



MLA College Global Sustainable Development





Welcome to MLA College

MLA College offers a range of Higher Education degree qualifications in partnership with the [University of Plymouth](#), who provide full accreditation of all our programmes. We offer Bachelors and Masters degrees via part-time distance learning, allowing you to obtain a qualification whilst balancing your career and other life commitments, regardless of your current global location, whether on land or at sea. We are an **award-winning** educational provider and our Higher Education courses are fully tutor-supported; designed specifically to meet the needs of industry professionals and employers. In addition to our educational programmes, we also offer technology-enhanced training to both individuals and organisations across a variety of sectors.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, UN member states agreed upon a unified plan with peace and prosperity for all people across the globe. This was called the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Central to this philosophy are the [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#); an international call to action for developing and developed nations alike. Acknowledging that tackling core issues such as poverty and deprivation cannot be achieved without a robust strategy to improve health and education, whilst simultaneously reducing inequality and promoting economic growth, the SDGs also seek to preserve the health of our oceans and forests by confronting climate change.

MLA College is proud to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



BSc Global Sustainable Development (Top Up)

The **BSc Global Sustainable Development (Top Up)** programme is designed to meet the needs of students who may have no formal higher education experience or have yet to gain a degree elsewhere. This Programme is your stepping stone to a career in GSD, either as a newcomer to the field but with study experience in a different area, with work experience in sustainability but with no formal higher education qualification, or a mixture of the two. Our admissions process will assess your readiness to study and promote you into the final year of a traditional degree programme (hence the name 'Top Up').

The course aims to:

- Provide a sound, and critical, understanding of sustainable development, particularly with reference to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Show how sustainability is conceived and practiced differently across the globe.
- Provide key theoretical and practical knowledge of a range of subjects that are important considerations within the SDGs.
- Enable students to understand the role of individuals, communities, and institutions in delivering sustainable development.
- Foster debate and enable students to express reasoned, evidence-based arguments.

Introducing you to the concepts and thinking behind the idea of sustainability, the Programme starts by exploring key thinkers and issues in engaging the global community with the notion of sustainable development. At the same time, we introduce you to important ways to investigate, interrogate, and analyse new research in sustainable development, and get used to the expectations that Higher Education puts on you.

We then focus upon the connections between the classic 'three pillars' of sustainability; society, economy, and the environment, as it is these connections that present the greatest challenges and opportunities to forging a sustainable World.

Like many degree programmes, you finish by creating, running, and reporting on your own research project.

Sustainability on Your Doorstep	This module grounds students in the fundamental and critical debates around sustainability, by focussing upon challenges near to them. By exploring and debating the various viewpoints on a range of sustainability issues, students will hone their academic skills, preparing them for modules ahead, whilst growing in their understanding of the expectations of undergraduate study in the UK.
Methods for Sustainability Research	This module enables learners to explore quantitative and qualitative methods in sustainability research, notably survey, ethnographic research, introductory GIS, and rudimentary statistics. It achieves this through lectures, the analysis of existing research case studies and application of research methods to a proposed community-based case study.
Space and Society: A Social Lens on Sustainability	What are the factors that constrain or enable human agency and social inclusion? How can we design spaces that foster sustainable development? The module will consider these questions, drawing on global case studies and foregrounding UN SDGs 10 and 11. It will also explore how the three pillars of sustainability—social, economic and environmental—intersect. Assessment will be via an extended essay and project proposal.
Sustainability and the Natural World	For most people, sustainability is most focused upon our natural world. This module examines this idea and extends out into the intersection between the natural world and the spheres of economics and society. We see the natural world as the supporter of these two areas of activity and investigate how reframing our view as part of nature rather than separate from it allows us to appreciate sustainability more fully.
Economics, Business, and Sustainability	For many, our economies represent the antithesis of a sustainable world. However, like it or not, we all participate in one form of an economic system or other, one that often governs our political lives too. This module examines that difficult relationship and asks whether there are different ways to examine the links between economy, people, and planet.
Honours Project	This module is research driven, drawing upon the student's own interest in sustainability. Students will be able to develop ideas and methods practiced elsewhere in the course, analysing an interpreting data in pursuit of new ideas about their subject. They will report their findings as if writing for an academic journal.



MSc Global Sustainable Development

If you have a background in sustainability already, or already hold a degree, the **MSc in Global Sustainable Development** is the ideal course to take advantage of that experience and higher-level learning.

The course aims to:

- provide a sound, and critical, understanding of sustainable development, particularly with reference to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- show how sustainability is conceived and practiced differently across the globe.
- show how sustainability is conceived and practiced differently across different sectors, and to critically evaluate how the UN SDGs interact with these sectors.
- enable students to evaluate the role of individuals, communities, and institutions in delivering sustainable development.
- foster debate and enable students to express reasoned, evidence-based arguments.

The Programme starts with a period of gaining a shared vocabulary and set of ideas around sustainability, as well as investigating the various ways in which we might interrogate and analyse sustainability projects through a range of research methodologies and their associated techniques.

Options focus upon sectors, so, whereas the BSc (Top Up) course takes a broader approach to sustainability, the MSc examines, in greater detail, the sectoral responses to the sustainability challenge. It shows that SDGs interact with a range of social and economic activities in a number of complicated and interconnected ways.

This will allow you to evaluate projects and progress against sustainability goals more critically.

The Programme finishes with a significant piece of individual research, on a topic of your choice.

Debating Sustainability	This module grounds students in the fundamental and critical debates around sustainability, at scales both small and large. By exploring and debating the various viewpoints on a range of sustainability issues, students will hone their academic skills, preparing them for modules ahead, whilst growing in their understanding of the expectations of Masters level study in the UK.
Researching Sustainability	This module aims to allow students to explore and apply relevant qualitative and quantitative methods in sustainability research. It seeks to encourage students to engage with existing literature and fieldwork examples and to present a case study to their peers, thus fostering their communication skills. The latter will offer a solid preparation for the 'Research Project' module.
Moving with the times: Using sport to address development goals	This module enables learners to examine how sport can be used to address development goals such as gender equality, environmental sustainability, poverty alleviation and conflict resolution, foregrounding the UN SDGs and the field of Sport for Development (SDP). It achieves this through lectures, the analysis of fieldwork case studies, and students' development of a proposal for a community-based project in small groups.
A Cultural Lens on Sustainability	This module enables learners to explore the role of culture in sustainability, focusing on UN SDG 11 and the interaction between globalised and local cultural products. A range of artforms, including visual art, music and dance, are explored in diverse contexts. Students will engage with lectures and analyse fieldwork case studies.
Hungry for Change – Food and sustainability	Food lies at the heart of many of the UN SDGs. Whether it is the patterns of food resources, shifting due to climate change, or the ways in which societies express themselves through food and drink, food taps into the fundamental need to survive. This module will focus on how the natural world has been shaped to meet human needs, and how it continues to drive change to a sustainable future.
Water's Sustainable Future	Water is a key natural resource; it sustains us, is crucial to farming and manufacturing, and it is used to transport goods around the globe. Important cultural assets are created around water, and what lives within it. The module investigates the function and health of the hydrosphere, how that has been managed and altered by humans, and how, ultimately, its conservation is at the heart of sustainable resource management.
Developing Sustainable Energy	The energy sector is one of the most contentious when it comes to issues of sustainability. Modern life relies on consistent and cheap energy, yet this comes at an environmental price, and arguably a societal gain. Balancing the needs of humans and the planet is most keenly felt in discussions of energy and it is these current interactions between the sector and the UN SDGs where this module focuses.
Managing Waste for a Sustainable Future	This module concentrates upon the role of waste as a challenge to sustainable business practice. It critiques current waste management strategies and investigates a number of environmentally important waste streams. Concepts such as industrial ecology, systems thinking, and life cycle assessment will be introduced as potential solutions to these issues.
Research Project	This module is research driven, focusing upon the analysis of data to answer a unique and specific research question. Students will be able to develop ideas and methods practiced elsewhere in the course. They will report their findings as if writing for an academic journal.



MSc Sustainability in Practice (Top Up)

Our new **MSc Sustainability in Practice** is a course designed for leaders, managers, and individuals in charge of teams of people. You might come from the commercial world, you could represent your institution, or you might be responsible for charitable work. The sector in which you work is unimportant, as this course focuses upon you participating in making meaningful and sustainable change, and that is something we all need to focus on.

We will take account of your status as experienced individuals. Motivated to learn and develop, you will be engaged and self-motivated – that’s why we call this a ‘Top Up’ degree: we recognise that your experience counts. This is, however, still an academic award, and we will expect you to engage with us and be assessed by the same criteria we would have of any Masters student. So, the initial phase of work might be challenging, but that is where the support of your tutor will be invaluable.

The process will start with a planning phase. We will ask you to plot a course of creating sustainable changes to your workplace, and then roll your sleeves up and get on with it. This is why it is called Participatory Action Research – it is about you getting involved and taking part in the making of change, not just ‘directing traffic’. Along the way, we will talk about designing evaluations, creating objectives, dealing with conflict and considering others.

You will, first-hand, create authentic and sustainable solutions to the problems faced by your working environment. You might not get there fully by the end, but you will reflect upon the process and identify opportunities for future projects. You will, however, have started to leave the world of talking about sustainability behind by taking active ownership of part of a sustainable future.

And the World will need more of you.

About your studies

The Total Learning Package

All students registering for our degree courses delivered by distance learning can take advantage of our unique **Total Learning Package (TLP)**.

The TLP has been developed by MLA College to provide an inclusive, easy to navigate environment, which includes all the teaching and learning materials necessary to complete your module. The multimedia-rich TLP works either online or offline, so studying for a Masters or Bachelors degree via distance learning is no longer dependent upon your broadband connection. An overview of the TLP can be found on [our website](#).

Dedicated support throughout your studies

As an MLA College student, you will be assigned a dedicated personal tutor who will support you through your module. Our tutors are an energetic, dynamic and passionate team, who offer not only academic excellence but also a wide and vast amount of industry experience that they will share with you during your studies.

At MLA College, we believe that a strong bond between student and tutor is the key to success. Our [Student Support Officer](#) has been appointed to assist both the student and their tutor with developing and maintaining this important relationship.

Your MLA College Student Support Officer is the first point of contact for enrolled students who are in need of pastoral support, including requests under the Extenuating Circumstances policy for matters related to their academic studies.





Student testimonials

- “ *My knowledge of maritime business and operations has been dramatically improved, as a seafarer I now realise the full extent of what happens 'behind the scenes' ashore.*”
- “ *I am enjoying it more and more with each module. I am really satisfied with the course materials and the freedom to study at anytime and anywhere.*”
- “ *I like the delivery in comparison to classroom-based lectures which try to squeeze a lot into the time available. Having the video lectures specific to the topic means everything is focused which really helped with my learning.*”



The MLA College commitment is to:

- Deliver outstanding flexible education and training.
- Promote the conservation and sustainable use of the environment for the advancement of the global community.
- Develop people who are committed to values that benefit humanity.

MLA College supports the Sustainable Development Goals

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



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