Competencies:*

6. Handle intercultural aspects of negotiations and diplomacy;
7. Clearly present, both orally and in writing, policy proposals, mutual gains options, and (intermediate) agreements in negotiations and diplomacy;
8. Reflect on ethical aspects of sustainability, diplomacy and negotiation processes.

## SDD track elements

As said, the track is embedded in four master programs (MCL, MES, MFN, MID). For each one, a specific SDD trajectory is developed, sharing a number of elements. The specific master trajectories are presented in the annexes at the end of this brochure, whereas the common SDD elements are listed here:

1. International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP-60312; 12 ECTS; Master year M1, Period P2; substitutes regular Academic Consultancy Training and Modular Skills Trainings; selective course, eligible for SDD students only, unless the number of SDD students allows others to be selected).
2. Capita Selecta Sustainable Development Diplomacy (FNP-50401; 1 ECTS, M1, P2-5; selective course, eligible for SDD students only)<sup>1</sup>
3. International Environmental Policy (ENP-30306; 6 ECTS; M1, P4; optional for MCL and MES students) OR Communities, Conservation and Development (FNP-31306 ; 6 ECTS; M1; P3; obligatory for MFN students) OR Politics, Policy Making and Accountability in International Arenas for Development (PAP-31306; 6 ECTS, M1, P3; obligatory for MID students).<sup>2</sup>
4. One additional MOS (Modular Skills Training) module on ‘Negotiation Skills’ (ECS-65300; 1.5 ECTS, M1, P3 or 5).<sup>3</sup>
5. Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy (ENP-39306; 6 ECTS; M1, P6)
6. Internships (to be self-organized by SDD students, but facilitated by World Bank, and Fletcher; 24 ECTS; M2, P1-2).
7. SDD Major Thesis at WUR (for MFN with the chair group Forest and Nature Conservation Policy, FNP, 36 ECTS; for MCL and MES with the chair group Environmental Policy, ENP, 36 ECTS; and for MID with the chair group Environmental Policy, ENP, or with the chair group Public Administration and Policy, PAP, 36 ECTS; M2, P 3-6).<sup>4</sup>

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1 This Capita Selecta is specially organized for the track, to deepen the concept of SDD and its application, adding 1 ECTS to the 120 ECTS master program. It consists of 6 lunch or evening meetings, spread over periods 2 to 5: one introduction (end of period 1), two lectures (period 2), two reading sessions (period 3) and two sessions with group presentations (period 5).

2 Because MFN and MID students have to take other courses for their master program in period 4, they cannot join ENP-30306. As alternatives, they will take FNP-31306 and PAP-31306 as alternatives for their SDD master track in period 3, respectively.

3 Master students at WUR, including SDD students, have to take two MOS modules during their master program, but these are already covered by the International Environmental Consultancy Policy course (ENP-60312). Yet we oblige SDD students to take another MOS module of 1.5 ECTS on negotiations skills, either in period 3 or 5. These skills are crucial for SDD and prepare students well for the more advanced diplomacy skills they will obtain in the Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy course in period 6 (ENP-39306). With this additional MOS module and the additional SDD Capita Selecta (see previous footnote), the SDD track master program amounts to 122.5 ECTS.

4 This sequence of SDD elements assumes that SDD students will do their internship first and then conduct their master thesis research. In practice, this sequence is often reversed. Such is to be decided by SDD students themselves, however in consultation with and by approval of their study advisors.



## Planning

The track is announced in the Study handbook. The first specific SDD elements in the master programs start in Period 2 (International Environmental Policy Consultancy and the Capita Selecta). Therefore, in Period 1, an information meeting is organized each year, after which the selection procedure immediately starts. If you consider participating in SDD, you can best contact the study advisor of your MSc program at the earliest possible moment. Students who will

pass the final MSc examination will receive a specific SDD master track certificate, besides their regular master program diploma.

## Costs

As with the ‘regular’ MSc programs, the SDD master track program comes with additional costs for students, for example if one conducts an internship at the United Nations in New York and a master thesis research project in South Africa. Moreover, Fletcher does sometimes offer one or two internships for Wageningen SDD students in the first semester of each academic year, for an additional fee (USD 2,500 in 2017). However, no specific SDD scholarships are available, unfortunately. Students should be willing and able to finance the track themselves, or find regular scholarships themselves.

## SDD community

A special feature of the track is that it is connected to the ‘SDD Community’, a network of SDD students and alumni. This community organizes events (master classes, drinks & bites, etc.), builds and maintains networks (among students, alumni and staff), publishes newsletters and the annual ‘glossy’ The Envoy and monitors and discusses the quality of the SDD track with relevant staff at WUR. The SDD community provides students with a network of people in the field of SDD and gives them the opportunity to already contribute to this network during their studies.

## More information

1. Master programs’ study advisors (see WU Study Handbook for the names of the advisors, or consult the websites indicated below).
2. Thesis and internship coordinators of the respective chair groups (ENP for MCL and MES students; FNP for MFN students; and ENP or PAP for MID students; see WU Study Handbook for the names of the coordinators).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Every SDD students (like any WU students) should ensure that he/she talks with the coordinator of the correct chair

3. SDD Track coordinators Prof. dr. Bas Arts and Dr. Jelle Behagel, Chair of the Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group, Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands, [bas.arts@wur.nl](mailto:bas.arts@wur.nl), +31 317 486196.<sup>6</sup>
4. Website of WU (<http://www.wur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Environmental-Sciences/Forest-and-Nature-Conservation-Policy-Group/Education-2/Master-Track-SDD.htm>)
5. Website of the SDD students' community (<https://sddwageningen.com/>).

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group ample time before he/she starts with either an internship or a thesis project.

<sup>6</sup> Prof Arts or Dr Behagel do not substitute for anyone of the study advisors, thesis/internship coordinators or master program directors. They only coordinates the overall track. For specific issues concerning master program, internship, thesis, etc., students have to consult the correct study advisors of master programs or the correct coordinators within chair groups.

## **Annex I: SDD selection procedure**

### **Target group**

All students of master programs Climate Studies (MCL, Specialization Climate, Society and Economics), Environmental Sciences (MES, Major Environmental Policy), Forest and Nature Conservation (MFN, Specialization Policy & Society) and International Development Studies (MID, Specialization Politics & Governance of Development) are invited to apply. However, the aim is to be a selective, high-quality track, with the best students and with small-scale intensive teaching modes, where possible. The track is meant for motivated and engaged students with strong academic and analytical skills, who have an interest in diplomacy and sustainable development.

### **Application requirements**

Each student that wants to apply needs to send in the following documents:

- Motivation letter
- Extended CV
- Transcript of BSc courses and grades
- Grade and abstract of BSc thesis.
- If possible, one or two recommendation letters

### **Selection procedure**

First selection: motivation and grades

Each year, a group of about twelve to sixteen students is allowed access to SDD, as much as possible fairly divided over the four master programs. Even though diversity is important, skills and competences are the first priority. A group of applicants will be selected for an interview, based on the application documents, with special attention for motivation and the BSc thesis topic and grade.

### **Second selection round: interviews**

The most promising applicants will be invited for a short interview with a petit comité, ideally consisting of one of the SDD coordinators, one director and/or study advisor of one of the participating master programs, the coordinator of the IEPC course, and one SDD student from previous generations.

### **Final selection**

Based on the interviews, motivation, CV and grades, twelve to sixteen students (depending on the number of students that are able to join the IEPC course) are selected for the SDD track.

## **Timeline:**

### ***Information meeting***

The selective procedure is organized in the second half of September, just after the beginning of each academic year, starting with an overall SDD information meeting close to September 15. Exact dates and steps in the procedure will be announced through study advisors of the respective master programs and on relevant social media in the beginning of September.

### ***Application deadline***

The deadline for application will be one week after the information meeting. The applicants will hear if they are invited for an interview soon thereafter.

### ***Interviews***

Interviews are held at the end of September. The applicants will hear if they are selected very shortly afterwards.

### **First SDD meeting**

The first meeting of the SDD Capita Selecta (including drinks & bites afterwards) will be held just before the start of the IEPC course, so that the SDD concept can be introduced, the SDD program be further explained and students, coordinators and previous SDD generations can get to know each other.

## Annex II: SDD Master track program for MCL students

SDD Track MCL	Period 1 (Sep-Oct)	Period 2 (Nov-Dec)	Period 3 (Jan)	Period 4 (Feb)	Period 5 (March-April)	Period 6 (May-June)	
<i>Master year 1 / morning</i>	Introduction to Global Change (ESA-23306)	International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP-60312)	Quantitative Research Methodology and Statistics (MAT-22306) OR Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	International environmental policy (ENP-30306) [2]	Climate Governance (ENP-36306)	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy (ENP-39306)
<i>Master year 1 / afternoon</i>	Principles of Earth and Ecosystem Science (ESS-21306) OR Principles of Climate Change Economics and Policy (ENR-22806)		<i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser <i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		
	Capita Selecta Sustainable Development Diplomacy (FNP-50401)						
<i>Master year 2</i>	Internship (24 credits) at: Any relevant organization (to be facilitated and approved by SDD coordination)		SDD major thesis at WU (ENP-80436)				

[1] You can either take this module in period 3 or 5 afternoon; [2] students who master basic knowledge on IEP, are allowed to follow another relevant course, in consultation with the study advisor.

Grey cells: SDD track program

### Annex III: SDD Master track program for MES students

SDD Track MES [1]	Period 1 (Sep-Oct)	Period 2 (Nov-Dec)	Period 3 (Jan)	Period 4 (Feb)	Period 5 (March-April)	Period 6 (May-June)	
<i>Master year 1 / morning</i>	Research methods in environmental sciences (YRM-20306) OR other course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP60312) (ACT)	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	International environmental policy (ENP-30306) [2]	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy (ENP-39306)
<i>Master year 1 / afternoon</i>	Principles of Environmental Sciences (ESA-20806) OR other course in consultation and agreement with study adviser		<i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		Environmental Quality and Governance (ENP-35806)  <i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		
	Capita Selecta Sustainable Development Diplomacy (FNP-50401)						
<i>Master year 2</i>	Internship (24 credits) at: Any relevant organization (to be facilitated and approved by SDD coordination)		SDD major thesis at WUR (ENP-80436)				

[1] You can either take this module in period 3 or 5 afternoon; [2] students who master basic knowledge on IEP, are allowed to follow another relevant course, in consultation with the study advisor.  
Grey cells: SDD track program

## Annex IV: SDD Master track program for MFN students

SDD Track MFN (within Spec. A)	Period 1 (Sep-Oct)	Period 2 (Nov-Dec)	Period 3 (Jan)	Period 4 (Feb)	Period 5 (March-April)	Period 6 (May-June)	
Master year 1 / morning	Research methods in environmental sciences (YRM-20306) OR other course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP-60312)	Communities, conservation and development (FNP- 31306)  <i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>	Social and political theory for forest and nature conservation research (FNP- 31806)	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser	Methodology for Field research in the social sciences (SDC-33306)	Advanced International Environmental Policy and Diplomacy (ENP-39306)
Master year 1 / afternoon	Trends in forest and nature conservation (REG-31306) OR other course in consultation and agreement with study adviser [3]				Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser  <i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		
		Capita Selecta Sustainable Development Diplomacy (FNP-50401)					
Master year 2	Internship (FNP-70424) at: Any relevant organization (to be facilitated and approved by SDD coordination)		SDD major thesis at WUR (FNP-80436)				

[1] You can either take this module in period 3 or 5 afternoon

Grey cells: SDD track program

## Annex V: SDD Master track program for MID students

SDD Track MID	Period 1 (Sep-Oct)	Period 2 (Nov-Dec)	Period 3 (Jan)	Period 4 (Feb)	Period 5 (March-April)	Period 6 (May-June) (week 37-40) + (week 41-44)	July-August	
<i>Master year 1 / morning</i>	Perspectives and Themes in International Development Studies (SDC-36306)	International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP-60312)	Politics, Policy Making and Accountability in International Arenas for Development (PAP-31306)	Critical Reflection on Research in International Development Practice (CPT-36806)	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser (unless you need to do SDC-33306) [2]	If required by study advisor: Methodology for Field Research in the Social Sciences (SDC-33306) [2]  OR Room to prepare Internship/ MSc Thesis research proposal	Advanced International Policy and Diplomacy (ENP-39306)	Internship at any relevant organization (to be facilitated and approved by SDD coordination) (ENP-70424 or PAP-70324)
<i>Master year 1 / afternoon</i>	Optional course in consultation and agreement with study adviser [2]		<i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>		<i>MOS-module 'Negotiation Skills' (ECS-65300) [1]</i>			
Capita Selecta Sustainable Development Diplomacy (FNP-50401)								
<i>Master year 2</i>	Internship at any relevant organization (to be facilitated and approved by SDD coordination) (ENP-70424 or PAP-70324)	Theories on Politics and Governance (ENP-30506) / <i>morning</i>  + Work on MSc Thesis research proposal	SDD Thesis at WUR (ENP-80436 or PAP-80336)					

[1] You can either take this module in period 3 or 5 afternoon

Grey cells: SDD track program [2] Dependent on your educational background, the study advisor can determine that certain courses are obligatory for a student.