

Environment Security

The course aims to develop the skills and abilities needed to understand the connection between the protection of the environment and security. It provides a framework for understanding the threats, risks and vulnerabilities for national and international security in the context of environmental degradation.

The course content is interdisciplinary (combining elements of Political Science, International Relations, International Economics and International Law) to help students develop a rounded understanding of the dynamics and processes of international environmental governance and its implications for security.

The environment-security nexus is analysed at several levels: global, continental (EU level) and national. The course addresses the environment-security nexus in relation to key themes in environmental protection: climate change, biodiversity, forests, water etc.

The course includes a series of contemporary, policy relevant readings to frame the seminar discussion, as well as talks and study visits that allow students to be in contact with top professionals in environmental protection and environmental security, preparing them academically, as well as for their professional lives.

Student evaluation is based on the constructive engagement in the seminar discussions/ debates/ presentations, as well as on a final argumentative essay on a pre-set question, followed by a conversation with the teacher. The evaluation process helps students solidify the knowledge gained, develop critical thinking and argumentative skills, as well as learn how to debate and present their points of view.