

Masters in Sustainable societies and social change (SACHA)

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31.10.2024

Introducing SACHA

Addressing **the role of society** as central to **transformative social change**

Offers **conceptual handles** and **practical tools** for better **understanding how societies are organized and regulated**

Delivering instruments for **supporting social change**

Bridging theory with practice and developing **soft skills**

Study plan

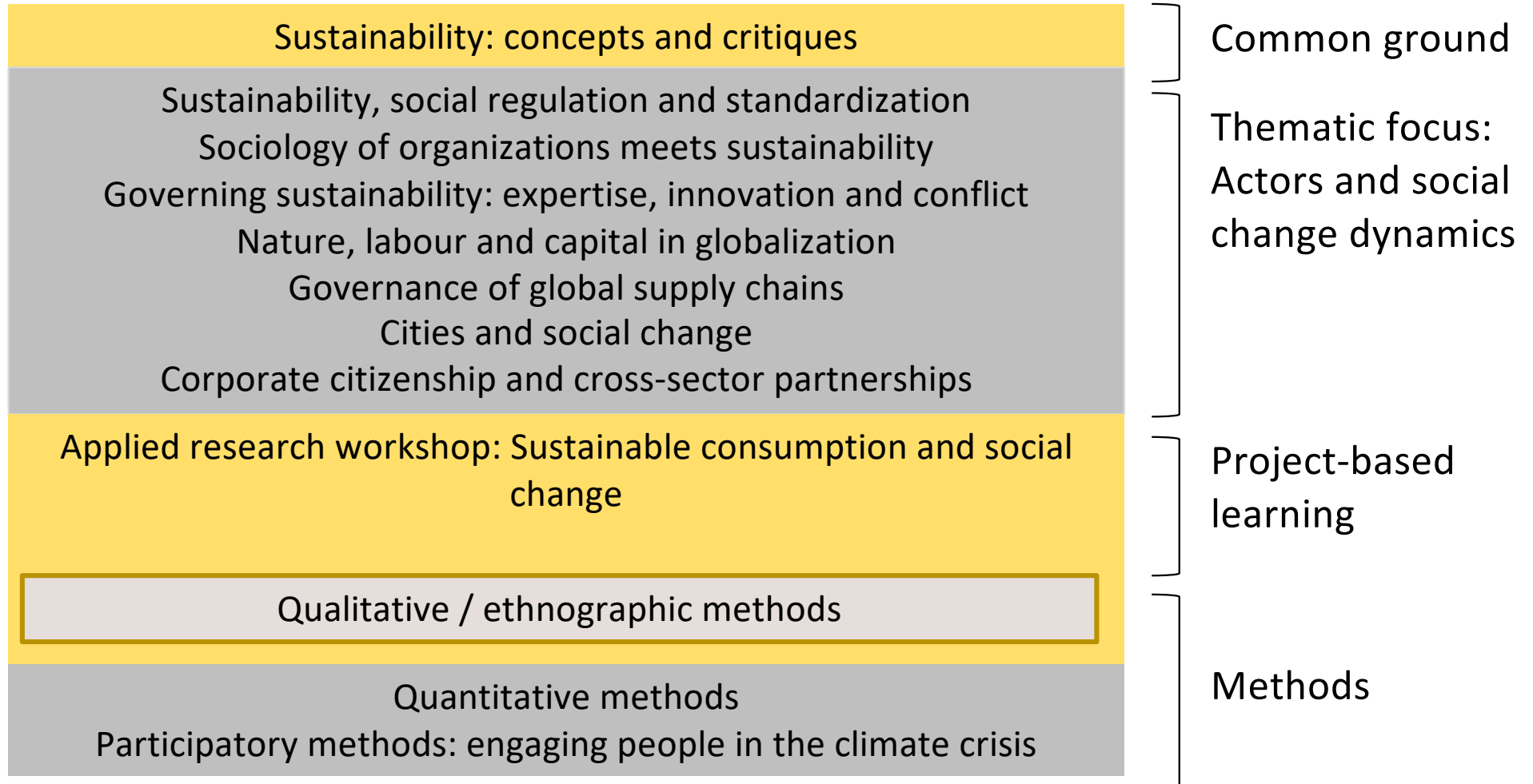
For a total of 120 ECTS, the Master program offers **core courses** (72 ECTS) and electives (24 ECTS), allowing students to tailor the program to their interests.

Regular duration : 4 semesters; Maximal duration: 6 semesters.

The Master thesis or internship report (24 ECTS) concludes the program.

One of the Masters programs with the most electives; does not offer a specialization.

Mandatory courses



The course offering

Housed in the sociology department, key competencies include systems-thinking, analytical skills, anticipatory skills and interpersonal skills, among others.

- **Thematic courses:** sustainability as a societal issue, the role of different actors / sectors / processes, points of tension and opportunities.
- **The methodological courses:** both qualitative and quantitative methods, including participatory methods; working on a 'real world' problem.

Workshop on sustainable consumption



Soft skills training

Working in a group, Networking, Negotiation skills, Communication skills ...

SKILL UP Hone your professional skills!

Sign up to join a series of free workshops
Open to all SACHA & Sociology Masters students



Register now to polish your soft skills
(max. 20 spots per workshop)

<https://campsite.bio/softskillworkshop2023>

Friday 3 November | 10h15 – 12h00 | UNI MAIL M 3020
GROUP WORK: How to Make it Work (Well)!
Philippe Haerberli

Thursday 30 November | 09h00 – 12h00 | UNI DUFOUR U 364
NETWORKING SKILLS: Achieving Results Together and Making It Fun
Rudolf Klauss

Thursday 14 December | 09h00 – 12h00 | UNI MAIL M 4389
COMMUNICATION SKILLS: Build Compelling Relations and Exchanges
Rudolf Klauss

Friday 15 December | 09h00 – 12h00 | UNI MAIL M 4389
NEGOTIATION SKILLS: How to Achieve a Win-Win
Rudolf Klauss

Scientific committee

Give direction to the program and select student applicants

- Sandro Cattacin, Jörg Balsiger, Peter Larsen, Daniel Vaughan-Whitehead, Nicolas Baya-Lafitte and Marlyne Sahakian (program director)
- 2nd year student rep: Atys Holmes-Michel; 1st year student rep: Amy-Jane Mckee Fry and Juan Orduz

Advisory committee

Contribute internship opportunities, project ideas, teaching ideas, lectures, etc.

- Anna Gallet, Project Manager for Education at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- Markus Reubi, Délégué du Conseil fédéral à l'Agenda 2030, DFAE
- Anthony Miller, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD / Sustainable stock exchange initiative
- Ana Serbanovic, leading supply chain sustainability efforts, Sonova group
- Nadine Allal, Agenda 21, City of Geneva
- Benjamin Lecrivain, Founder, CLOTHING Geneva
- Uma Rani, Senior Economist, International Labour Organization
- Sudhanshu Sarronwala, Senior officer in Sustainability and Communications; B Corp leader

Formerly STAREG

Originally launched in 2011 as the Master in Standardization, Social Regulation and Sustainability, we build on this heritage and maintain a focus on the role of sustainability standards as a central theme, thanks to a partnership with the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**.

- Course on Standardization and social regulation
- Internship opportunities
- ISO guest speakers
- ISO on advisory committee
- ISO research projects

Program change in 2021, name change in 2022

Building a sense of community

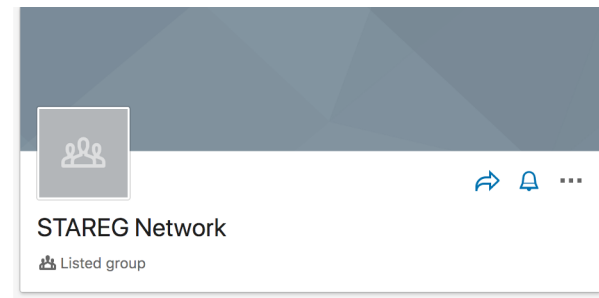


The screenshot shows the Moodle interface for the University of Geneva. The header includes the university logo and name, the Moodle URL (moodle.unige.ch), and navigation links for 'Mes cours' and 'Catalogue des cours'. The main content area displays the course title: 'Master of Arts in Sustainable societies and social change (and Standardization, Social Regulation & Sustainable Development)'. Below the title, it specifies 'M.A. SACHA and STAREG'. On the right side, there are dropdown menus for 'Sections de cours' and 'P'.



For students

Between program and students



For alumni

Our graduates – a professionalizing Masters

- 86% were employed, in a 2016 survey
 - **International organizations:** World Economic forum, ISO, WHO, UNCTAD, International Trade Centre, International Telecommunication Union, UN, Fair Labor Association, etc.
 - **Private sector:** ethical trade management, banks, real estate, own business, etc.
 - **Public sector:** national standard setting bodies (BSI,...), public administration, etc.
 - **PhDs:** sustainable development, global health, economics of developing countries, ISO standards applied on enterprises, etc.
- Suitable job found, on average, six months after graduation

Our students - background

- Highly diverse students –from Ghana, Russia, Indonesia, Turkey, Colombia, China, Canada, Japan, France, Spain.... and Switzerland
- Rich in class and outside of class exchanges and discussions
- Social science background is preferred

What we are looking for in applications

- Strong letter of motivation: why this program and not another?
- Very good grades and relevant studies / professional experience
- English proficiency is a must
- Students from diverse backgrounds / genders
- Applications are evaluated by the scientific committee, including two students

Come study with us in Geneva



Thank you for your interest and keep in touch

Marlyne Sahakian, Program Director, Sociology department, University of Geneva

Yali Chen, Academic Advisory, University of Geneva

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