We are

MSLS

MSc. Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability

Blekinge Institute of Technology
Karlskrona, Sweden

“If we’re not taking action to make our life better, if we’re not walking, if our feet are not moving, then there’s no foot-print for people to follow.”

Oliver Mtukudzi

THE PROGRAM

The MSLS class of 2017 is proud to be taking this journey towards building a more sustainable future together. Our class brings together a wealth of knowledge and expertise from people whose backgrounds are from a diverse range of industries, cultures and experiences. All with a shared goal to be part of the global network that facilitates society's transition towards sustainability.

The Master's programme in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability is an innovative and exciting programme that transforms the way that we think about and approach the sustainability challenges that the world faces in order to be able to rise to those challenges and build a more sustainable world. Drawing on the expertise of some truly inspirational staff and guest lecturers, the MSLS helps us to understand the Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development (FSSD), polish off our leadership skills and helps us to apply our knowledge and skills to a range of projects and start shaping a new world immediately.

Together we will be the leaders we wish to see in the world.

THE CLASS

Ahmad Khaled Allouh
Anna Grochowska
Anna Rosengren
Annica Karlsson
Benedikt Roth
Brendan Tate Wistreich
Brigitta Danka
Cynthia Mooij
Dalen Jacomino
Emiel Stöver
Fiona (Fee) Walker
Hanne Hagedorn
Harry Bonnell
Heather Rogers
Ioana Stan
Jannika Mumme
Jessica Conrad
Kilia Drossart
Kim van Rijt
Laura Quinn
Lisa van Welie
Marcelo Monteverde
Marcus Banai
Marius Westphal
Maximilian Paar
Mohamed Ahmad Maher Elsayed
Nadine Troost
Niklas Eklund
Patrick Lindner
Peter J. B. Burjorjee
Ping Li
Prescilla Sossouhounto
Rebecca Heather Wilcox Gwynne
Rebecca Stenger
Robert Maurer
Sarah Lechevalier
Stephanie Heckman
Thekla van Lingen
Ting Yin
Tom Thomaes
Vianey Miralrío Pérez
Yannick Wassmer von Langenstein
Yoeri Nelis
Zsuzsanna Viszlay

THE BIOGRAPHIES

Ahmad Allouh

Palestine // hardyboy1993@hotmail.com

Ahmad is from Palestine but has never been there because he was born in Abu Dhabi as his parents moved there in the early 80's. He had lived there for 18 years where he did his high school and also studied for one year in the American University of Sharjah (Aus) in the Department of Engineering. After that he decided to go to Sweden and continue his studies in BTH in the Major of Electrical Engineering with Emphasis of Telecommunication. Ahmad's knowledge of sustainability came from a course called an Introduction to Sustainable Engineering in BTH and also when he did his Thesis which was about an analysis of wind turbines. Ahmad heard about MSLS from many friends who were doing and that's when he decided that he has to attend the program .

Anna Grochowska

Poland // anngrochowska@gmail.com

Anna was born and raised in Poland, where she graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of Wroclaw. Experienced with creating better development opportunities for young people, she co-founded Uniconsult Association, anon governmental junior enterprise, which was to activate youths and engage employers into business joint venture. Later, she was a member of a JADE Foundation, an international, non-profit umbrella-organisation of student enterprises from the whole Europe.

"Everything you can imagine is real."

- Pablo Picasso

After ten years of intense work in different companies, combining full time jobs and running her own business, Anna decided to evolve her skills, gain new experiences and find her larger purpose on the MSLS Program with multicultural and transdisciplinary classmates.

Anna adores active travelling, fascinated with people, diversity of their stories, culture, mentality and lifestyle. She is keen on local, traditional cuisines treats every journey as an adventure full of flavours, aromas and memories. She cares a lot about quality and provenance of products, can't pass indifferently by good cookbook or travelogue and dreams of travelling without any plan across Europe and other continents again. She is interested in social sciences, especially psychology, sociology and economy. It's crucial for her to remain committed to values such as family, friends, health, personal growth and joy of living in everyday life.

”You see only what you know, and you protect only what you are familiar with”

– From Freiburg, green city

Anna Rosengren

Sweden // anna.m.rosengren@gmail.com

Anna is from Göteborg, is 33 and has 7 siblings. Her interest in animals and nature started early in life, most probably after spending all summer together with her family playing in the forests and on the rocks along the coast. When she was 16 she decided to study animal science in Norrland, Sweden. After completion moved back to the south to study ecology. Besides the MSc in Ecology, she also studied Entomology, Tropical Ecology, Human Ecology and, Enviornmental Communication and Management. Her second master thesis was about Sustainable Cities and strategies to reach that goal, but was never finished. She commenced to work as a teacher in Mathematics and Science with several side-projects, both with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and Friends of the Earth Sweden. As none of these works involved being employed for full-time, she started to work nights. Her latest job for the past two years was being the boss for 120 employers in Bohuslän, also a night-timed job which consumed a lot of energy.

She decided to quit that job to become more alive and have a more normal schedule. She hopes now the MSLS program will help her to connect her work experience as a leader to her education in sustainability.

Anna loves to hike in the Swedish fjells and to climb mountains. She have some great adventures to tell, about Borneo, Costa Rica and being atop of the highest stratovolcano of Mexico at almost 5800m high. She wishes that people will become more aware of the beauty of the Earth and she wants to work in projects that will result in bringing people closer to the nature near their neighbourhoods.

“Everything will be ok in the end. If it´s not ok it´s not the end.”

Annica Karlsson

Sweden // contact.annica@gmail.com

Annica is born and raised in a region of Sweden called “the darkest part of Småland” and maybe that’s why her biggest interest is being outdoors, running, horseriding, kayaking, hiking – and maybe it is also why she loves to travel abroad to sunny places.

Since early childhood she has been interested in architecture, the enviroment and the life between buildings and this led her to study the program Master’s in Science in Spatial Planning at BTH. After graduation she moved to Kalmar and then to Stockholm to try different approaches as an urban planner and worked in municipalities, consulting to business and also at Boverket, the national board of housing, building and planning.

15 years later she is back at BTH and her vision is to combine spatial planning in a broader sense and knit this expertise together with leadership towards sustainability.

"Only as high as I reach can I grow. Only as much as I seek can I go. Only as much as I look can I see. Only as much as I dream can I be"

Benedikt Roth

Germany // benni.roth@gmail.com

Benedikt is a fortunate Sunday child. He grew up in Darmstadt, Germany with his parents, older brother and grandmother. During the 11th grade his interest in global concern topics awoke and he decided to engage actively in a community center in the Dominican Republic during a one-year voluntary service which he describes today as the turning point in his life. Hungry for more experience, he worked half-year in a Brazilian NGO, providing social therapy for people with disabilities in the countryside of Sao Paulo. Here he came to know the history of the NGO and participated in the organizational development process occurring in this time. As a result, his desire to positively contribute in the current global environment was so fervent that he began studying Business Administration with the title "Rethinking Economy" including Philosophy/ Arts at Alanus Hochschule in order to learn how to help social organizations more effectively address social and ecological challenges. During his studies, he worked at the drug store dm-drogeriemarkt in the sustainability department and organized leadership seminars. After studying one semester in Floripa, Brazil he wrote his Bachelor's thesis about the impact of Stakeholder Engagement on the sustainable development of organizations.

He co-founded the online plattform Karte von morgen project to map sustainable organisations, moved to Darmstadt after his Bachelor's and worked strategically in the refugee camp of his hometown. Recently he released his first music album, participates in the IMO Masterclass which focuses on Horizontal Leadership and is inspired by the basic income and Bhutan.

"Human kind has not woven the web of life, we are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

– Chief Seattle

Brendan Tate Wistreich

United Kingdom // btwistreich@gmail.com

Brendan was born in London but grew up in Somerset in the South West of England. This upbringing has gifted him with a deep appreciation for city and rural environments and their symbiotic relationship as a pathway towards a sustainable future.

He has spent the last 7 years living in Bristol, supporting the development of a thriving community hub in a once vacant office building. This has provided a rich environment to develop creative facilitation skills for participatory and values-led regeneration and transformation. Alongside this work, Brendan has been actively interested in the sustainability of the world and its people, taking time to research and learn about permaculture, radical economics and alternative ways of being.

In 2013 he embarked on an 'end to end' cycle ride, a journey across the length of the United Kingdom visiting eco-communities, permaculture farms and co-housing projects. He has spent the last year as a student on the School for Social Entrepreneurs Scale Up Programme. This involved participating in a peer learning environment with twenty leaders of innovative social projects from around the United Kingdom. Through the MSLS programme, Brendan hopes to deepen practices that offer a playful, optimistic and heartfelt approach to addressing social & environmental injustice.

Brendan is a social creature who enjoys basking in the company of friends over food, music jams, cycle adventures, political debate and all night dancing!

"Well-behaved women seldom make history."

– Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

Brigitta Danka

Australia // brigittadanka@gmail.com

Brigitta was born in Geelong, Australia. Her mother's family emigrated from Italy and her father and his family from Hungary. Growing up her name was deemed 'too European' to pronounce, and as such it was Australianised and Bri was born. Growing up in a European family, she has always identified with those cultures and places far away, uniquely feeling equal parts Australian, Hungarian and Italian.

Bri's path to sustainability has been a convoluted one. Completing a double major in Sociology and Linguistics at Monash University in 2007, she then logically entered the corporate world of finance. A career change in 2012 lead her to the world of fashion, working for a multinational clothing retailer and in 2014 she took on the role of Ethical Sourcing Coordinator. It was during her time in this role that Bri had an epiphanous moment: she was one of seven billion people not just living on this planet, but responsible for it. Her work was no longer just a job, but a raison d'être, and she soon discovered that the ethical sourcing space was not enough; the focus too narrow. Thus began her journey to Sweden and BTH.

Bri believes a cross generational approach must be given to sustainability, so future generations can enjoy their full realization, but as with all shifts in established paradigms, there must be short term achievements on the way to long term solutions. With the MSLS course she hopes to gain the knowledge and skills to initiate both.

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

– John Muir

Cynthia Mooij

St. Maarten // cynthia.mooij@gmail.com

Cynthia grew up on the multicultural island of Sint Maarten in the Caribbean Sea. At the age of 18 she moved to The Netherlands to pursue her Bachelor Degree in International Business and Management. Her love for traveling was ignited when moving abroad to places like Chile and Malaysia. Cynthia has always been drawn to sustainability and saw a perfect opportunity to finally combine this interest with her business skills when first introduced to the topic of social entrepreneurship and the circular economy. After graduating she worked at Metabolic, a sustainability consulting and cleantech engineering company in Amsterdam. For two years she was HR/Operations Support for the company as a whole and Project Manager for a circular city showcase.

Her experience with working on sustainability with a large variety of groups, from students to multinationals to policy makers, intrigued her to dive deeper into a leadership role. Cynthia wanted to join the Master program of Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability because she knows that it will be a crucial step for her to make a difference around the world and in smaller communities like St. Maarten. It's crucial to be able to understand complex problems and turn them into opportunities for sustainable development. We shouldn't feel the pressure to individually solve the global environmental problems, but through knowledge exchange and engagement among all stakeholders we can make a significant difference. All we have to do is step up and become a leader in this change.

CURIOSITY
THRILLS
THIS CAT.

"Nothing is permanent. Everything is subject to change. Being is always becoming."

– Buddha

Dalen Jacomino

Brazil // dalen.jacomino@gmail.com

Inspiring stories that impact people lives and transform societies – this is what moves Dalen's life and work. With more than 20 years of experience, she has been working as a print/online journalist and content strategist worldwide. During that time, Dalen has interviewed innovators, artists, decision makers, entrepreneurs and people who don't have a voice in society.

Dalen was born in Brazil and has lived in Switzerland since 2005. In Brazil, she studied Mass Communications and Linguistics. After that, she worked for Exame, a leading business magazine in the country, and for VOCÊ S/A, a magazine focused on management, leadership and human resources.

In Switzerland, Dalen was in charge – as Editor In Chief – of Swiss Business, an English-language magazine, being responsible for the development of the editorial concept and magazine production. Over the last years, she started to use her experience to help organizations share their inspiring stories.

As a member of Trestle Group Foundation's steering committee since 2014 (Initiative 2020), she is engaged in supporting female entrepreneurs in developing countries, sharing their challenges and victories. When possible, Dalen spends her free time on the beach. She also loves Italian food and Brazilian coffee.

"Our problems are man-made, therefore they may be solved by man. And man can be as big as he wants. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings."

– John F. Kennedy.

Emiel Stöver

The Netherlands // willem.stover@gmail.com

Emiel grew up in the northern part of the Netherlands, known for its beautiful lakes and rivers. During the summers he often went sailing with his family. Being one with the elements is, for him, one of the greatest feelings of freedom. With nothing except the wind in your sails to reach your destination. It sometimes even feels that you don´t need a destination that you could go on forever. It is this feeling that he wants to transfer into our understanding and handling of the world. Creating a feeling that the world can exist forever in harmony with its ecological and sociological components.

Therefore, he sees sustainability as one of the conditions that has to be met in order to create a livable present and future for the place we call home. Meeting this condition is perceived as a colossal challenge, but certainly not an impossible challenge. Driven by both this urgency and the interest in the field of sustainability, Emiel, chose to participate in the MSLS-program. With a background in Public Administration he has theoretical and practical experience with leadership, but lacks the insight when it comes to sustainability. One of his challenges during his year is to learn more about this subject, and develop further in the field of leadership.

Furthermore, Emiel has a broad interest in literature and poetry, music, art, theater, philosophy, sports and people. He hopes to use these interests one day to convince people of perceiving the future as one that encompasses a profound feeling of care for these ecological systems and social interactions.

"Be excellent to each other!"

– Bill & Ted

Fiona (Fee) Walker

United Kingdom // bumblefee@hotmail.com

Fee was born in Scotland but a lifetime of living in different places has left her feeling more like a citizen of the World rather than of any particular country. In addition to traveling to many parts of the globe, she has lived in several countries including Scotland, England, the USA, the Cayman Islands, Kenya and now Sweden. She has been a Business Studies teacher in Post-16 Education since 2001 and this is what first lead to her interest and passion for sustainability, as Business Ethics and Sustainability are the subject areas she enjoys teaching the most. Despite being the smallest aspects of the qualifications and curricula she has taught, she believes them to be the most important for creating future leaders and entrepreneurs who will embrace the principles of sustainability.

During her time teaching in the Cayman Islands and Kenya, she became involved in projects locally and found a passion for putting her beliefs into action. In the Cayman Islands she taught at-risk school children to scuba dive as part of the Government's Extended After-School Program and in Kenya, she became involved with the Kongowea Boxing Club, based in a large slum in Mombasa, helping to support the club and its boxers in making a positive impact in the community.

After the MSLS, she wants to specialise in teaching in the field of sustainability whilst utilising what she has learned in her own projects, helping to move the world towards a more sustainable future.

"You cannot only hold speeches on Sundays and do nothing in the week"

– Bärbel Höhn, German MP and mentor

Hanne Hagedorn

Germany // hanne.hagedorn@posteo.de

Hanne's background is in Human Geography – a truly interdisciplinary field of study – learning about ecological and social challenges societies face all over the world. Seeking guidance on how to put achieved knowledge into practice, she began to search for effective ways to make a transition towards a sustainable society possible.

Hanne got involved in the international divestment campaign "Fossil Free" (started by 350.org), which demands from official institutions, like municipalities, universities and churches to withdraw their investments from the fossil fuel industry. The global climate justice movement made her experience how powerful people can become when they unite globally. Within a research project she got to investigate the impact of community based initiatives involved with food, energy and transport across Europe. Her thesis was on Carbon Reduction by Repairing and Sharing Initiatives. She also learnt about innovative regional transport and spatial planning for sustainable development. Due to an internship with the Green Party she got to experience debates on climate change and energy issues in the German parliament.

The MSLS program will hopefully be one more piece of the puzzle, providing tools to address change that is urgently needed. As she loves drawing, harvesting for group processes visually has become a goal for her year at MSLS.

She is passionate about sports like volleyball or kitesurfing, and loves to be outdoors in nature with friends. In an attempt to walk the talk she has committed herself to not fly anymore, but bought a roadbike instead – still with the desire to see far-away lands.

"Life is far too important to be taken seriously"

– Oscar Wilde

Harry Bonnell

United Kingdom // Harry.bonnell1@gmail.com

This quote was on a postcard on Harry's fridge growing up - with the background image being a black and white photo of a nun hoola-hooping.

Another quote Harry loves is "Faith is the gap between certainty and doubt" he doesn't know who said it but it was on a poster at his school and illustrates his passion for philosophical thinking. Don't let anyone tell you philosophy is an irrelevant subject to the world – it teaches you how to think logically and break down arguments into their parts and examine the world.

Harry's BA degree was 'Social Anthropology and Comparative Religion' and he thinks a lot of the desire to study other cultures stemmed from growing up in London where his classmates were of many different religions and backgrounds. After university he worked in a politically and media focused charity seeking to combat Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism and other hate crimes. However, he found the work to be too detached from the real world with lots of people, especially recent graduates, caught up in theoretical and political arguments based on media columns or political 'battle-lines'.

He then travelled globally and was deeply influenced by the warmth of the people he met, before returning to London and eventually working as a Community Organiser where he enjoyed the more frontline 'political' work. He knocked on doors and supported people in starting projects, such as afterschool clubs, and to become leaders. It's a big world and he looks forward to the new perspectives MSLS will expose.

Heather Rogers

Canada // heather.rogers00@gmail.com

Heather grew up on the prairies of Canada where she studied Regional and Urban Planning and Human Geography. It was there that she developed a passion for sustainable urban design, focusing on urban agriculture and active transportation, and their implications toward sustainability, health, and overall well-being. For the past several years, Heather has been working with small businesses in the food industry. She is interested in the role that business can play towards the sustainability challenge and has spent the last two years working with an urban farm in Vancouver, combining two of her loves: growing food, and cycling through the city to deliver it. She has focused her efforts on developing sustainable food systems and business strategies, and is excited to be joining the MSLS team to gain tools in this field.

Most recently she co-founded Gather Harvest Co., a wild food foraging company focusing on bringing people together through the gathering, cooking and eating of healthy wild food. She loves adventuring in the Canadian wilderness with her family and friends, searching for mushrooms and other edibles, camping, fishing, and enjoying nature.

In the future, Heather plans to continue her involvement in sustainable business development and find as many ways of combining and sharing her passions as possible.

Ioana Stan

Romania // ioana.stan@gmail.com

Ioana was born in Bucharest. She is a humanist person and a dedicated mother. She has an educational background in Law and Psychology followed by consistent experience in a financial environment, working many years in the operational area of multinational company's offices in Romania. While working for these important actors in the financial fields, she learned about international vision and expanding business, but above all she learned how important it is to have the right person in the right place. After many years of working in different strategic projects, she chose a new challenge: to become a psychologist, offering individual and group counselling. She is passionate about empowering people, helping them to identify personal resources and to be the best they can be. Living now in Sweden, she chose to join the program of MSLS with the hope that one day she can contribute to increasing awareness of the environmental sustainability in her country of origin. She has always tried to explore new boundaries and to extend the limits of understanding or appreciation for life in its whole complexity.

She enjoys reading, travelling, classical music and exquisite movies or discussions, meeting different people and experiencing new cultures. She likes to periodically have new challenges and to set up new goals. Every year she chooses to do something new. She appreciates the generosity and delicacy of human beings in different forms, those wonderful differences which create diversity on Earth and believes that love and trust should be the link between people. She believes in "Success" through diversity and in the concept that all the differences in gender, age, background, physical ability, religious beliefs, etc. encourage us to solve problems and respond to our World challenges in different and creative ways.

Jannika Mumme

Germany // jannika.mumme@hotmail.de

Jannika grew up in Hilpoltstein, a town amidst forests and fields close to Nuremberg in Southern Germany, but soon set out to explore the world and its diversity. She lived and went to school in Sweden for one year, an experience that taught her to truly love and respect nature. Studying International Cultural and Business Studies in Passau, she learned to appreciate cultural diversity and realized that there is a lot to learn from – and with – others.

Two journeys through incredible India made her see the world and her home with different eyes and fostered the wish to get engaged in sustainable, local, cooperative and solidary economy. This ambition led her to Oldenburg in Northern Germany, where she began Master's studies in Sustainabilty Economics and Management. Along the way voluntary work, partly in leading positions, in the realm of international voluntary service as well as several local sustainability initiatives eventually revealed to her the power of meaningful and intentional communication and of being able to inspire and motivate people. This insight was the final bridge that brought her to MSLS in Karlskrona.

During the programme, Jannika aspires to develop her skills and personality in order to become an inspiring and worthy ambassador of nature and society, co-shaping a more sustainable future.

"I wish that in many years' time, my grandchildren will ask me „Granny, are you still standing up for a better world – after all this time?", and I'll answer „Always" "

(freely adapted from Severus Snape aka Alan Rickman).

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

— Maya Angelou

Jessica Conrad

United States // jessieconrad@gmail.com

For the past seven years, Jessica has focused on helping people collaborate to advance systems-wide, sustainable solutions and on making those solutions understandable through solid storytelling. She most recently served as community manager at RE-AMP, a network of over 170 nonprofits and charitable foundations tackling climate change in the Midwestern region of the United States. There Jessica worked to increase the network's capacity for collective impact by strengthening its communications and emphasizing the importance of relationship building. Prior to joining RE-AMP, she held a similar position at On the Commons, a strategy center that aims to promote and protect all that we share—water, forests, libraries, public transportation, the Internet. In addition to this experience, Jessica has written extensively about the sharing economy, the emerging economic revolution where access has become more important than ownership, and her journalism has appeared at media outlets across the U.S.

Jessica's experience has confirmed her suspicion that when we act like we are all in this together, we will discover an abundance of goodwill, imagination, and drive to create the kind of future we want. She is thrilled to be a part of the MSLS Programme because she shares its conviction that another future is indeed possible—and wants to continue to build the skills that will enable her to play a useful role in creating it.

Kilia Drossart

Germany // kiliad@web.de

Kilia grew up as the eldest of five siblings in a small village in the north of Germany. Motivated to leave home and experience another culture, she decided to do a year of volunteer service in India. There she worked in a NGO and home for mentally disabled people located in Kolwan Valley, a rural area in Maharashtra State. The time in India left her with a deep impression and was the key to her decision not only to keep working with people, but also to tackle the problems of social and ecological unsustainability at its roots.

She received a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences, focusing on sustainability management. Besides studying, she conducted seminars for young people to support them preparing for their volunteer year. She has a special interest in fair-fashion and social entrepreneurship based on her experiences working in sustainability in the textile industry and at the social enterprise in India. In the future she would like to find effective solutions to improve the working conditions of women in the textile industry and to help organizations move towards sustainability. She chose the MSLS program to develop leadership skills and learn how to create the conditions that can produce change towards sustainability.

Kilia finds her joy in her family, friends and a cup of tea and loves the colours blue and green. She likes to be surrounded by wind and water, go for walks and in stressful moments she likes to bake cakes and paint.

"I'm no less, I'm not more, I'm the same, I'm just different"

Kim van Rijt

The Netherlands // k.vanrijt@gmail.com

Kim' wants to thank her parents for naming her Horizon (old Dutch) and especially her mom for giving birth on the shortest day of the year, so she is still a Sagittarius as her constellation. She can now rest assured that she's wired to aim at far horizons, new lands and expanding to new ways of living life. She is proud of her city Leiden. She is even more proud to be able to call her friends and family HER friends and family, since they are amazing. She feels blessed most of the times, and once every so often she feels afraid of what mankind can do to itself.

The horizon she's aiming at in this period of her life is to find a way to deal with our darker side in such away that we won't harm ourselves beyond repair. A scenario that might be true, which is a scary thought. She has her Bachelor's in Social Work and has thereafter continued in more international social entrepreneurship environments; the International People's College in Denmark, KaosPilots in the Netherlands and by working as a council member and program coordinator at Knowmads International Business School. Facilitation, organizational development, team guidance and coaching are the skills that most people endorsed her for on LinkedIn.

She has gone to MSLS to become a master at combining science, rational logic thinking, inspiration and hope, so that one day she'll be able to say: we are the Idealistic Realists we've been waiting for, come, let's (re)think and act.

"Fake it 'til you make it!"

Laura Quinn

Scotland // laura_quinn0494@hotmail.co.uk

Laura is a 22 year old Scot who just graduated from her Bachelors in Business Management prior to her arrival at BTH. Although she has never had a full-time job within the sustainability field due to education commitments, she has been involved in many voluntary positions. Specifically, two of her favourite voluntary experiences include the many hours she spent at her local cat shelter and her internship at Trellis, a therapeutic gardening company.

Laura has a passion for entrepreneurship and has previously participated in many enterprise competitions to which she has ranked well as a result of her "green" product ideas and visions for social enterprise. As a result, she has chosen MSLS to expand her knowledge in the field of sustainability and leadership in hope of pursuing her dream of creating and managing her own social enterprise. However, she realises she must gain some practical experience in the industry before she dives into the deep end. More crucially, she is still waiting for the perfect idea for her social enterprise to come to her. So until then, Laura is looking forward to embracing the experiences and obstacles that will shape her career in sustainability.

Lisa van Welie

The Netherlands // lisavanwelie@hotmail.nl

Lisa is a girl who grew up in a big family where she never had to be alone because she always had her twin brother by her side. Then one day she decided to pick up her bags and move to the other side of the country. She traded a big city in for a smaller town where it was not unusual to find a tractor on the parking lot of the university.

In this new city she went to school to study textile management. After a year she got the feeling that she wanted to do something more meaning full with her life. With a dad cheering for a career in sustainability she decided to do a six month course on sustainable business. She went from starting with a feeling of doubt to the feeling that she has found her destiny. From that moment she tried to find her place in the sustainability world and asked herself the question "What can I do to help society move towards a sustainable planet?"

In her last year she still had no clue untill she started with her thesis. In 5 months she created a sustainability strategy for a fashion company and that was the moment where all the pieces of the puzzle seemed to fall into place. She is going to help fashion companies shift from unsustainable practices to a sustainable path, where making money goes hand in hand with taking care of the earth and all the people on it.

"We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world."

Marcelo Monteverde

Argentina // monteverdemarcelo@gmail.com

Marcelo is a 33 years old Argentinian from Buenos Aires. He graduated as an Electronics Engineer and has worked on scientific research, on technology transfer projects and as a teaching assistant in an entrepreneurship course at Universidad de Buenos Aires.

Although he grew up in a big city, he had the fortune to see many places in his country during childhood and developed a strong connection with nature and a passion for traveling and discovering other cultures. Since then, he has travelled across Argentina, South America and India. In India he had the wonderful opportunity to visit a NGO that was working to eradicate extreme poverty. He met local people, saw the way they lived and the needs they had. There he learned that there is a lot that we can do to help others and how meaningful and purposeful is to contribute to other people's happiness. This experience has made him carefully reflect on the role that he wants to play in society and he finally realized that he wants to address social and environmental problems, not only in a direct way but also by being an agent of change to stimulate others to work towards the same goal. This is the reason why Marcelo joined MSLS.

After graduation, he would like to focus his work on developing educational programmes for sustainability in Argentina and starting a social enterprise with the mission to help disadvantaged communities.

"We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference."

– Nelson Mandela

"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

– Charles Darwin

Marcus Banai

The Netherlands // marcusbanai@gmail.com

Born in Groningen in 1989, Marcus is considered to be Dutch. However, he believes there are no borders except for those we choose to see. This mind set allowed him to obtain his Bachelor's degree in European Studies and work in Europe, Africa and South America. His career path was shaped by volunteering in Uganda in 2007. Here in Eastern Africa, teaching children in a rural community showed him the unnecessary inequality as well as the rich beauty in Africa.

This African experience led to a dedication to make a difference, resulting in working for Servome and schools in Paraguay in 2009 and as a Junior Researcher at Fairfood Int. in Amsterdam in 2011. He also worked with Or.c.a. in 2012 on education for immigrants, with Wervel in 2013 on sustainability campaigns and over the years with different other inspiring organizations. In 2014 he became the Office Manager at Koxka Belgium, an international refrigeration distributor. Here at Koxka he began to value the potential of corporate social responsibility.

Before beginning the MSLS programme he was a Campaign Manager for Colorful Chances for over a year, active for the cause of socio-economic development in South America. Much of his spare time is spent on appreciating jazz, astronomy and talking in many languages. The latter explains his plan to use sustainability as a language in order to open dialogues between businesses, governments and non-profits.

"Love it, Leave it or Change it. "

Marius Westphal

Germany // westphal.marius@gmail.com

Marius was born and raised in a small town in the north-east of Germany, near Berlin. He has an educational background in Business and IT, as he completed his vocational training in Business Data Processing, and did his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at the University of Applied Science Brandenburg, followed by a Master's in International Management. He specialized his studies in Leadership and Controlling as well in Project- and Service-Management.

During an internship in a London consulting firm, at the age of 18, he first learnt about the importance of renewable energy and sustainability, as well as the power of working in an international team united by one meaningful purpose. Marius also worked as a volunteer in a NGO in Italy where he helped organise various environmental awareness events. He later co-founded an online platform to help small independent creators to spread their visions and art with the world in an easy and sustainable way. Over the years, Marius worked with many different companies all over Europe and hopes that his time in the MSLS Master program will equip him with new skills that he can apply in his future career to contribute towards a more sustainable world.

Marius enjoys travelling, watching movies, meeting new people from all over the world and being together with his family and friends.

"A day without laughter is a day wasted."

– Charlie Chaplin

Maximilian Paar

Germany // maximilian.paar@web.de

After completing his A-Levels and growing up in a village in the North of Germany, Maxi moved, at the age of 17, to the South of Germany to study International Management as he likes the exchange with people from different cultures and the resulting synergies. It is there, that he began to understand how the economy today is constructed and where he got in touch for the first time with new innovative business models. Passionate about creating business solutions that help solving social and ecological problems, Maxi focused during his thesis in France, where he continued his studies, on the sharing and functional economy and discovered that businesses can be even more successful when putting sustainability in the centre of their strategy.

After completing his Bachelor, he moved to London to work in a start-up and learn more practically about developing companies and leading teams in a complex and fast changing environment.

In order to use his business knowledge for sustainable solutions, Maxi decided now to study MSLS in Karlskrona where he aims to find the missing piece of the puzzle, enabling him to create businesses solving ecological and social problems. Through successful examples he hopes to inspire others on the way towards a more sustainable society.

"Leaders operate from the conceptual level, so they change others' perception."

Mohamed Ahmad Maher Elsayed

Egypt // mmahertaha@yahoo.com

Maher is an organized and structured person with an analytical mindset who is experienced within business and government organizations. He gained his MBA in 2006, and since that time has been achieving a series of successful implementations of his personally-designed leadership assessment tool for business and government sectors at different managerial levels.

His interest and expertise in statistical analysis has given him a keen sense of what needs to be assessed and how it should be measured. He has received training in the area of assessment of organizational culture and effectiveness and has a strong passion for it. He has worked in Eastern Europe, some parts of Africa,v as well as Egypt. This first-hand experience in international environments has allowed him to see up close the effect of culture on organizations' results. He believes that human resources are the dominant factor that affects every facet of an organization's life and therefore, its overall effectiveness. He stands by the saying "it is never the people and it is the system".

Maher believes that MSLS is a big mile stone in his life that will allow him to stretch out and put more focus on developing more thorough leadership development towards sustainability.

"To truly know the world, look deeply within your own being; to truly know yourself, take real interest in the world."

– Rudolf Steiner

Nadine Troost

The Netherlands // nadine.troost@ziggo.nl

This quote captures quite well who Nadine is and what she is looking for in life. Her reasons for being on this world are believed to be at least the following two reasons: to learn and to serve.

With an academic background in Geography, interests in Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability and a passion for the ways the Earth and all the beings on it constantly and mutually interact, she has travelled extensively and volunteered in Togo (West Africa) and Nepal. Mountains, meaningful conversations with inspiring persons, and making this world a better place to live in, make her heart sing. Though she likes to go where there is no path and leave a trail, MSLS is to be interpreted as a path in life leading to where she wants to be and who she wants to become, a path not guided by plain reason but a deep conviction of both head and heart where she will be challenged for her capacities and as a person, to develop both of them. A path of hope.

Nadine's mission after MSLS is co-creating a future where rivers are drinkable and bees swarming again because she hopes these can be indicators of a healthy, resilient and regenerative socio-ecological system. In that, we should ask ourselves: "How do I have to be for you to be free?"

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand."

– Albert Einstein

Niklas Eklund

Sweden // niklas.fredrik.eklund@gmail.com

Niklas's journey that led him to this program can be summarized in two words: Curiosity and Diversity. Born of two Finnish parents and raised in the suburbs of Stockholm, he spent his early years travelling between the culturally diverse suburb Akalla and the small rural island of Kökar in Åland's archipelago. This dual perspective between the multicultural city and small hardworking community of Kökar fostered a curiosity of world and idea that it's not enough to just see the world, you should also strive make it a better. After finishing High School, Niklas attended the mandatory Swedish military service in the far north city of Boden for a year before going to Linköping University to study. He has a Bachelor's degree in Pedagogy and has also taken courses in fields such as Physics, Math, HR, Art, Improvisation and Storytelling, Drama and Photography.

During his studies he worked with the international youth leadership organization AIESEC where he held multiple positions on local and national level while at the same time volunteering as a facilitator in various parts of the world such as China, Germany, Switzerland and Serbia.

After receiving his degree he worked at a global corporation in Prague within the fields of Finance and Procurement before giving that up pursue a path where he feels he can make difference in the world, which led him first to teach Swedish to immigrants and later led him to the Master's Programme in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability.

Patrick Lindner

Germany // pat.lindner@ymail.com

Patrick was born and raised in southern Germany. Growing up in an area with forests around in every direction, he has a close connection to nature. After his education in school, he started studying Business Administration – a field where he first came in contact with sustainability as he decided to choose a study focus on sustainability management. Through practical experience during this time, he saw how the actions of corporations can have a positive impact on nature and society if sustainability is part of their identity.

Following his BA and highly confident that the field of sustainability is really in the core of his interests, he moved to northern Germany to study a Master's programme in Sustainability Economics in order to deepen his knowledge of sustainability. In this new environment he got involved into the topics of the Sharing Economy and Business Ethics. To enlarge his skills even further he then decided to go abroad for a year and joined the MSLS programme.

His goal at BTH is to gain the proficiency necessary to support society with the complex challenges of the 21st century. He is also keen on gathering knowledge specifically from different societies and cultures all around the world. The MSLS programme seems to be the perfect place for that. For personal recreation Patrick enjoys being out in nature. Through his passion for photography he captures the unique miracles, sceneries and landscapes our earth provides us.

Peter J. B. Burjorjee

Canada // peterburjorjee@gmail.com

Growing up in Canada, Peter was instilled with a love of nature and the outdoors through camping, hiking and skiing with family and friends.

After initially studying Environmental Science, Peter returned to university to study Chemical Engineering which led to a career in the nuclear field first as a process engineer then as a safety analyst. A desire to combine a diverse academic background with an ability to see challenging problems from many perspectives and a deep interest in the sustainability challenge brought Peter to the MSLS program.

In the future he hopes to bring these insights and skills to a new role in the sustainability field.

"Live the life you imagine"

– Thoreau

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

— Mahatma Gandhi

Ping Li

China // chloepingli@gmail.com

Ping Li, also called Chloe, is Chinese and from Shanghai. She graduated with a Bachelor's in Business English. She has been active in oil and gas, real estate, manufacturing and financial investment. She had a consulting company focused on import, export as well as help companies finding their ideal offices in Shanghai.

She is here studying Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability because she wants to build a sustainable community in China and to help Chinese people to have clean water, clean food and blue sky.

In her free time she loves to exercise at the gym but appreciates even more being outside in the fresh air, be it running, climbing, swimming, bicycling or team sports. She belongs to several social organizations in China and Europe and has a large social network. She has lived in Shanghai, Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia and now Sweden. She believes that her experience with different nations and backgrounds makes her a better human being who wants to bring humanity to the next level and she believes together we can create something more than amazing.

She is young, but she is ambitious, passionate, proactive, responsible, trustworthy, hard-working, positive and excellent team player who faces challenges head on and who loves to rise to any challenge with a broad international experience.

Prescilla Sossouhounto

Benin // p.sossouhounto.17@eigsi.fr

Prescilla is a girl from Benin, a West African country. She has always felt concerned by the environment and energetic issues of the world, but also wanted to contribute in the development of underdeveloped countries such as Benin. Then, she started her undergraduate program by 2012 in Benin and has continued, since 2014, in an engineering school in France in order to become Engineer in Energy and Environment. She has spent 7 months in Spain as exchange student in the European Project Semester (a project with international people) of the Polytechnic University of Valencia and after as intern in a start-up.

Prescilla wants to achieve her goal of contributing to the development of through the popularization of Renewable Energies in her country, which has some important issues related to the energy access.

She wishes to work in an NGO as Project Manager in renewable energies or have her own enterprise in this sector. Therefore she chose to integrate the MSLS, to achieve more skills related to Leadership but also knowledge about sustainability. She has also being part of the Rotaract (Rotary for people between 18 and 30) where she organized with her teammates charity events.

"When life itself seems lunatic, who knows where madness lies? Perhaps to be too practical is madness. To surrender dreams — this may be madness. To seek treasure where there is only trash. Too much sanity may be madness — and maddest of all: to see life as it is, and not as it should be!"

— Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Don Quixote

Rebecca Heather Wilcox Gwynne

United States // civilcampaign@gmail.com

Rebecca grew up among the Quakers, the Society of Friends, whose values deeply etched their way into her heart. Their firm beliefs in social equality, group participation and co-creation, integrity of living, and inner reflective guidance became part of her own guiding values. Spending many hours on family road trips impressed upon her the love of nature and its amazing array of diversity.

She intends to use the tools from the MSLS program to help create solutions that speak to the needs of balancing nature with human demands. Her professional background in business, education, holistic healthcare and presentation contribute to these solutions. Rebecca has spent time in 38 of the 50 states in the USA and traveled 16 countries loving every minute.

Currently living in Sweden, Rebecca made use of her Bachelor's degree in Art Administration and certificates in Massage Therapy and Health Education by opening a wellness studio. Rebecca is a doer driven to create which has manifested in published writings, teaching workshops, volunteering for activist organizations, live action role play hobbies, and love of photography.

Rebecca intends to do her best to make the world a better place while inspiring others to do the same.

"Don't wish it were easier. Wish you were better."

– Jim Rohn

Rebecca Stenger

Germany // Rebecca.Stenger@outlook.com

Rebecca grew up in Sailauf, a small village near Aschaffenurg in Northern Bavaria, Germany.

During her work as an apprentice and student trainee in the field of 'Mechatronics' she noticed the profit-oriented decisions the company made without thinking about sustainability or conscientious investments. Rebecca had the opportunity to enrich her education by spending two semesters in Finland, which was a turning point in her life, as she failed to find real meaning in her undergraduate studies. Being part of a company, which is built on the pillars of revenue and business growth instead of environmental, social and economic performance is not her future goal and apparently not where she wanted to be. Hence, Rebecca reoriented herself and participated in various workshops and training related to leadership, working in teams, connecting people as well as self- and time management, which finally brought her to study MSLS in Karlskrona. She is curious to learn new ways of thinking about our future, imagining a world that is better in order to affect change and develop strategies to bring about positive solutions.

Rebecca wants to inspire and empower more and more young people to work together as a community towards a sustainable world. In her freetime Rebecca enjoys being outdoors, she loves nature, sports, traveling and spending quality time with family and friends.

"Life is a game, I am ALL IN"

Robert Maurer

Germany // maurer@th-brandenburg.de

Robert grew up in Zwickau, a small city in east of Germany. He did his Bachelor's degree in Microtechnology at the University of Applied Sciences in his hometown. After he became an engineer he realized that he needed more than solving technical challenges to become happy and successful in his work life. Therefore, he started to do his Master's studies in Technology and Innovation Management at the University of Applied Sciences in Brandenburg (Havel).

Robert applied for the MSLS program in Karlskrona to acquire knowledge in the areas of leadership and sustainability. Furthermore, he wanted to establish a new connection between engineering, innovation management, sustainability and leadership with the aim to become a key part of the sustainability puzzle called "World".

Robert loves to do any kind of sports like Muay Thai, Table tennis or dancing. He also enjoys to be together with friends and meeting people from all over the world.

When addressing a challenge, his motto is "Life is a game, I am ALL IN"

"I know that I know nothing. "

Sarah Lechevalier

France // sarah.lechevalier.17@eigsi.fr

Sarah is 22 years old and comes from the west of France, from Niort. She was living in the countryside and dislikes the big cities. She has studied in a general engineering school at La Rochelle where she has studied Management, Software, and Electricity. In her third year she had decided to specialize in the energies and the environment. She also went to Canada for 6 months to study more specifically the energy of the buildings .

She has chosen this field because she wanted to work in the field of the energy. She has worked in a design office where she had to optimize the isolation of new buildings. She has chosen the MSLS program because she would like to be more involved in sustainable development.

We need to protect our planet and the habitants of it. We need to find different ways of living without destroying the planet. She is feeling very lucky to be born in a developed country and wants to help the other countries to become one. She is very curious and wants to believe that the world will be better. She likes to be in nature, to practice sport, to read books and to learn.

"You are an aperture through which the universe is perceiving itself."

– Alan Watts

Stephanie Heckman

The Netherlands // stephanie.a.heckman@gmail.com

Stephanie's childhood was set in her grandmother's garden, tucked away in a corner of The Hague, on the Dutch coast. The love of nature fostered there was to stay with her as she embarked on her life path. Her notion of sustainability is therefore entwined with her belief in people's capacity to reconnect with their innate love of nature. As a natural species that have only recently become estranged from their place in evolution, it is this reconnection that is needed at the deepest, most personal level on the collective journey towards a sustainable future.

Her undergraduate studies in the Social Sciences, with the question of 'what makes us human' in mind, eventually led her to California. Living and sharing lives in student co-operatives for a year, she discovered how she thrives in community, as a social catalyst and space maker. Back in the Netherlands she worked with a startup developing mobile, fully self-sufficient off-grid homes, and as a visual facilitator of change management processes in organizations throughout the country.

At MSLS, she hopes to hone her skills as a process facilitator, and to find ways to tie that work into the joint effort for sustainable development that is currently garnering such momentum.

While waiting for the calling to what her life's specific contribution will be to the human endeavor, she enjoys writing (words and music), reading about mythology, building blanket forts, and camping with friends.

"Wie niet gek is, is niet normaal."

(Loosely translates to: "If you are not crazy, you are not normal.")

– Thekla's mother.

Thekla van Lingen

The Netherlands // t.a.vanlingen@gmail.com

Thekla grew up in a warm and loving family in the city of Delft, the Netherlands. At age 18, she moved to Wageningen for studies. Here she composed her own Bachelor programme, with the focus on climate change, sustainability, education and communication. Her Bachelor's included an internship at the University for the Future initiative in Olomouc, Czech Republic. After her Bachelor's, she did another internship at Perspectivity, an organisation that focuses on "leading in complexity". In the same period of time she took the daring decision together with her (now) husband to buy a yurt (a big Mongolian tent), build it up in the small mobile eco-village Ppauw, and live there. A year course on Non-Violent Communication completed the picture.

She joined MSLS to be able to combine the experiences, knowledge and passions that she gained over the past years, and turn them into her profession. Ideally this profession has something to do with empowering people and organisations for sustainability, through facilitation and coaching. She has got the feeling that she is in the right place now.

Besides studying, Thekla loves to read just about any book that she can lay her hands upon, has been playing korfball for a long time, and enjoys painting, dancing, drinking tea, chopping wood, singing, reading maps and other small joys of life (like putting extra information between brackets, or eating a really good mango).

Ting Yin

China // emilianyin@gmail.com

Ting Yin was born in Kunming, which is a very beautiful city in Southwest of China. She got her Bachelor's degree in Central China Normal University in Wuhan and Master's degree in Communication from the University of China in Beijing in the area of Applied Linguistics.

After graduation, she worked in a university for teaching Chinese. Since 2012, she has been employed by Hanban (China), working at BTH in Sweden, spreading Chinese culture for three years.

Although she has been working with language since her Bachelor's studies, she has also paid attention to environment protection. She has visited a lot of Chinese cities, especially Wuhan and Beijing, where she spent three years at least, watching how the air was polluted and the sky got grey. Even her hometown Kunming, the spring city, some environment has been polluted due to the city development. The balance between monetary profit and the environment has been lost.

Ting is so worried about the current state that she wants to become a changemaker. Previously, she could only search for the solution in China and worked as a volunteer for environment protection. But after visiting Sweden, she has seen that there are more potential solutions for the pollution problem than in China, especially as the field of sustainability is very new in China still.

Tom Thomaes

The Netherlands // tom.thomaes91@gmail.com

There it was! In the midst of the rough wilderness of the lower Scandinavian highlands laid the small town of Karlskrona. "What is this place? what am I doing here?" said the young student, who all his life had dreamed about finding true purpose and feeling committed to let both ecology and society thrive again.

After a hideous journey of 15 hours driving, no sleep and 3 German sausages, the young student and his mother finally made it to 11 kilometres from the city before his weary mother decided to drive into a concrete pole at a pace of 100 km/h. Yes indeed, they were stranded within the sight of the South-Eastern harbour of the Swedish Archipelago with a wrecked car but fortunately no physical damage. One tow-ride and a couple of insurance calls later they made it to the BTH university where they were kindly welcomed and invited to a guest-lecture of the MSLS programme. Fighting not to fall asleep the young student and his mother were surprised, not to say impressed. It seemed like they had found a rather unique environment full of hardworking students and teacher with a shared vision to succeed in making the world a better place. Had it been for any other study the young student would have long been gone, spending his young days in the South-European sun studying some empty masters in Economics and picking up on his Spanish. But that is boring, this study calls out to him where he can find his soul and truly make the world a better place.

"We have favoured self-assertion over integration, analysis over synthesis, rational knowledge over intuitive wisdom, science over religion, competition over cooperation and expansion over conservation and so on. This onesided development has now reached a highly alarming state; a crisis of social, ecological, moral and spiritual dimension"

– Fritjof Capra.

Vianey Miralrío Pérez

Mexico // vmiralrio@gmail.com

Vianey was born in Mexico. She has a Bachelor's degree in Marketing. Vianey has worked in a family business since she was 13 years old. She realized that work in a family business represents more challenges, work is tougher and longer, which generates more success. She has also worked in a company in the medical field where she drove the company's growth through creative and innovative marketing strategies.

She is skilled at analyzing market trends and customer needs to develop highly effective and targeted marketing campaigns, but the job that gave her the most joy was when she worked as a volunteer in an indigenous community in her country. She believes that the most satisfying thing in life is to help people in need.

In the MSLS program, she hopes to learn the principles for sustainable living and develop her leadership skills in order to convey these principles to her society and to her country.

"That it will never come again
Is what makes life so sweet"

– Emily Dickinson

Yannick Wassmer von Langenstein

The Netherlands // yannickwassmer@gmail.com

Yannick was born and raised in Groningen, a vibrant and dynamic city in the northern part of the Netherlands. Due to his Indonesian cultural heritage, Yannick developed a strong interest in the interaction between people with different cultural backgrounds. This led him to obtain a Master's degree in Intercultural Communication, after completing a Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences. After graduating cum laude he thought he had it all figured out. He had found his passion for intercultural interactions and realized that he could use that to change people's lives for the better.

But then he got the opportunity to work for the local government in the Netherlands, stumbled upon the sustainability challenge and instantly fell in love with it. Yannick had the privilege to set up a social dialogue about the energy transition in the province of Drenthe and create a shift towards a more co-creational way of collaboration between a government and its stakeholders. He was so inspired by everything that he came across during this journey that he decided that he wanted to learn more about the sustainability challenge. The MSLS program was the right opportunity at the right time in his life. His ultimate ambition is to combine the knowledge that he has in both intercultural communication and sustainability and use that to contribute to other people's lives in the places where it is needed most.

Yannick has a huge passion for football and his feelings of wanderlust often make his feet itch to travel and explore the world.

"May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears."

– Nelson Mandela.

Yoeri Nelis

The Netherlands // yoeri.nelis@gmail.com

Yoeri grew up in a loving warm family surrounded by two older sisters and one younger brother in Culemborg, The Netherlands. As a curious learner through physical means, he followed his hands and studied Mechanical Engineering and The Building Environment, specializing in Building Technology.

His adventurous nature made him travel to many places on this awe inspiring planet. Exploring the world gave him the opportunity to challenge himself physically, mentally, socially, spiritually and emotionally; generating more perspective in his own sensitive way of life by observing the ways of others. From improving biogas-plants in the Himalaya's to renovating an old barn into a beautiful eco-house between the French Pyrenees mountains; working in different communities challenged him as an sustainable leader and made him jump the day he found out about the MSLS program, where he could explore the many facets surrounding leadership.

In his spare time he likes to be physical in any shape, way or form, cook, eat, drink and especially bring people together around a table of deliciousness, explore new cultures and sitting still to digest it all and working on himself to grow as a person.

Being most motivated by practical based knowledge, Yoeri hopes to apply his technical skills in ways working towards a more sustainable way of life on earth and, hopefully, inspire and fascinate people at the same time. He believes that life happens whether or not we assign or ascribe purpose to it, but deeply appreciates the additional agency that choosing a heartfelt purpose provides.

"There is no "away"."

Zsuzsanna Viszlay

Hungary // vizsu13@gmail.com

Zsuzsanna is from Budapest, Hungary. She holds a BSc from the University of Pannonia in Agricultural Sciences. During her twenties she lived and worked in the United States and in the UK, working on organic farms. A few years later she became interested in sustainability issues and got her Master's in Environmental Management in Budapest, held by the University of San Francisco.

Currently she is working for a Hungarian NGO, participating in different projects on awareness raising, environmental education, policy development and industrial waste management, and managing an expert exchange program in relation to climate innovation.

She is an alumna of the EIT Climate-KIC Pioneers into Practice program and she discovered the MSLS program while attending a Monday talk in a bar in Budapest given by a former MSLS student. She hopes to implement his newly acquired knowledge and inspiration at her company, developing fantastic sustainability programs and motivating others.

She is a bicycle activist, eco-design jewellery maker, knitter-crocheter and DIY enthusiast. She is a regular at the Eco Movie Club Budapest and at various sustainability events in Hungary.

MSc. Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability

Blekinge Institute of Technology
Karlskrona, Sweden