



Master's Program in

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Towards

SUSTAINABILITY



Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability

This innovative Master's Program offered at Blekinge Institute of Technology provides students with a structured, whole-systems approach towards sustainable development.

Students learn how to apply scientific principles, social awareness, and a strategic framework to planning and decision-making with a strong focus on the process of learning, building teamwork, co-creating, and the importance of dialogue.

The program has been developed in partnership with the international sustainability organisation, The Natural Step International. Students have the opportunity to learn about strategic leadership skills from a lecturing team of internationally recognised experts in sustainability, business, organisational behaviour, community economic development, ecology, government policy, and human rights.

The Class of 2005 - 2006

There are 45 students in the second year of the program, representing 16 different countries: Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, China, Cameroon, Canada, Jordan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Rwanda, Turkey, Sweden, and the United States. Master's candidates were chosen for their unique skills, perspectives, and leadership qualities. In its entirety, the class brings together a tremendous span and depth of cultural understanding and professional experience. Students have worked in various business, governmental, and non-profit sectors including agriculture, aerospace, international affairs, financial services, forestry, community planning, health & wellness, humanities, telecommunications, transportation, tourism, and many more. Within these fields, students have experience in formulating business strategy, design, project management, city planning, communications, engineering, environmental consulting, and community economic development. In the following pages you can learn more about some of the unique leaders in this program. This information can also be downloaded from the Blekinge Institute of Technology webpage: www.bth.se/tmslm.

Request for Project Partners

The Class of 2005/06 is currently seeking businesses, municipalities, and institutions who would like to benefit from applied research in sustainability. Thesis projects will last 4.5 months, and will begin in January of 2006. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a project partner, please contact David Waldron, Program Manager (sustainabilitymasters@bth.se).



Alexandra Chuvarayan, Russian Federation

Alexandra graduated from the Rostov State University with a degree from the Department of English and German Linguistics and Literature. Concurrently, she completed another degree at the Department of Philosophy and Psychology. Her goal for this Masters' programme is to develop her knowledge about systems leadership and to apply it in her future career.

Andrew Outhwaite, Australia

Andrew completed a Bachelor of Marine Science with Honours in Social Geography. He has experience in coastal and wetland ecosystems, including practical restoration and education. Another focus of his learning has been group dynamics, facilitation, and approaches to behavioural change. Most recently, he worked with NGOs, community groups, and all levels of government to create and implement a bioregional natural resource management strategy. Coming to this program, he brings a passion for effective and participatory decision-making processes. Andrew strives to improve relations between community and business which are necessary for a sustainable society.



Aqib Muhammad, Pakistan

Aqib's first Masters' Degree is in technology education with specialisation in industrial management. His second Masters' is in Library and Information Science with specialisation in academic libraries. He has extensive experience in many industries and organisations as a coordinator in planning departments. In addition, he also has experience in teaching and research. His vision of this programme, 'Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability', is that it will equip him with the tools necessary to bringing stability and prosperity to the developing world.

Benjamin Hornblow, Canada

After completing his degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of British Columbia, Benjamin moved to Melbourne, Australia, where he worked as a product design engineer for a wheels and castors manufacturing company. Moving back to Canada, he became involved in Vancouver's emerging hydrogen fuel cell industry. As part of a venture capital based company, he worked extensively with various fuel cell technologies, focusing primarily on the design of the thermal and hydrogen support systems. Recently, this experience led to a project management position with a consulting firm associated with Vancouver's 2010 Olympic hydrogen highway demonstration project.



Celia Peterson, USA

Celia Peterson is from Logan, Utah, and has most recently been working towards a Master's Degree in Bioregional Planning. Her thesis work is a bioregional analysis of southern Kenya for Alternative Futures. She has studied in Finland, Latvia, and now Sweden. She has also worked at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya, the North Karelian Forest Centre in Finland, the Teton Science School in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and at Utah State University as a graduate assistant on several research projects. Her current interests are the effects of globalisation and sustainable development, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Cesar Levy Franca, Brazil

Cesar is Director of Research and Development for The Natural Step in Brazil. He was a resident student for a year at Schumacher College in the UK, where he earned master credits in Ecological Economics. He studied Gurdjieffian Psychology in order to explore human fundamental needs, has a degree in Environmental Consultancy, and is currently developing projects to leverage The Natural Step Framework in Brazil.





Chris Walker, Canada

Beginning with a B.A. in Psychology, Chris has spent twenty years in the construction business including heavy construction project management, property management, and residential renovation. He has also operated his own renewable energy business designing and installing small-scale wind, photo-voltaics, and solar hot water systems. Chris is delighted to have found a course of study with a whole-systems approach to promoting sustainability, and looks forward to applying The Natural Step framework to the building industry and to municipal infrastructure.

Dai Dan, China

Dai Dan is an exchange student from China. Even though she has chosen Material Science & Technology as her field of specialisation at Kunming University of Science and Technology, she is keeping her mind open to the area of management and sustainability. She is currently working as secretary for the Communist Party, and she believes that this first hand experience will clarify her future educational directions. After learning how to use leading methods to assess design of production, she hopes to use the tools she acquires during her study of sustainability to assist the Government of China in constructing projects.

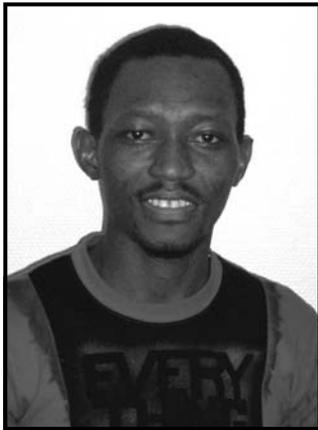


Daniel Johnson, USA

Daniel has a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from the University of Nevada, and has a strong interest in sustainability issues. He has been involved with starting a bio diesel co-operative in order to divert restaurant waste from landfills to an eco-friendly fuel. He has also started a local chapter of EarthSave in Reno to promote a healthier and more sustainable plant-based diet. He is interested in applying the Natural Step Framework to individuals and their communities.

Eddy Anwara, Nigeria

A Nigerian now living permanently in The Gambia, Eddy holds a Diploma in Mass Communications and a Bachelor of Arts (English). His professional life began as a Teaching and Cultural attachè for the Peace Corps in The Gambia and this position enabled him to learn from American Technical Aid volunteers in a multi-cultural setting. Other experience was as a Communications and Liaison Officer for Action Aid, The Gambia, where he worked in conjunction with funding partners in preparing teaching modules for pre-schools. His most interesting work experience has been teaching kids (6-10yrs) in the inner city districts of The Gambia. His future goal is to become the Secretary General of The United Nations. He is an avid reader and also enjoys creative writing and 'people watching'.



Frederick Ebenku-Anim, Ghana

Frederick holds a B.A. with a specialisation in Economics from the University of Ghana. He has worked for the past 4 years with a bank as a credit and loan recovery officer. He has been involved with youth development activities as a youth group coordinator and a youth class lecturer in metaphysics at his church. His interest in the Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability program arises from his deep desire to be in tune with nature, as well as being a earth healer. He aspires to deliver sustainable solutions to the social, economic and environmental challenges of businesses, communities and groups using The Natural Step Framework while actively coordinating youth incubator programs.

Geneva Rae, Canada

Geneva completed her degree in Anthropology and Human Geography with research pursuits focused on sustainable community development. She served two years as director of a university campus sustainability office, coordinating student-led programs and lobbying for institutional change at the University of Alberta. Post degree, her focus shifted to community-wide advocacy, working with a national non-profit environmental organisation conducting outreach and community engagement projects. Geneva is an avid outdoors-person and is keen to sail herself around the world. Professional and research aspirations include the systemic application of sustainability principles in corporate, university, and political sectors.





Georges Dyer, USA

Georges' interest in sustainability started in secondary school at a program on an organic farm where he initially studied solutions to environmental and community issues. Before college, he earned a Certificate in Permaculture Design in New Zealand. While pursuing a B.A. in History and Environmental Studies at Dartmouth College, Georges lived in Zimbabwe for a semester studying international development. After graduating, he worked for a year and a half on residential Green Building projects, and for the past two years, he has been a Market Analyst on Wall Street.

Huang Xiaoou, China

Xiaoou holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Language and Literature from China. After graduation, she worked as a tourist guide, an assistant staff secretary, and then as a customer service representative in several institutions and companies. Most recently she was the project manager for a petroleum technology firm in China. She was responsible for establishing the pilot base where new patents were transferred into real products. Her keen interests are how The Natural Step Framework could be used in combination with industrial development and sustainability. She is also trying to understand the needs of diverse people through her cross-cultural experiences.



Ingrid Jacobson, USA

Ingrid has been a teacher in the San Francisco inner-city school network for the past four years. As a part of her undergraduate work, she researched non-formal education while teaching in India. She later secured grants, wrote online articles, and spoke publicly on alternative forms of education. As a result of this work, she is on the Board of Directors for a future sustainable community/orphanage in Karnataka, India. Additionally, as a director of a small business in Tanzania, she is working with local doctors to start a mobile HIV/AIDS clinic. Ingrid sees education at the heart of sustainability and innovative development.

Isabelle Martel, Canada

Isabelle Martel has lived all her life in Quebec, Canada. In her youth, she was passionate about horse riding and gymnastics, and later, about bicycling and dogs. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Geomatics and after a few jobs she decided to reorient to a manual and creative job: dog grooming. Rapidly, she became concerned about dogs and human health and became a food supplement adviser in a large health food store. Two years ago, hoping to develop her leadership, she undertook an M.B.A in Business Management. That is how she heard about The Natural Step Framework, which brought her to Karlskrona.



Itzel Orozco, Mexico

Itzel worked full time at the Central Bank of Mexico for ten years. While working at the Bank she earned her Bachelor's Degree with Honours in Economics. Later on, she joined the Risk Team at GE Bank. At the same time, she volunteered in a program led by the Mexican NGO Natural Spaces, in which she helped raise funding for preserving the last remaining part of the Lacandonan rainforest in Chiapas, Mexico. Itzel's passion, open water and cavern diving, has also strongly motivated her to learn more about Sustainability. Her mother language is Spanish, but she is also fluent in English and French.

Jason Niles, Canada

Jason is a community analyst with a passion towards helping create meaningful places. He holds a Bachelors degree in Urban Planning (Waterloo '03). He has worked with the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Vancouver City Planning Commission and the Smart Growth Canada Network in the areas of education, long-term strategic planning, and capacity building for municipalities. One of Jason's current research interests focuses on how organizations can move towards sustainability through effective knowledge management.





John Hoag, USA

Mr. Hoag is an Architect, Planner and Energy/Environmental Consultant from St. Louis, Missouri. He believes that his professional and personal involvement with the built environment (design, construction and management) is making a difference. John began a 30+ year leading-edge career beginning with his education at the University of California (Berkeley) in the Environmental Design and Master's of Architecture Program, and as a graduate exchange student at Lund University (Sweden) in Economics. Throughout his professional practice, John has always followed his passions for sustainable design and construction, energy/resource conservation, and policy, management and planning for sustainable development.

Joy Agbamuche, Nigeria

Joy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and has a deep interest in Information Technology. Now a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer with over six years IT experience, her last job was working with a multinational company called Schlumberger in Nigeria. Having experienced the operations of big business, Joy has developed an interest in understanding sustainability issues with regards to how companies can work towards attaining sustainability in their operations. She would also like to acquire the skills to guide businesses towards achieving sustainability.



Julia Smolyaninova, Russian Federation

In 2005, Julia graduated from the Rostov State University, where she studied and received her Bachelor's degree of Art in Languages and Literature from the Romance and Germanic Languages Department. She has experience in teaching and translating. She is also interested in sociology, management, political science, and religion. After graduating from the University she decided to obtain more skills in some other fields of knowledge, to do something that would help the society avoid ecological, economic and political crises. Julia's dream is to live in a sustainable society, and this is why she came to Sweden and joined the SLS program.

Kate Maddigan, Canada

Kate has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Environmental Studies and Geography from the University of Winnipeg, and has worked in the field of fisheries habitat management for several years in Canada's Yukon Territory. More recently she assisted First Nations, communities, and NGOs with capacity building, and shared her skills and knowledge fostering a greater sense of stewardship for fish and wildlife. She would like to continue working with northern leaders toward a common goal of sustainability.



Kathleen Abel, United States

Kathleen brings with her over twenty five years in the medical, financial, real estate, and health lifestyle industries as a biologist, chemist, medical technologist, toxicologist, high-risk pregnancy services, financial planner/stock broker, real estate specialist, and business entrepreneur. Personally and professionally, Kathleen has been driven by an incredible sense of urgency to utilize her business expertise from multiple industries and life interests/experiences in a transdisciplinary approach to global sustainability efforts. She intends to utilize her skills from The Natural Step Framework to develop new sustainable products and to further assist these industries in their transition to a sustainable world.

Kyle White, Canada

Kyle holds a B.Sc. in Geography, and is a skilled researcher and project manager with experience in domestic and international governments, the private sector, and the NGO community. Kyle's goal is to work with municipalities in sustainability planning. Kyle's professional background includes the following environmental tools: Environmental Management Systems, Environmental Assessment, Green Mapping and Environmental Auditing. In May 2005, Kyle applied his environmental passion in a commercial venture through the establishment of Rockies BioDiesel Ltd., which is currently developing small scale bio-diesel processors to allow individuals and organizations to produce bio-diesel.





Lisa Chacón, USA

Lisa has worked in a corporate R&D environment for eight years, following the completion of her doctoral studies in chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley. She has held several roles, from research scientist to project manager, in early-stage research and development teams working to invent new materials and products. Her interest in sustainability arose from a focused study of global energy availability constraints. Lisa is interested in exploring the intersection of technology and innovation with sustainability, identifying sustainable R&D and manufacturing practices, and learning effective approaches for leading change towards sustainability.

Magdalena Szpala, Canada

In the last eight years, Magda has held a variety of positions within the financial services industry. She has led teams of up to 50, introduced new products into an emerging market, and was responsible for the credit quality of a portfolio of USD \$100 million. She holds a B.Sc. with Honours in Psychology from Hull University, U.K. and gained her professional experience at Citibank and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Magda was born in Poland, and currently resides in Vancouver B.C., Canada. She focuses on enquiry into motivational factors of applying sustainability framework in business strategy.



Margaret Mc Roberts, USA

Margaret McRoberts graduated from Pepperdine University with a B.A. in Fine Art and English. The first few years after graduation she pursued a career as a Fine Art photographer. Feeling disappointed and limited by the actual impact she felt art could have on the global issues facing humanity and the environment she began to volunteer for the Audubon Society. This experience and further research has led her to BTH where she is interested in learning how to incorporate her artistic skills, her interest in humanitarian rights, and the natural world to create a sustainable and harmonious society.

Maurício Mira Pontón, Costa Rica

Maurício has a Bachelor of Business from the Universidad of Costa Rica and a Graduate Diploma in Negotiation and International Relations, He has worked as a Financial Advisor in Latin-American markets and he has been working in several Latin-American companies as an international business consultant, He has worked as a Senior Foreign Investment Consultant in United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the Andean region, work that he had just accomplished before coming to BTH. His personal goal is to gain knowledge of The Natural Step program, and implement it on a corporate scale, at both public and private levels in Latin America.



Melanie Dubin, USA

Melanie holds a degree in Spanish and Environmental Engineering from Pennsylvania State University. While employed by Penn State's American Indian Housing Initiative, Melanie performed strawbale construction and led workshops on sustainable technologies. Her travels led her to develop small-scale alternative wastewater treatment solutions for several permaculture projects in Europe and the States. Her research, which focuses on the implementation of appropriate technologies in low-income areas, is inspired by her belief in the power of community.

Michael Matulac, USA

Michael Matulac is a practicing English teacher in New York with six years experience. Following his undergraduate work at the State University of New York at Purchase, concentrating in Literature, he studied pedagogy at St. Thomas Aquinas College. Immediately after, he pursued a Master's Degree in English at Rutgers University, finishing in 1999. For the last five years, Mr. Matulac has been teaching English at Tappan Zee High School in southern N.Y. using a cross-disciplinary method of understanding literature. As well, as part of the Tri-State Consortium, Mr. Matulac intermittently is sent to analyze the efficiency of neighbouring school districts to make helpful criticisms on their systemic operations.





Michelle McKay, Canada

Michelle has a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Culture Studies with a minor in Fine Art from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. She is a Management Consultant with experience in change management, project management, and outsourcing. Her most recent contracts were in the energy sector; however, she also has worked in entertainment (film, television and music production), sales and marketing, and the health insurance industry. Michelle's strengths are project management, strategy development, communication and public relations, and facilitation. Her interests are sustainable energy and product development, social structure, policy-making, and energy poverty reduction.

Miriam Karell, USA

Miriam obtained a B.A. in Environmental Studies from University of California (UC) Santa Cruz and a B.Sc. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UC Berkeley. Her professional experience includes water system design, soil and groundwater remediation, site investigations, maintenance, risk and data analysis, and construction management. She has worked as a water and sanitation engineer, project manager and environmental educator for Peace Corps Honduras and as a Senior Staff Engineer for an environmental consulting firm. In her last position, Miriam founded the company's first Sustainability Group for all 25 offices nationwide, and designed a method for the company to become "green certified" by the Bay Area Green Business Program. She is fluent in Spanish and English.



Ndi George Tebeck, Camaroon

Hello, my name is George. I graduated from the University of Dschang in Cameroon with a B.Sc. in Plant Biology. I have worked as a freelance writer for a local social marketing magazine for the youth called 100% Jeune and as a secondary school teacher where I taught Biology. I think the BTH Master's program in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability has provided me with a great opportunity to meet interesting people with wonderful ideas whom I intend to work together with to create a sustainable world. In my spare time I enjoy music, sports, and cycling.

Olérs Marie Eriksson, Sweden

Olérs Marie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Pedagogical Studies with a focus on career counselling. Currently she is working with commissioned education, organizing and implementing a wide range of competence development programs for companies and public administration. This also includes managing methodological development projects focusing on learning processes within companies. Dialogue has been her main tool coaching people in situations of change. Communication methods together with ways to implement learning will be Marie's focus within the sphere of sustainability. Keywords she finds important to include in the process are: empowerment, systems thinking, creativity and joy.



Olukoye Babatunde Olusegun, Nigeria

Babatunde hails from Lagos, Nigeria. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Building from the University of Lagos. He participated in school politics and interned with Clem-Nuel Nig. Ltd., a local engineering firm. He automatically became a graduate member of the Nigeria Institute of Building upon graduation and secured employment with the same firm. A keen athlete, Babatunde loves football and his favourite club, AC Milan. He wishes to combine his technical expertise with his passion for sustainability in order to design and build human habitats that are in harmony with the natural environment.

Onur Özmen, Turkey

Onur loves travelling and has been wandering around since his birth in 1983. His last stop was the Middle East Technical University where he was awarded a B.Sc. degree in Management Business Administration. He has volunteered in education providing motivation to primary school children in rural areas of his country. He is capable of communicating in various languages and in many diverse cultural settings. Possessing ambitions for dealing with the problems our world faces, he is focusing on attaining a generalist approach for better policy formulation and is keen on exploring new horizons of thought in social sciences.





Peter Sims, Canada

Peter graduated with High Honours from Carleton University, in Ottawa, with a Bachelor's in International Business, and a minor in Spanish. He is an experienced intercultural communicator and speaks four languages. Peter has brought his skills and his interest in sustainability to numerous projects, including an Ottawa traffic-calming charette, an alternative construction project in Argentina, and as a translator at the World Social Forum, in Brazil. Peter would like most to aid in the development of sustainable infrastructure for the developing world, and to research the process in which a sustainable culture can be widely adopted by society.

Pierre Munyura, Rwanda

Kamere Pierre Munyura is married with five children. A manager by profession, he worked in the Rwandan Government as project manager for the Local Governance Project. In 1999, he joined USAID/Rwanda as a governance specialist, where he managed projects related to communities' empowerment through decentralization. In 2001, he was elected in his community as a district councillor. Recently, he invested in a coffee business to create employment and revenue generation in his community. His objective is to transform and export fully-washed coffee to the specialty coffee market. He has interests in communities' sustainable strategic planning and in developing countries' sustainable cash crops export.



Rachelle McElroy, Canada

Rachelle has a degree in Environmental Science from Royal Roads University in Victoria, Canada. Following graduation, she was offered a position as the Environmental Coordinator by the university, where she worked for 3 years. She has been an active community leader as a director for a local NGO, City Green, and has helped forward social and economic justice through community action projects. Rachelle is passionate about helping businesses that are struggling economically to apply the Natural Step Framework as a means of striving towards sustainability.

Renée Simard, Canada

Renée Simard has completed her Business Commerce Degree in Entrepreneurship at Royal Roads University in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Her previous work experience includes working in the hospitality industry, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Finance as the Assistant to the Deputy Secretary to the Treasury Board Staff and the Deputy Minister of Finance, in Victoria. Renée has lived in Indonesia, Scotland, France, England, Texas USA, and in many cities across Canada. Her passion in sustainability was established while living in Indonesia and experiencing life in a third world country. Renée's goal is to develop sustainable communities in developing countries.



Richard Blume, Australia

Richard is a Civil and Environmental Engineer with four years' experience in Australia, England, and France. His skills are in environmental impact assessment, transportation planning, civil design, project management and corporate performance assessment. Richard has a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and International Studies from the University of Technology, Sydney. He is interested in applying his technical expertise and strategic view of sustainability to corporate decision-making.

Saruhan Utku Araz, Turkey

Saruhan is a graduate from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, with a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering and Master's Degree in Engineering Management. He has worked as a logistics coordinator in a defence company, assistant chief in a construction company, marketing and sales coordinator in a machinery company. As an engineer, he is deeply concerned with co-developing and participating in social, economic and business systems that pay proper attention to the holistic environment. He now turns to BTH to provide him with the cultural experience and the training to become a frontiersman in coming business generations.



Tamara Connell, Canada

Tamara has a B.Sc. in Environmental Planning from the University of Northern British Columbia. Her professional experience is varied and includes positions with the BC Ministry of Transportation, the Oil and Gas Commission, Sierra Legal Defense Fund, as well as several English-language schools in both South Korea and Canada. Most recently, Tamara worked in the waste management field, providing consulting services to downtown Vancouver office towers regarding the creation or improvement of their building's recycling programs. She is passionate about sustainable community development and genuine public consultation.



Xiuying Tang (Sarah), China

Sarah is a postgraduate of the Kunming University of Science and Technology. Her specialty is Mechanical Manufacturing and Automation. Her goal is to focus on achieving sustainability in the manufacturing industry. In 2003, she became an assistant in a university in the south of China. After graduating with a degree in Industrial Engineering, she worked as a research assistant in the field of logistics. She has had managerial practice during her university studies as a saleswoman, marketing investigator, tourism planner, vice-president of the student union, and a tutor. She wants to become a professor in the university in order to transmit knowledge to other students.

Zaid E. Azaizeh, Jordan

Zaid holds a B.Sc. in Environmental Engineering from the Middle East Technical University in Turkey. He has professional experience in solid waste management and in designing and modeling drainage and water networks in Dubai. He is keen to integrate the use of Environmental Impact Assessment and Geographic Information Systems as tools for making strategic decisions within the context of sustainability. Team sports, horseback riding and intercultural socializing are Zaid's main extracurricular activities.

