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Handbook MASTER IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE PROGRAMME

2026/2027 Academic Session

Centre for Global Sustainability Studies (CGSS)

MASTER IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE PROGRAMME HANDBOOK

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Centre for Global Sustainability Studies (CGSS),
Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

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1.0

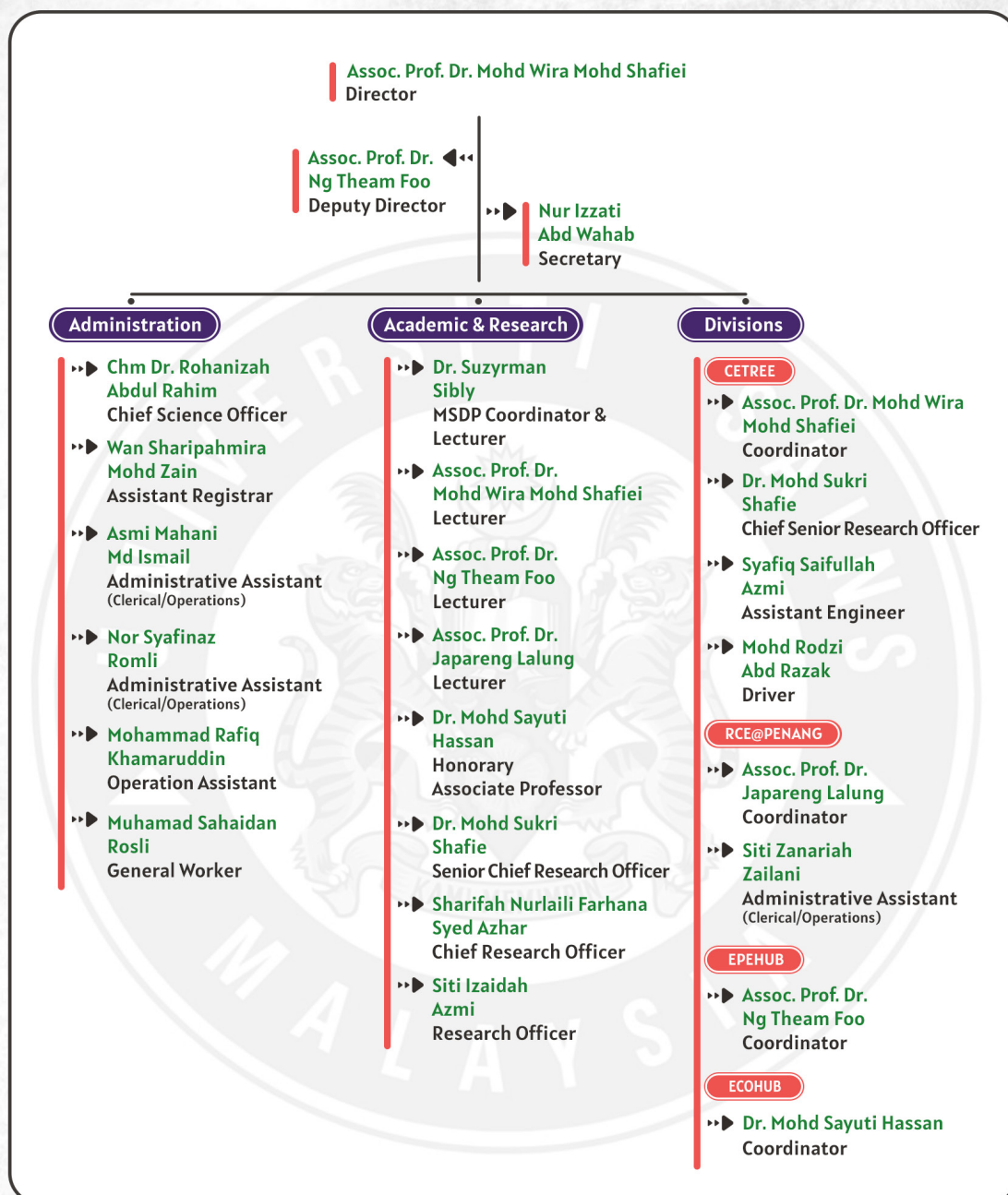
ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES (CGSS)

Established in 2009, the Centre for Global Sustainability Studies (CGSS) at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) serves as a multidisciplinary hub dedicated to advancing sustainable development. CGSS collaborates with various sectors, including academia, government agencies, civil society, and international organisations, to address pressing sustainability challenges, particularly those affecting marginalized communities.

The Centre's initiatives encompass education, research, policy advocacy, and community engagement, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By fostering interdisciplinary approaches and partnerships, CGSS aims to produce tangible impacts and position itself as a leading entity in the field of sustainability.

2.0 ORGANISATIONAL CHART

As the coordinating centre for the Master's in Sustainable Development Practice (MSDP) programme, CGSS plays a pivotal role in curriculum development, academic delivery, research supervision, and engagement with national and international partners. The Centre is staffed by a team of academics, and support staffs committed to addressing complex sustainability challenges. The organisational chart below outlines the structure of CGSS.



3.0**THE MASTER IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
PRACTICE PROGRAMME**

The Master in Sustainable Development Practice (MSDP) is a globally recognised, multi and interdisciplinary graduate degree programme designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively identify and address the complex challenges of sustainable development. This comprehensive programme spans two years and encompasses coursework in four key disciplines: health, natural, social, and management sciences. Practical, cross-sectoral field training further enhances students' understanding and application of sustainable development principles.

The multi and interdisciplinary nature of the MSDP programme enables development practitioners to communicate across various disciplines, including health, agronomy, and economics. This proficiency allows them to delve deeper into understanding the root causes of extreme poverty and effectively tackle the multifaceted challenges of sustainable development. Oversight of the programme is provided by the Global Association Board of Master's in Development Practice (MDP).

Presently, the MSDP programme is offered in 35 universities across six continents worldwide, with Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) hosting the programme in Kuala Lumpur since September 2014. The primary objective of the MSDP is to train and empower a new generation of professionals capable of transcending institutional, sectoral, and regional boundaries. By integrating diverse stakeholders and methodologies, graduates are equipped to confront the intricacies of sustainable development, aligning with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (17 SDGs).

Graduates of the MSDP programme at USM emerge as specialists in integrated approaches to sustainable development. This expertise opens doors to diverse career opportunities, including roles within NGOs, private sector companies, social enterprises, UN agencies, development banks, philanthropic organisations, academic research institutions, government departments, and international aid agencies.

4.0 MSDP PROGRAMME GOALS

MSDP Programme Educational Objectives (PEO)

PEO	OBJECTIVES	THINKER (T)	BALANCED (B)	ENTREPRENEURIAL (E)	ARTICULATE (A)	HOLISTIC (H)
PEO1	To produce a new generation of holistic sustainable development practitioners who possess theoretical knowledge in diverse but related disciplines, enabling them to better coordinate and implement the insight of specialists in addressing multi-, inter-, or transdisciplinary challenges.	✓				✓
PEO2	To produce sustainable development practitioners who possess high ethical standards and are responsible with good communication skills through a dynamic curriculum and project work contributing towards good practices in sustainable development.		✓		✓	
PEO3	To produce graduates who are knowledgeable and skilled as leaders and practitioners of sustainable development that contribute towards the nation's aspirations in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.		✓	✓		

■ MSDP Programme Learning Outcomes (PLO)

PLO	MQF 2.0 Domain	Programme Learning Outcome	IEG Element
PLO1	Knowledge	Apply comprehensive theoretical knowledge, concepts and practices to execute, evaluate, and provide suggestions in sustainable development practices.	IEG1 – Thinker
PLO2	Cognitive Skills	Utilise scientific skills, as well as innovative and creative thinking, to generate progressive ideas and strategies to solve problems and make decisions holistically.	IEG2 – Balanced
PLO3	Practical Skills	Perform and execute research projects with good skills and minimal supervision in the field of sustainable development.	IEG2 – Balanced
PLO4	Interpersonal Skills	Demonstrate teamwork, social responsibility, and sensitivity to cultural and religious diversity in sustainable development practices.	IEG4 – Articulate
PLO5	Communication Skills	Utilise effective communication skills in verbal and written forms to convey information and findings to diverse stakeholders.	IEG4 – Articulate
PLO6	Digital Skills	Utilise digital technologies effectively using suitable software in sustainable development practice planning.	IEG2 – Balanced
PLO7	Numeracy Skills	Perform accurate research analysis and ensure findings contribute meaningfully to sustainable development progress.	IEG1 – Thinker

PLO	MQF 2.0 Domain	Programme Learning Outcome	IEG Element
PLO8	Leadership, Autonomy and Responsibility	Demonstrate effective leadership in contributing to sustainable development progress.	IEG5 – Holistic
PLO9	Personal Skills	Enhance personal capabilities through lifelong learning and the use of ICT for academic and career development.	IEG5 – Holistic
PLO10	Entrepreneurial Skills	Apply managerial and entrepreneurial skills in everyday activities and planning of sustainable development practices.	IEG3 – Entrepreneurial
PLO11	Ethics and Professionalism	Demonstrate high moral standards, professional ethics, and compliance with legal principles in sustainable development practices.	IEG2 – Balanced

5.0 COURSE DESCRIPTION

■ Core Courses (38 units)

The MSDP core curriculum comprises 12 courses, totaling 38 units. All core courses are compulsory, forming the foundational knowledge and skills for sustainable development practice. These courses are organised under five thematic clusters.

General Cluster

Course Code: NDP502

Course Title: Research Methods for Sustainable Development

Unit: 3

Synopsis: This course equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake case study and quantitative research. Emphasis is placed on the identification of sustainability-related issues, the conduct of comprehensive literature reviews, the synthesis of existing research, and the selection of appropriate methodologies and analytical tools for data collection and analysis. Students will also develop the ability to formulate and draft a well-structured research proposal.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Distinguish quantitative and qualitative research paradigms in research
2. CLO2 – Construct a problem statement, a research question or hypothesis, and a research objective pertaining to the research proposal (Cognitive Skills)
3. CLO3 – Demonstrate confidence in oral presentation and written proposal on sustainability issues related to the research paper (Communication Skills)
4. CLO4 – Display lifelong learning ability in the completion of research proposal (Personal Skills)

Semester Offered: Semester 1

Lecturers:

1. Dr. Suzyrman Sibly (suzyrman@usm.my) – <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/suzyrman>
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sayuti Hassan (sayuti@usm.my) – <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/sayuti>
3. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Theam Foo (tfng@usm.my) – <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/tfng>
4. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Wira Mohd Shafiei (wira@usm.my) – <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/wira>

Course Code: NDP503**Course Title: Project Design, Evaluation and Management****Unit: 3**

Synopsis: Sustainable Development demands development practitioners with the ability to design, manage, and evaluate projects. However, many practitioners lack adequate skills, particularly in sustainable development project management. This course delves into the theories and practices involved in designing, managing, and evaluating projects using appropriate methods. Additionally, it explores various standards in sustainability reporting.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Evaluate the importance of project management process in designing, managing and evaluating programmes and projects in the context of sustainable development
2. CLO2 – Displays the ability to work in teams in an appropriate and civil manner while completing classroom tasks related to project design, evaluation and management (Interpersonal Skills)
3. CLO3 – Displays the ability to conduct autonomous learning and acceptance of new ideas regarding project design, evaluation and management (Personal Skills)

Semester Offered: Semester 1**Lecturers:**

1. Dr. Suzyrman Sibly (suzyrman@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaе/suzyrman>
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Wira Mohd Shafiei (wira@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaе/wira>

Course Code: NDP505**Course Title: Global Classroom: Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development****Unit: 2**

Synopsis: This course introduces fundamental concepts of sustainable development, analysing achievements, issues, and challenges encountered by countries worldwide in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, it offers students an opportunity to attend the Global Classroom Lecture, featuring discussions led by global development experts on current issues and challenges in sustainable development.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Critically assess current development practices based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (Cognitive skills)
2. CLO2 – Prepare short presentations through effective communication medium on current sustainability issues and challenges based on the SDGs (Communication skills)
3. CLO3 – Displays the ability to work in teams in an appropriate and civil manner while completing classroom tasks related to current sustainable development issues and challenges (Interpersonal skills)
4. CLO4 – Displays proficient digital skills in accessing online content related to sustainable development that will be used in class discussions (Digital skills)

Semester Offered: Semester 1**Lecturer:**

1. Dr. Suzyrman Sibly (suzyrman@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/suzyrman>

Course Code: NDP504/ NDP506**Course Title: MSDP Project****Unit: 6**

Synopsis: This course serves as an extension of the Research Methodology course (NDP502) and spans two semesters. Students are required to submit a dissertation upon completion, which will be evaluated by an internal examiner. The project component is designed to enhance students' understanding of socio-economic or environmental issues affecting communities, while also providing a structured platform to apply the theoretical and practical knowledge acquired throughout the programme in addressing these challenges. Additionally, students must complete a thesis, which constitutes a core requirement for graduation.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Explain the research methods and elements needed in contributing towards the field of research respectively
2. CLO2 – Propose appropriate techniques and methods for the studied sustainability issues. (Cognitive Skills)
3. CLO3 – Display deep skills in identifying, engaging, and communicating with stakeholders, using hands-on techniques to investigate and address sustainability issues effectively. (Practical Skills)
4. CLO4 – Present an effective viva presentation based on the research findings derived from the thesis. (Communication Skills)

Semester Offered: Semester 1 & 2**Lecturers:**

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Wira Mohd Shafiei (wira@usm.my) – <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaew/wira>
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sayuti Hassan (sayuti@usm.my) – <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaew/sayuti>
3. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng. Theam Foo (tfng@usm.my) – <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaew/tfng>
4. Dr. Suzyrman Sibly (suzyrman@usm.my) – <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaew/suzyrman>

Note: *NDP 506 is a new course code replacing NDP 504. However, it will be offered to new intake students who begin their studies from Semester 2 of the 2022-2023 academic year onwards. Returning students, on the other hand, are required to enroll in NDP 504. You are advised to complete NDP 502 first, before undertaking NDP 506.

Course Registration Guideline: NDP506 spans two semesters and must be taken consecutively. However, students are required to register online only once. Registration for the subsequent semester will be handled administratively by CGSS. This guideline also applies to NDP504.

Global Health Cluster

Course Code: NDP511

Course Title: Health Policy and Management

Unit: 3

Synopsis: This is a series of syllabus to provide non-health experts with a basic understanding of global public health issues. The course will focus on the Millennium Development Goals, including child health, maternal health, HIV, TB, malaria, and other significant diseases, as well as the interdependence of the MDGs and health outcomes. Additionally, the course addresses challenges to health systems and barriers to access.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Explain concepts, strategies, and health management principles in designing policies in the health sectors
2. CLO2 – Display the ability to work together with the stakeholders to build health policy design strategies to fulfill the needs of the communities in health care environment (Interpersonal Skills)
3. CLO3 – Practice ethical values in health care management policy design to address issues in health care management (Ethics and Professionalism)

Semester Offered: Semester 1

Lecturer:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhamad Yusri Musa (myusrim@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaе/myusrim>

Science & Engineering Cluster

Course Code: NDP513

Course Title: Human Ecology and Sustainable Development

Unit: 3

Synopsis: The course describes the interactions between physical ecology and economic development, emphasising the two-way interactions and interdependencies between them. Ecological constraints significantly shape the patterns of economic development, demography, wealth, and poverty. Simultaneously, anthropogenic activities change the physical environment. This course aims to provide an in-depth treatment of this two-way interaction, building on a rigorous foundation of earth systems processes to understand the ecological basis of human settlement.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Analyse the complex ecological interactions and interdependencies between humans, their environment and natural systems
2. CLO2 – Construct strategies in human activities simbiotic with natural systems concepts. (Practical Skills)
3. CLO3 – Prepare short presentations through effective communications medium in dealing with humans, their environment and natural systems (Communication Skills)

Semester Offered: Semester 2 (alternate years)

Lecturers:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Wira Mohd Shafiei (wira@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/wira>
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sayuti Hassan (sayuti@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/sayuti>

Course Code: NDP516**Course Title: Energy Infrastructure Planning****Unit: 3**

Synopsis: This course discusses global resources of carbon-based and noncarbon-based energy, the capture of energy for society's use, energy delivery, and regulatory frameworks. The relationship between energy production and use and climate change is explored. It evaluates emerging and renewable energy resources, as well as new energy infrastructure planning, including constraints and capacity to meet future demands.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Evaluate the knowledge about energy infrastructure, energy resources, renewable energy, and climate change in sustainable development.
2. CLO2 – Practice communication responsibility and teamwork in development and decision making related to energy generation and delivery function, and renewable energy technology and challenges (Interpersonal skill)
3. CLO3 – Explain current issues, solution and relation related to the impact of energy production and usage in relation to climate change and environmental (Personal skill)
4. CLO4 – Analyse the usage of energy and technology information in supply and demand of energy infrastructure (Cognitive skill)

Semester Offered: Semester 2 (alternate years)

Lecturer:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Theam Foo (tfng@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaef/tfng>

Management Cluster

Course Code: NDP514

Course Title: Budget Planning and Financial Management

Unit: 3

Synopsis: This course discusses the principles, theories, concepts, practices, interpretations, techniques, and strategies of accounting and finance essentials for holistic practitioners of sustainable development. The course focuses on managerial accounting tools for developing, implementing, and controlling plans. This includes the preparation of operating budgets and capital budgets, exploring long-term financing options, managing short-term resources, procurement, and conducting variance analysis.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Analyze accounting and finance concepts using technology-enabled tools to support sustainable development (Cognitive skills)
2. CLO2 – Construct systems and apply technologies derived from accounting and finance to solve sustainability-related problems (Numeracy Skills)
3. CLO3 – Practice professional attitudes and ethical values when making strategic accounting and finance decisions for sustainable development. (Ethics and Professionalism)
4. CLO4 – Integrate strategic thinking and innovation with entrepreneurial skills to manage sustainable operations (Entrepreneurial Skills)

Semester Offered: Semester 2 (alternate years)

Lecturer:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haslindar Ibrahim (haslindar@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaе/haslindar>

Course Code: NDP518**Course Title: Information Technology for Development****Unit: 3**

Synopsis: This course discusses the principles, theories, concepts, practices, interpretations, techniques, and strategies of accounting and finance essentials for holistic practitioners of sustainable development. The course focuses on managerial accounting tools for developing, implementing, and controlling plans. This includes the preparation of operating budgets and capital budgets, exploring long-term financing options, managing short-term resources, procurement, and conducting variance analysis.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Explain and describe issues related to advanced of service operations management for service excellence, leadership transformation, technology and innovation, and other business-related disciplines and sustainable development.
2. CLO2 – Determine a solution that combines advanced system development and information technology-based technical skills to address complex sustainable development situations (Cognitive skill)
3. CLO3 – Propose a management approach that addresses the relevant legal and ethical aspects of information within legal service systems, ensuring that business decisions align with the organisation's societal expectations (Personal skill)
4. CLO4 – Organise a project in using information and communication technology for better decisions (Leadership, Autonomy and Responsibility)

Semester Offered: Semester 2 (alternate years)

Lecturers:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Theam Foo (tfng@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaef/tfng>
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sayuti Hassan (sayuti@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaef/sayuti>

Social Science Cluster

Course Code: NDP512

Course Title: Social Services Management

Unit: 3

Synopsis: This course is designed to enable students to identify various theories in management, understand their strengths and weaknesses, and assess their applicability in the local environment. Students will be able to identify the most potential and relevant management methods for each distinctive human service agency. Topics will focus on developing skills in management and evaluation to bring about innovations that are relevant and realistic.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Identify social service management structure based on values, attitudes and social work ethics
2. CLO2 – Demonstrate the ability to design and evaluate the effectiveness of the programme and train the staff of social service management organisation (Ethics and professionalism)
3. CLO3 – Practice the skills of planning, designing, leading, supervising, implementing and evaluating any human service organisation (Leadership, Autonomy and Responsibility)

Semester Offered: Semester 2 (alternate years)

Lecturers:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Wira Mohd Shafiei (wira@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/wira>
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sayuti Hassan (sayuti@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/sayuti>

Course Code: NDP515**Course Title: Law and Governance in Development****Unit: 3**

Synopsis: One of the requirements for achieving sustainable development is the accommodation, reconciliation, and integration of the objectives of economic growth, social justice, and environmental protection (Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, n.d.). While Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 frequently and directly references the rule of law and access to justice, the other 16 SDGs, either expressly or implicitly, also emphasise the importance of law and governance at both national and international levels in providing a framework for achieving multiple targets of the SDGs. This course utilises the traditional concept of development in its conventional discourse, as well as contemporary sustainable development discourse, to engage students in academic and practical discussions about the role and function of law and governance in achieving sustainable development.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Examine the concepts and theories of law and governance to be able to discourse them in the context of sustainable development
2. CLO2 – Demonstrate the ability to explicate the inter-disciplined links between law and social and economic development and how the law contributes towards advancing sustainable development (Ethics and Professionalism)
3. CLO3 – Assess and discourse historical and contemporary development in national and international laws that contribute towards establishing national and international framework on sustainable development (Cognitive Skills)
4. CLO4 – Utilise and practise the knowledge about law and governance in development towards providing appropriate interventions to issues of sustainable development in diverse settings (Personal Skills)

Semester Offered: Semester 1**Lecturer:**

1. Prof. Dato' Dr. Noraida Binti Endut (idaman@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/idaman>

Course Code: NDP517**Course Title: Economic Analysis for Sustainable Development****Unit: 3**

Synopsis: Sustainable development practitioners must possess a solid understanding of the critical role economics plays in shaping decisions and influencing development outcomes. This course introduces students to the complex and dynamic economic challenges faced by developing countries through the application of both microeconomic and macroeconomic theories. Topics covered include global development disparities and poverty measurement; characteristics of underdevelopment and structural transformation; models of economic growth and development; the roles of agriculture, surplus labour, and industrialisation; dualistic economic structures and poverty traps; strategies for financing development from domestic and international sources; external debt issues; and the relationship between trade and development. By critically engaging with these themes, students will develop analytical tools to assess development challenges and propose sustainable economic strategies.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 - Appraise a variety of theoretical models and concepts that are relevant for development and socioeconomic issues (Cognitive skill)
2. CLO2 - Formulate an effective mathematical strategy for sustainable development based on economic, social and environmental conditions (Numeracy skill)
3. CLO3 - Perform an econometric analysis using an appropriate software (Digital skill)

Semester Offered: Semester 2 (alternate years)

Lecturer:

1. Dr. Suzyrman Sibly (suzyrman@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaes/suzyrman>

■ Elective Courses (6 units)

The remaining 6 units will come from elective courses, and students must choose 2 out of 3 available electives. The availability of these courses depends on student enrolment, with a minimum of 6 students required per class.

General Cluster

Course Code: NDP542

Course Title: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Unit: 3

Synopsis: The increase in urban population puts pressure on the city to provide employment opportunities, basic facilities, housing, public spaces, and other services. The agenda for sustainable cities and communities is relevant to all countries worldwide. Based on systems thinking, this course explores and discusses the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of the city in an integrated manner for the well-being of cities.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Analyse the problems and challenges of community sustainability based on urban ecology concept
2. CLO2 – Process and interpret relevant information for sustainable cities and communities' framework indicators (Numeracy skill)
3. CLO3 – Propose actions to achieve sustainable cities and communities' goal (Cognitive skill)

Semester Offered: Semester 1

Lecturers:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Wira Mohd Shafiei (wira@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaewira>
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sayuti Hassan (sayuti@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaesayuti>

Note: *NDP 542 is an interdisciplinary course. Students are advised to take the course during their final semesters or when they have completed most of the core courses.

Science & Engineering Cluster

Course Code: NDP544

Course Title: Application of Environmental Science

Unit: 3

Synopsis: Science and technology are crucial for the achievement of sustainable development. Environmentally sound technologies that protect the environment, are less polluting, use resources sustainably, recycle more waste and products, and handle residual waste in an acceptable manner are essential for the development of all nations. This course provides an overview of how science, technology, and innovation can be conducted and applied to meet human needs while preserving the planet's life support systems. The course will focus on major environmental challenges such as climate change, energy management, production-consumption issues, natural resource management, and integrated water and waste management as practiced in Malaysia and other developing countries in the region. Environmental best practices will be used as case studies and action research for environmental problem-solving in an integrated and ethical manner.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Apply environmental sciences principles in dealing with sustainability issues and challenges
2. CLO2 – Evaluate various technologies and innovations in environmental science used to meet the needs of environmental science solutions (Cognitive skill)
3. CLO3 – Prepare an effective communication medium in the identification and application of appropriate technology in resolving environmental problems (Communication skill)
4. CLO4 – Display teamwork skills in group projects (Interpersonal skill)

Semester Offered: Semester 2 (alternate years)

Lecturer:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Japareng Lalung (japareng@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvita/japareng>

Management Cluster

Course Code: NDP546

Course Title: Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Enterprise

Unit: 3

Synopsis: The objectives of this course have two prongs: 1) to educate learners about the concept of CSR and how to integrate and internalise CSR principles into the organisation and business operations, and 2) to educate learners on the concepts, models, practices, and management of social enterprises. Students will understand how the concept of sustainability can be internalised in business operations. Through a theoretical and practical approach, this course will facilitate students in understanding sustainability business management, social enterprise strategies and innovations, and CSR project initiatives related to the triple bottom line as well as the fourth bottom line.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. CLO1 – Explain about the theories and principles behind the origin and causes of Sustainability in business context, CSR and Social enterprises
2. CLO2 – Practice CSR and ethical values in decision making (Communication skill)
3. CLO3 – Propose the whole concept of sustainability into business practices and internalized into their business operations (Personal skill)
4. CLO4 – Display entrepreneurial skills in managing social enterprise as a business models / framework (Entrepreneurship)

Semester Offered: Semester 2 (alternate years)

Lecturer:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fathyah Binti Hashim (fathashim@usm.my)
– <https://experts.usm.my/cvitaefathashim>

■ **Malaysian Culture And Malay Language (LKM 111)**

This course is mandatory for all international students and must be successfully completed prior to graduation. The minimum passing grade is a 'C'. Course registration must be completed through the Online Registration System during the official registration period.

Students who have previously completed and passed an equivalent course may apply for an exemption. All exemption requests must be submitted to the Dean of the School of Languages, Literacies, and Translation for consideration and approval.

6.0 STUDY PLAN

The study plan presented in Sections 6.1 serves as a general guideline to assist students in planning their course selection according to their preferred semesters. However, students are granted the flexibility to select courses that best suit their academic interests and individual progression.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult the programme coordinator when developing their study plan to ensure it aligns with graduation requirements. Please be advised that **not all courses are offered every semester**; therefore, careful planning is essential. Should any issues arise, students are urged to seek timely guidance from the programme coordinator.

It is the student's responsibility to manage their course selection appropriately to ensure timely completion of the programme. **The programme coordinator or the university shall not be held accountable for any delays in graduation resulting from improper course planning.**

Proposed study plan for full-time students starting Semester 1, Academic Session 2026/2027 (4 semesters/2 years)

Semester 261	(Sem 1, 2026/2027) Oct 2026 - Feb 2027	UNIT	T/E
NDP505	Global Classroom: Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development	2	T
NDP502	Research Methods for Sustainable Development	3	T
NDP503	Project Design, Evaluation, and Management	3	T
NDP511	Health Policy And Management	3	T
Semester 262	(Sem 2, 2026/2027) Mar 2027 - July 2027	UNIT	T/E
NDP513	Human Ecology & Sustainable Development	3	T
NDP514	Budget Planning & Financial Management	3	T
NDP518	Information Technology For Development	3	T
NDP506	MSDP Project (Part 1)	6	T
Semester 271	(Sem 1, 2027/2028) Oct 2027 - Feb 2028	UNIT	T/E
NDP506	MSDP Project (Part 2)	0	T
NDP515	Law & Governance In Development	3	T
NDP542	Sustainable Cities and Communities	3	E
NDP516	Energy Infrastructure & Planning	3	T
Semester 272	(Sem 2, 2027/2028) Mar 2028 - July 2028	UNIT	T/E
NDP512	Social Services Management	3	T
NDP544/546	Application Of Environmental Science / Corporate Social Responsibility	3	E
NDP517	Economic Analysis For Sustainable Development	3	T

Total Units: 44 Units

Core Courses: 38 Units

Elective Courses: 6 Units

No. of Semesters: 4 Semesters

T = Core Courses

E = Elective Courses

Note:

- NDP506 is a two-semester course that must be taken in consecutive semesters. However, students are only required to complete the online registration once in the initial semester. Registration for the following semester will be processed administratively by the Centre for Global Sustainability Studies (CGSS).
- Choose only ONE (1) elective course either NDP544 or NDP 546.

7.0

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

Semester 1

Day/Time	8.00 am – 2.00 pm	2.00 pm – 3.00 pm	3.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Saturday	NDP502 Research Methods for Sustainable Development	Lunch break	NDP511 Health Policy & Management
	NDP 542 Sustainable Cities & Communities		NDP506 MSDP Project 1
			NDP506 MSDP Project 2
Sunday	NDP505 Global Classroom: Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development	Lunch break	NDP503 Project Design, Evaluation, & Management
	NDP 515 Law & Governance in Development		NDP516 Energy Infrastructure Planning

Tentative Dates for Classes:

Week 1 Classes – 17 & 18 October 2026
 Week 2 Classes – 24 & 25 October 2026
 Week 3 Classes – 14 & 15 November 2026
 Week 4 Classes – 28 & 29 November 2026
 Week 5 Classes – 12 & 13 December 2026
 Week 6 Classes – 19 & 20 December 2026
 Week 7 Classes – 9 & 10 January 2027

Mid-semester break: 16 November 2026 – 22 November 2026 (1 week)
 Revision week: 11 January 2027 – 17 January 2027 (1 week)
 Exam week: 18 January 2027 – 5 February 2027 (3 weeks)

Semester 2

Day/Time	8.00 am – 2.00 pm	2.00 pm – 3.00 pm	3.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Saturday	NDP514 Budget Planning and Financial Management	Lunch break	NDP513 Human Ecology and Sustainable Development
Sunday	NDP518 Information Technology for Development	Lunch break	NDP 506 MSDP Project 1
			NDP506 MSDP Project 2

Tentative Dates for Classes (Saturdays & Sundays):

1. Week 1 Classes - March 2027
2. Week 2 Classes - April 2027
3. Week 3 Classes - April 2027
4. Week 4 Classes - May 2027
5. Week 5 Classes - May 2027
6. Week 6 Classes - June 2027
7. Week 7 Classes - June 2027

Note:

- This schedule may be subject to change. Students will be advised of any changes in advance. Dates for classes will be announced a month before the start of every semester.
- NDP505, NDP502, NDP503 and NDP511 is highly recommended for new first semester students.
- New students are advised to enroll in NDP 502 before enrolling in NDP 506. NDP 502 will be offered every 1st Semester of the new academic session (i.e., Sem 1-2025/2026, Sem 1-2026/2027).

8.0

ACADEMIC CALENDAR



ACADEMIC CALENDAR - ACADEMIC SESSION 2026/2027

FOR ALL SCHOOLS (EXCEPT FOR SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND SCHOOL OF DENTAL SCIENCES)

Main Campus : Registration for New Student (18 - 20 September 2026) / **Orientation Week (21 - 26 September 2026)

Engineering Campus : Registration for New Student (20 September 2026) / **Orientation Week (21 - 26 September 2026)

Health Campus : Registration for New Student (19 September 2026) / **Orientation Week (21 - 26 September 2026)

SEM	WEEKS	ACTIVITIES	DATES	REMARKS
ONE	1	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 28.09.2026 - Sunday, 04.10.2026	29 & 30.09.2026, Tuesday & Wednesday - Sultan of Kelantan's Birthday (Health Campus)
	2		Monday, 05.10.2026 - Sunday, 11.10.2026	
	3		Monday, 12.10.2026 - Sunday, 18.10.2026	
	4		Monday, 19.10.2026 - Sunday, 25.10.2026	
	5		Monday, 26.10.2026 - Sunday, 01.11.2026	
	6		Monday, 02.11.2026 - Sunday, 08.11.2026	08.11.2026, Sunday - Deepavali**
	7		Monday, 09.11.2026 - Sunday, 15.11.2026	
	8	Mid-Semester Break (Sem I) (1 Week)	Monday, 16.11.2026 - Sunday, 22.11.2026	
	9	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 23.11.2026 - Sunday, 29.11.2026	
	10		Monday, 30.11.2026 - Sunday, 06.12.2026	
	11		Monday, 07.12.2026 - Sunday, 13.12.2026	
	12		Monday, 14.12.2026 - Sunday, 20.12.2026	
	13		Monday, 21.12.2026 - Sunday, 27.12.2026	25.12.2026, Friday - Christmas Day
	14		Monday, 28.12.2026 - Sunday, 03.01.2027	01.01.2027, Friday - New Year 2027
	15		Monday, 04.01.2027 - Sunday, 10.01.2027	
	16	Revision Week (1 Week)	Monday, 11.01.2027 - Sunday, 17.01.2027	
	17	Examination (3 Weeks)	Monday, 18.01.2027 - Sunday, 24.01.2027	22.01.2027, Friday - Thaipusam
	18		Monday, 25.01.2027 - Sunday, 31.01.2027	
	19		Monday, 01.02.2027 - Sunday, 07.02.2027	06 & 07.02.2027, Saturday & Sunday - Chinese New Year
	20	Mid-Semester Break / Industrial Training (4 Weeks)	Monday, 08.02.2027 - Sunday, 14.02.2027	08.02.2027, Monday - First Day of Ramadan
	21		Monday, 15.02.2027 - Sunday, 21.02.2027	
	22		Monday, 22.02.2027 - Sunday, 28.02.2027	24.02.2027, Wednesday - Nuzul Al-Quran
	23		Monday, 01.03.2027 - Sunday, 07.03.2027	
TWO	24/1	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 08.03.2027 - Sunday, 14.03.2027	10 & 11.03.2027, Wednesday & Thursday - Eid al-Fitr**
	25/2		Monday, 15.03.2027 - Sunday, 21.03.2027	
	26/3		Monday, 22.03.2027 - Sunday, 28.03.2027	
	27/4		Monday, 29.03.2027 - Sunday, 04.04.2027	
	28/5		Monday, 05.04.2027 - Sunday, 11.04.2027	
	29/6		Monday, 12.04.2027 - Sunday, 18.04.2027	
	30/7		Monday, 19.04.2027 - Sunday, 25.04.2027	
	31/8	Mid-Semester Break (Sem II) (1 Week)	Monday, 26.04.2027 - Sunday, 02.05.2027	01.05.2027, Saturday - Labour Day 02.05.2027, Sunday - Substitute Holiday for Labour Day (Health Campus)
	32/9	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 03.05.2027 - Sunday, 09.05.2027	
	33/10		Monday, 10.05.2027 - Sunday, 16.05.2027	
	34/11		Monday, 17.05.2027 - Sunday, 23.05.2027	17.05.2027, Monday - Eid al-Adha** 18.05.2027, Tuesday - Substitute Holiday for Eid al-Adha** (Health Campus) 20.05.2027, Thursday - Wesak Day
	35/12		Monday, 24.05.2027 - Sunday, 30.05.2027	
	36/13		Monday, 31.05.2027 - Sunday, 06.06.2027	06.06.2027, Sunday - Islamic New Year
	37/14		Monday, 07.06.2027 - Sunday, 13.06.2027	07.06.2027, Monday - Substitute Holiday for Islamic New Year (Main Campus & Engineering Campus) 07.06.2027, Monday - Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Birthday
	38/15		Monday, 14.06.2027 - Sunday, 20.06.2027	
	39/16	Revision Week (1 Week)	Monday, 21.06.2027 - Sunday, 27.06.2027	
	40/17	**Examination (2 Week)	Monday, 28.06.2027 - Sunday, 04.07.2027	
	41/18		Monday, 05.07.2027 - Sunday, 11.07.2027	07.07.2027, Wednesday - Georgetown World Heritage City Day 10.07.2027, Saturday - Penang Governor's Birthday
	42/19		Monday, 12.07.2027 - Sunday, 18.07.2027	
COURSES DURING SEMESTER BREAK	43/20	Semester II Break / Industrial Training (10-11 Weeks)	Monday, 19.07.2027 - Sunday, 25.07.2027	
	44/21		Monday, 26.07.2027 - Sunday, 01.08.2027	
	45/22		Monday, 02.08.2027 - Sunday, 08.08.2027	
	46/23		Monday, 09.08.2027 - Sunday, 15.08.2027	15.08.2027, Sunday - Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
	47/24		Monday, 16.08.2027 - Sunday, 22.08.2027	16.08.2027, Monday - Substitute Holiday for Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
	48/25		Monday, 23.08.2027 - Sunday, 29.08.2027	
	49/26		Monday, 30.08.2027 - Sunday, 05.09.2027	31.08.2027, Tuesday - National Day
	50/27	*T&L Examination	Monday, 06.09.2027 - Sunday, 12.09.2027	
	51/28		Monday, 13.09.2027 - Sunday, 19.09.2027	16.09.2027, Thursday - Malaysia Day
	52/29		Monday, 20.09.2027 - Sunday, 26.09.2027	

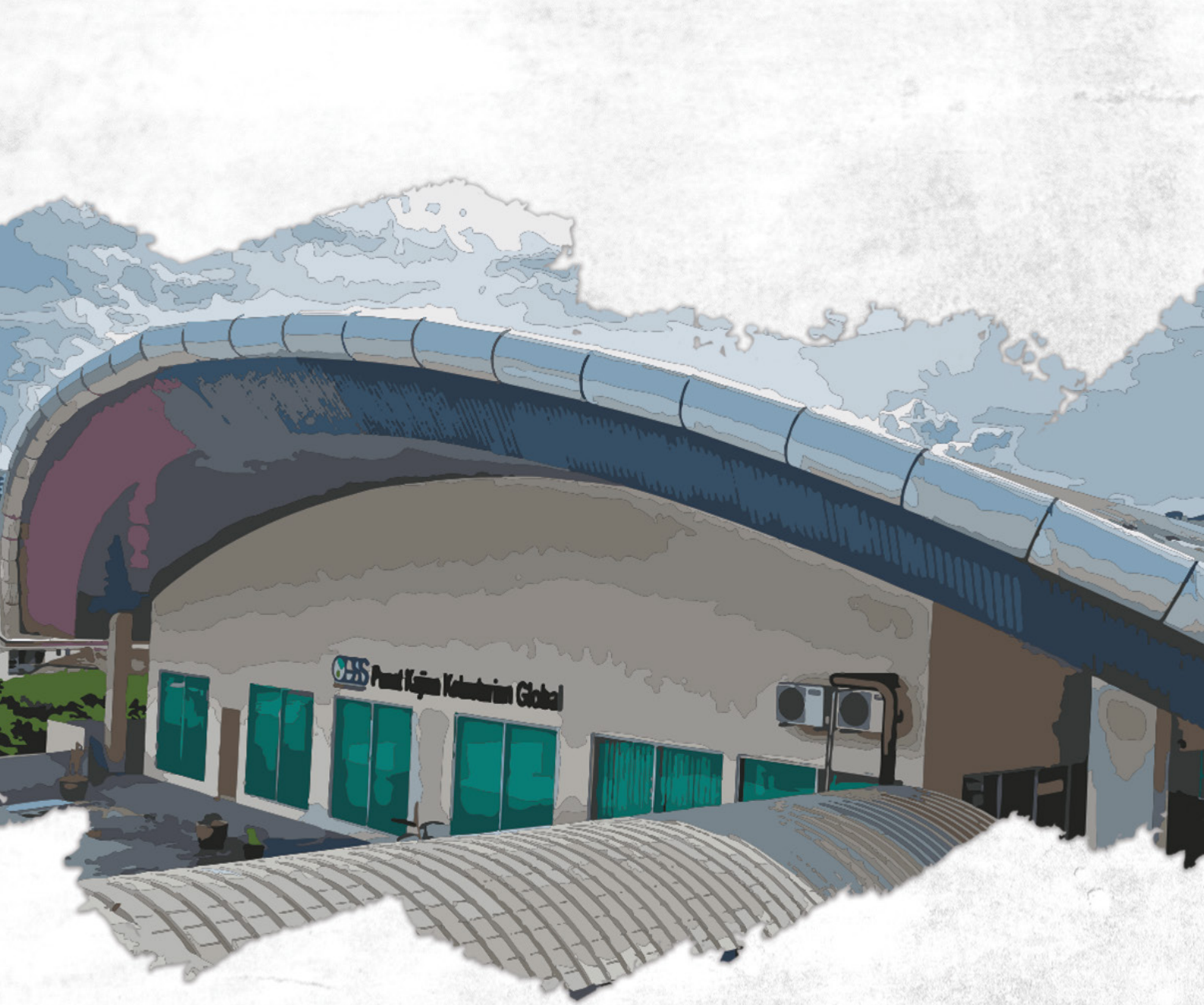
**This Academic Calendar is subject to change

HEBAHAN BPA BIL. 1/2026 (13 FEBRUARI 2026)
SENAT KE-297 (29 JANUARI 2026)

9.0 CGSS DIRECTORY

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