

Doctoral Degree in Sustainable Environmental Studies

Guideline for

Sustainability Science, Technology, and Policy Program (SUSTEP)

BACKGROUND & CONCEPTS

The increasing demand for food, water, energy, and land has caused large-scale environmental degradation worldwide. The developing world is especially vulnerable to these debilitating consequences. Higher education and R&D are vital in mitigating environmental problems through the creation, dissemination and application of innovations for the sustainable world. Considering these urgent needs, the University of Tsukuba has launched the Sustainability Science, Technology, and Policy Program (SUSTEP) to foster global leaders, who are highly trained in science/technology, humanity/social sciences, and diplomacy/leadership. While societies face different challenges to overcome, effective education for nourishing prospective global leaders is the first step. In this regard, the University of Tsukuba has offered the Environmental Diplomatic Leader (EDL) Program and the Waste Management Expert Course (G30 Program) since 2009. Through running these programs, the Master's Program in Environmental Sciences and the Doctoral Program in Sustainable Environmental Studies have acquired valuable experiences and insights that are essential in producing promising global leaders. By incorporating all of our past experiences and insights, SUSTEP has merged the EDL and G30 programs and go beyond them by offering an innovative and practical education system that promotes sustainable human resource development in the world, particularly in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

SUSTEP under the Doctoral Degree Program

SUSTEP is a certificate program, which is administered by the Master's Program in Environmental Studies and the Doctoral Program in Sustainable Environmental Studies. It is designed for educating both Japanese and international students. A successful student will earn a SUSTEP certificate along with a doctoral degree. All students, who are admitted to the doctoral program at the University of Tsukuba or an officially affiliated university, are eligible to apply for this certificate program.

Implementation Pillars in SUSTEP

- Strong research skill in knowledge acquisition;
- Increased intellectual capacity and awareness of global and local issues;
- Enhanced curriculum for global leaders education;
- Multinational cooperation and brainstorming.

Innovative Curriculum:

SUSTEP—

- Offers courses on advanced technologies, sciences and policies for sustainability;
- Provides research supervision through the academic committee system
- Offers field studies in Japan and abroad;
- Provides the opportunity to work for an international research project that is led by our faculty members;

- Offers rigorous training in four major areas;
- Fosters interdisciplinary knowledge and skills that are necessary to solve complex sustainability issues.

Requirements

In order to receive a SUSTEP certificate, all students must meet the following criteria:

- Take either International Internship or Special International Internship;
- Take Forum on Sustainable Environmental Studies I & II;
- At the time of graduation, have 8 credits or more from English courses;
- Complete doctoral dissertation in English;
- Dissertation must be related to SUSTEP concepts.

Requirements to obtain a Doctoral Degree in Environmental Studies

- Complete 3 credits from compulsory courses;
- Complete at least 5 credits from compulsory/elective courses;
- Pass final thesis defense and final examination in English.