

BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENERGY POLICYMAKING



ENERGY POLICY MSc
100% ONLINE

US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

ABOUT THE COURSE

CREATE A GREENER FUTURE

With innovation at its core, our Energy Policy MSc (online) will provide you with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills that will enable you to influence, inspire, and educate more effectively to aid the development of future sustainable energy policies.

Policy is at the heart of the energy transition. Without it, change does not happen. Through an interdisciplinary approach, you will explore contemporary issues such as energy justice, economic growth and using science and technology to develop forward thinking policies.

This course draws on expertise from globally renowned academics from our Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) and the Sussex Energy Group, one of the largest energy policy research groups in the world. As a result of this you will be able to learn from and connect with experts from around the world, making invaluable connections that could last a lifetime and open new doors.



FLEXIBILITY AT ITS CORE

Our online Masters in Energy Policy is designed to give you:

- **tailored learning:** there's a large degree of flexibility with assessments to base your work on case studies or countries of your choice. This allows you to shape your degree to support your future career goals whether that's entering a new organisation, moving from a local to global position or progressing within your own organisation
- **a balanced lifestyle:** with our online MSc you're in charge of your weekly timetable so you can prioritise your time across professional, personal and academic commitments
- **financial control:** you can pay the full tuition fee upfront or spread the cost over 12 payments during your studies (read more on page 12).

PARTNERING WITH SCIENCE POLICY RESEARCH UNIT (SPRU)

ABOUT SPRU

Our Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) is one of the world's leading centres of research on science, technology and innovation policy and management, and is also part of the Sussex Energy Group, one of the largest energy policy research groups in the world.

SPRU academics are at the forefront of new ideas, problem-oriented research and creative, high-impact engagement with decision-makers. SPRU members are actively involved in influencing and impacting science policy around the world.

HOW THIS BENEFITS YOUR LEARNING

Our Energy Policy MSc (online) is delivered by academics from SPRU who bring the course to life by interweaving SPRU's cutting edge research into the module content. Sharing the latest research insights ensures our MSc remains relevant in the ever-changing landscape and enables you to graduate with the tools to develop, implement and analyse policies regardless of the organisation or country in which you work.

Furthermore, each month we hold exclusive networking events where students are joined by a special guest each month from SPRU who hosts an open discussion shaped by attendees' questions about their latest research projects, involvement in the transition to clean energy or general topics of interest.



“The SPRU social events are a great way for Energy Policy online master’s students like me, to get to know the SPRU community and gain a more comprehensive understanding of the breadth of work they do.”

**Fiona Hubbard,
Energy Policy MSc (online)
Student**

MEET OUR GLOBALLY RENOWNED ACADEMICS:

Through live group seminars and exclusive networking events, you will meet some of the world's leading experts in Energy Policy.



PROFESSOR GORDON MACKERRON
COURSE DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Gordon MacKerron is an economist specialising in energy and environmental economics. He is a former Director of SPRU and previous Director of the Sussex Energy Group. He has frequently been a Specialist Adviser and witness before the House of Commons Select Committee inquiries on energy subjects.



DR SUNG KYU KIM
COURSE DIRECTOR AND LECTURER IN ENERGY POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Sung Kyu's teaching background is grounded in socioeconomic studies and policy analysis in science, technology and innovation and the globally contested nature of development experiences.



DR MARI MARTISKAINEN
SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW
(SPRU – SCIENCE POLICY RESEARCH UNIT)

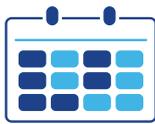
Mari Martiskainen is a social scientist with interests in how we can transition our energy, housing and transport systems to help create a just and fair net zero society. She was awarded the University of Sussex Business School Research Excellence Award for Emerging Scholars in 2019.



DR MARIE CLAIRE BRISBOIS
SENIOR LECTURER IN ENERGY POLICY
(SPRU – SCIENCE POLICY RESEARCH UNIT)

Marie Claire is a Co-Director of the Sussex Energy Group, one of the largest energy policy research groups in the world. Her work examines questions of power, politics and influence in energy, water and climate governance contexts. She also works on broader issues of social change and public participation in low carbon transitions.

THE BENEFITS OF ONLINE LEARNING



FLEXIBLE LEARNING

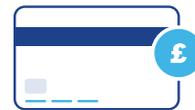
We have six entry points each year, allowing you to start your course at a time that suits you. You can step on and off the course if you need to take a break from your studies at any time*.

*Maximum study break applies - the course must be completed within 4 years from enrolment.



STUDY FROM ANYWHERE

Taught 100% online, you can benefit from our expert teaching, informed by our world-leading research, from wherever you are in the world – giving you the opportunity to build a global network.



SPREAD THE COST

You can choose to either pay your fees in one payment at the start of your course or pay for each module as you study to spread the cost out across the course.



NO NEED TO TAKE A CAREER BREAK

Learning online with us is the perfect way to develop your skills, knowledge, and employability without taking time away from your professional or life commitments.



GAIN THE SAME QUALIFICATION AS ON-CAMPUS

You'll be taught by leading academics, researchers and practitioners alongside a global classroom of students who are passionate about building a more sustainable future.



24HR ACCESSIBILITY TO LEARNING MATERIAL

Our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is a bespoke platform, designed specifically to deliver our practically focused Masters to students around the world.

MODULE GUIDE

MODULES

All modules on this course are core and are designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to understand, analyse, and create innovative energy policies. Each module lasts seven weeks and is delivered via Canvas, a state-of-the-art online learning platform, which can be accessed by a computer, tablet or smartphone alike so you can truly study whenever and wherever you like.

You can take control of your schedule by fitting the recommended 20 hours study time per week around your existing commitments and lifestyle. In order to graduate the course, all of the modules must be successfully completed.



INTRODUCTION TO ENERGY POLICY

The mission of this module is to help students develop an interdisciplinary, systematic and critical understanding of the role of policy and innovation for sustainable energy transitions in developed and developing countries. The module first introduces students to the functioning of energy systems, their sustainability challenges and clean energy innovation as a potential solution. Students will then learn and reflect upon interdisciplinary energy policy mix thinking by applying a state of the art, top down policy mix mapping approach to a real-world energy transition challenge.

Module lead: Professor Gordon MacKerron

Types of assessments may include:

Reflective log on module reading

Observation of teamwork

Written assessment featuring a case study of your choice

POLICY ANALYSIS

The module introduces students to a practical approach to developing policy proposals, drawing primarily upon concepts from welfare economics and public choice theory. The aim is to provide students with the concepts and tools to understand specific policy problems, identify relevant goals, develop evaluation criteria, identify alternative policy options, assess the likely impact of those options against the evaluation criteria, and provide practical policy recommendations.

Module lead: Professor Steve Sorrell

Types of assessments may include:

Multiple choice online exam

Written group assessment on a policy of your choice

MODULE GUIDE

UNDERSTANDING THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS

The goal of this module is to help students studying Energy Policy and Sustainable Development Masters develop a systematic and critical understanding of how the policy making process works in modern economies. Each of the seven weeks will focus on a different stage of the policy making process, with students exploring the nature of the process, the significance of different stages and their characteristics; and consider various influences on each of the stages.

Module lead: Professor Benjamin Sovacool

Types of assessments may include:

Group presentation

Written assessment analysing a policy issue of your choice



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The mission of the module is to provide students with a grounding in a variety of economic and non economic (systems) frameworks for studying issues of science, technology and innovation, and their collective relationship to energy production and policy. The module gives students from diverse disciplinary backgrounds the knowledge and shared concepts for their studies, enabling them to communicate with each other and with the wider industrial, academic and policy communities concerned with innovation. The module aims to provide deep understanding of the processes of technical change and their relationships to organisations, markets and regulations.

Module lead: Professor Paul Nightingale

Types of assessments may include:

Reflective log on module reading

Written assessment on a country of your choice, comparing two technologies that can be harnessed to address an energy policy issue of your choice

MODULE GUIDE

ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY

This module introduces students to the main issues of energy and sustainability, and the challenges of transitioning to a low carbon energy system. The approach is interdisciplinary and practical, focusing on specific policy issues rather than theoretical debates. Substantive issues covered include: the current unsustainability of energy use and the history of fossil fuel dependence; energy efficiency and energy demand; market liberalisation and carbon pricing – and alternatives to the current models; energy use in transport; the electricity system and the role of renewable energy; and controversial technologies including nuclear power, carbon capture and storage, and biofuels.

Module Lead: Dr. Noam Bergman

Types of assessments may include:

Written assessment on the role and future of renewable energy in the electricity system in a country of your choice

Group presentation evaluating a controversial energy technology or policy of your choice



ENERGY JUSTICE

This module revolves around a central question: how can justice theory help people make meaningful decisions about the production, the delivery, the use, and the effects of energy? In asking this question, the module connects the discussion of energy and technology with long-standing notions of virtue, utility, happiness, welfare, freedom, distributive justice, and procedural justice. To give a pragmatic structure to this inquiry (and to show why this question matters), the class is divided into four parts:

- (1) understanding the global energy system and the injustices currently associated with it;
- (2) exploring justice theory and what it can offer when applied to energy problems;
- (3) examining policy mechanisms and tools that promote energy justice;
- (4) analysing case studies around the world of where communities or countries have made remarkable gains promoting energy justice.

Module lead: Dr Mari Martiskainen

Types of assessments may include:

Individual presentation on energy injustice

Peer review of conceptual frameworks

Written assessment

MODULE GUIDE

PERSPECTIVES, METHODS & SKILLS

This module provides students with the basic building blocks for the production and use of social scientific research, giving special consideration to inter and transdisciplinary research. The aim is to develop students' abilities to understand, critically evaluate, conduct, and communicate research. Module contents are relevant to students interested in pursuing careers in public and private sectors, and in research. The module will help students develop more sophisticated interpretative lenses, a strong understanding of methodological approaches used in the social sciences, and effective communication abilities. These skills are highly applicable to academic and non-academic tasks.

Module lead: Dr Marie Claire Brisbois

Types of assessments may include:

Group presentation explaining a research problem and approach

Written report on a discourse analysis on a research topic of your choice



QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS FOR ENERGY POLICY

This module equips students with the essential analytical skills needed to provide and derive evidence-based implications for actions and strategies in the field of Energy Policy. Assuming no prior knowledge of statistics, the module covers: basic concepts of descriptive and inferential statistics; basic statistical tests and analyses; essential elements of regression analysis; issues and biases affecting quantitative research. Students will not only acquire knowledge about intuitive theoretical foundations and practical implications of methods covered in the module; they will also gain practical experience of conducting statistical analyses with hands-on exercises based on the widely used statistical software SPSS.

Module lead: Dr Simone Vannuccini

Types of assessments may include:

Weekly quizzes of 10 multiple choice questions

Open book online exam

MODULE GUIDE

GOVERNING ENERGY TRANSITIONS

This module will introduce students to a systems perspective on long-term, socio-technical change in the field of energy in order to explore the co-evolution of technologies with political, institutional, economic and social factors. The module will illustrate this conceptual perspective with historical and current case studies from the energy sector and explore the implications for governing transitions to low carbon energy systems. The module will analyse and reflect on current policy approaches for governing low carbon transitions. Substantive issues to be covered include: the historic transition from horse-drawn carriages to auto mobility, low carbon innovation policy in the UK, the Energy Transitions approach in the Netherlands, transitions in developing country contexts, the politics of governing transitions and the role different interests of a variety of actors play, bottom-up approaches to changing energy systems such as energy cooperatives, as well as strategies of incumbent energy companies to respond to pressures for change towards a low carbon energy system.

Module lead: Dr Matthew Lockwood

Types of assessments may include:

Group presentation on the governance of an energy transition of your choice

Written assessment on the governance of one energy transition

ENERGY AND DEVELOPMENT

The module examines substantive energy policy challenges faced by developing countries, including increasing energy access, reducing energy poverty and addressing energy security. Integrating orthodox perspectives on energy policy with insights from innovation studies and socio-technical approaches, the module will explore the implications for development of notions such as lock-in, path dependency and leapfrogging. Building on this conceptual apparatus, the module will critically engage with academic and policy debates on strategies and policy instruments such as low carbon development, technology transfer and carbon markets, all of which are intended to play roles in helping developing countries achieve development objectives while establishing sustainable energy systems.

Module lead: Dr Lucy Baker

Types of assessments may include:

Written assessments



MODULE GUIDE

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

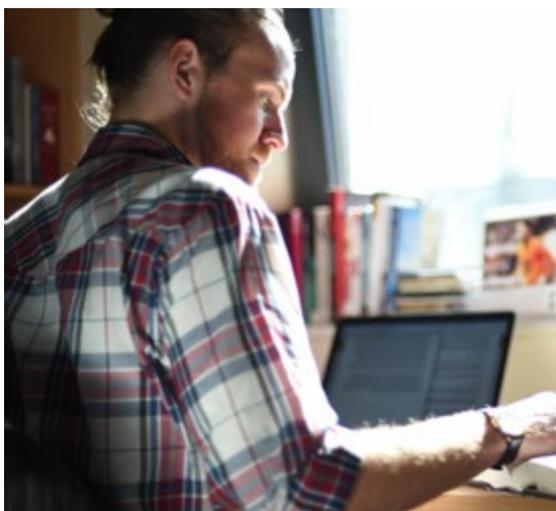
This module will investigate the challenge of reconciling economic growth with sustainable energy use. Drawing on perspectives from evolutionary and ecological economics, the module will explore the role of key energy supply and conversion technologies in driving past surges of economic growth, and the dependence of economic activity on efficient conversion of primary energy sources into useful work. It will then assess the implications of these insights for the potential for a new surge of economic growth based on investment in low carbon energy technologies.

Module lead: Professor Tim Foxon

Types of assessments may include:

Group presentation using ideas from evolutionary and ecological economics

Written assessment on a green growth, degrowth or a-growth concept for a low-carbon energy transition



The University of Sussex regularly reviews modules to provide the most innovative and relevant courses of study. As a result, module offerings may change. The information in this leaflet is correct at the date of publication, 'but please keep an eye on our website study-online.sussex.ac.uk/ for the most up-to-date course information.

ENERGY POLICY CAPSTONE PROJECT

The module will provide students with the opportunity to integrate knowledge, skills and capacities from the entire ODL Energy Policy MSc course into a student-directed capstone project. The project is structured as a policy briefing paper focused on a specific energy policy problem and culminating with a set of clear recommendations for the defined audience of the briefing paper. Paper components are staged and structured to ensure students are supported in meeting the intended learning outcomes. Students will be matched with a supervisor for additional support and to ensure engagement with the broader SPRU community. Students will be encouraged to select a topic of relevance to their employer or other institutional home, or to work on a topic aligned with themes suggested by researchers in the Sussex Energy Group.

N.B. It is recommended students take the Capstone Project as the final module of the Energy Policy MSc (online).

Module lead: Dr Ralitsa Hiteva

Types of assessments may include:

Written project

KEY INFORMATION

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A lower second-class (2.2) undergraduate honours degree or above from any UK university or international equivalent.

Applicants whose first language is not English (and whose first degree was not taught in English) need to supply evidence of IELTS (Academic) high level (6.5 overall, including at least 6.0 in each component).



FEES AND FUNDING

Course fee: £12,660

Cost per module: £1,055

Flexibility is at the heart of our online courses: fees can be paid on a module-by-module basis, or as a single fee at the start of the course.

You may also consider corporate sponsorship and employer funding. Please email our Admissions Team at studyonlineadmissions@sussex.ac.uk to receive assistance with next steps for this method of payment.

Course fees will remain fixed for 24 months from your initial course start date. Thereafter, the course fee will rise at a rate of 2.5% per calendar year (subject to rounding for administration purposes).

20% ALUMNI DISCOUNT

If you have previously graduated from an undergraduate, postgraduate or PhD course with the University of Sussex you will be eligible* for a 20% discount on this online course.

*T&Cs apply.

Please visit our Fees and Funding page for more information on funding for your studies:

[STUDY-ONLINE.SUSSEX.AC.UK/FEES](https://study-online.sussex.ac.uk/fees)





Visit the course page to learn more.

**STUDY-ONLINE.SUSSEX.AC.UK/
MSC-ENERGY-POLICY**



Disclaimer: This brochure was updated June 2023. The University of Sussex has made every effort to ensure that this information is both helpful and accurate but some changes, for example to courses, facilities or fees, may become necessary due to legitimate staffing, regulatory or academic reasons. You should check our website for the most up-to-date information on the course. Visit study-online.sussex.ac.uk