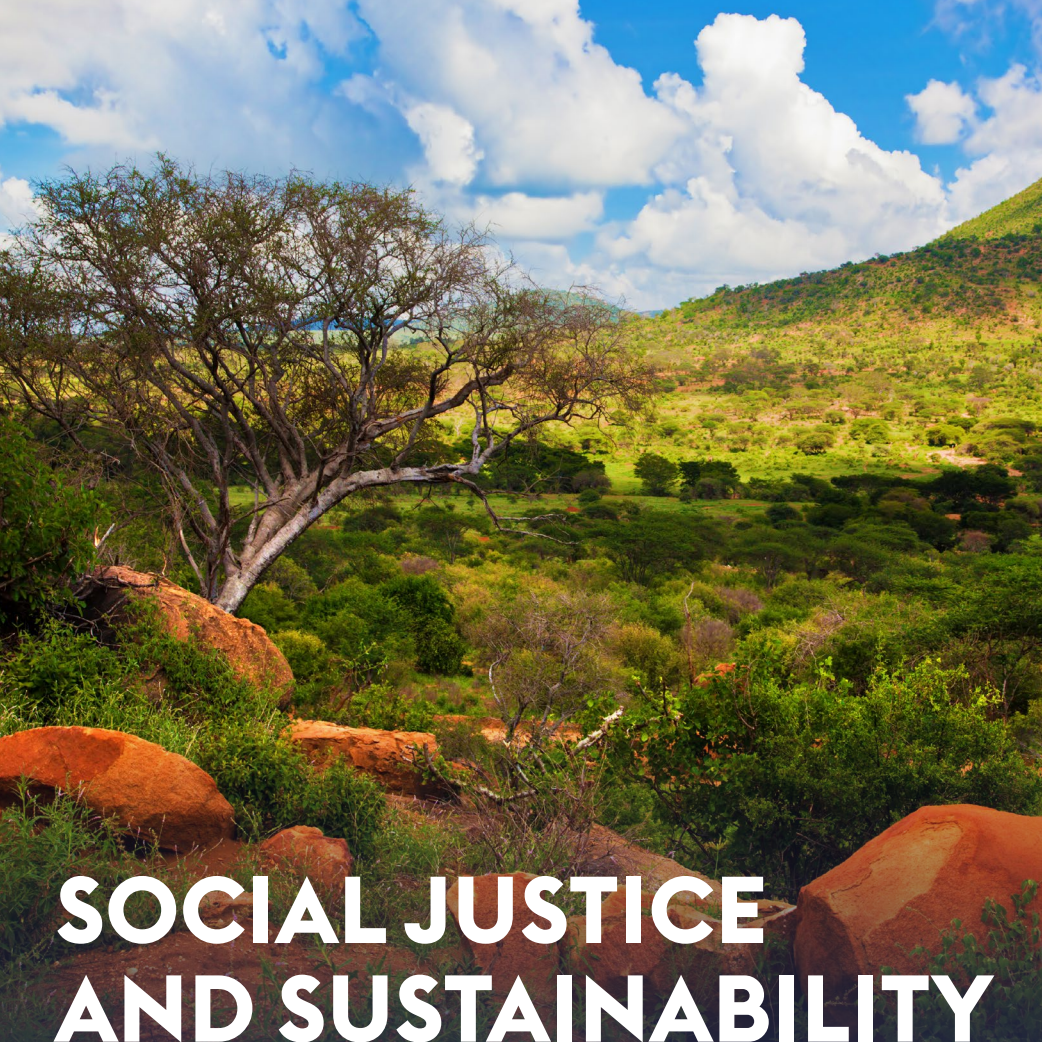


SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Explore the connections between sustainability, social justice, culture, politics, and the environment. The Social Justice and Sustainability major at Franklin equips students with the interdisciplinary knowledge and skills to understand complex socio-environmental challenges and imagine pathways toward a more sustainable future.

LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

FRANKLIN SWITZERLAND
U.S. UNIVERSITY & SWISS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

MAJOR OVERVIEW

The Sustainability and Social Justice major is a cross-disciplinary program that examines the cultural, ecological, and political dimensions of sustainability and social justice. Students can focus their studies through three concentrations, Environmental Humanities, Environmental Studies, and Politics, while developing an integrated understanding of complex real-world challenges. The curriculum combines disciplinary foundations with interdisciplinary courses and training in research methods, systems thinking, and futures thinking.

Through this approach, students learn to connect different forms of knowledge, analyze socio-environmental change, and consider possible future scenarios. The program culminates in an interdisciplinary capstone thesis, in which students apply multiple perspectives and methods to a complex sustainability or social justice issue.

YOUR DEGREE

A 120-CREDIT DEGREE DESIGNED AROUND YOUR INTERESTS

To earn a Bachelor's degree at Franklin, students must complete 120 credits across university-wide core requirements, major requirements, and elective courses. The curriculum combines a shared liberal arts foundation with specialized study in your chosen major, giving you both breadth and depth throughout your undergraduate experience.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

Courses and academic experiences shared by all Franklin students, designed to build essential skills and knowledge across disciplines.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Courses specific to your chosen major, including foundational, required, and elective courses within the discipline

INTERDISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES

Courses selected from across Franklin's curriculum to explore additional interests and complement your major.

Shared by all Franklin students

66 CREDITS

CORE REQUIREMENTS	WHAT IT DEVELOPS
First-Year Seminar, 3 credits	Introduces students to Franklin's liberal arts approach and develops critical thinking, academic research, and communication skills.
Academic Travel, 12 credits	Connects classroom learning with experiential study across different cultural and geographic contexts.
Academic Writing, 12 credits	Develops written and oral communication skills for academic and professional contexts.
Global Responsibility, 18 credits	Examines intercultural competencies, international engagement, and social responsibility.
Modern Language, 15 credits	Builds language skills and cultural literacy, with a focus on Swiss languages.
Quantitative Literacy, 6 credits	Develops the ability to interpret, analyze, and communicate numerical information and data.

Please note: in some cases, courses may fulfill both a Core Requirement and a Major Requirement.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREM — 46 CREDITS

REQUIRED COURSES — 24 credits

ENV 200	Understanding Environmental Issues
ENV 220	Ecocritical Approaches to Literature
ENV 372	Sustainability Science
POL 215	Inequality and Politics
SJS 100	Sustainability and Social Justice: Ethics, Equality, and Environments
SJS 210	Decent Work and Sustainable Development
SJS 212	Environmental Justice, Law and Policy
SJS 213	Designing Sustainable Cities

APPLIED METHODS- AND SKILLS-BASED COURSES — 4 credits

CPT 202	Futures Thinking: Forecasting
CPT 203	Futures Thinking: Backcasting
SJS 202	Thinking across Disciplines
SJS 203	Thinking across Systems

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TRACKS — 9 credits

Environmental Humanities

Two of the following

CLCS 250	Ecocritical Approaches to Film
CLCS 254	Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures and Theories
CLCS 275	Literature and the Land: Aotearoa-New Zealand
CLCS 310	The Culture of Cities: Sustainability
CLCS 331	Narrative Ecologies: The Uses of Environmental Humanities
CLCS 350	Culture and Human Rights
CLCS 372	Tales of Catastrophe

Research Methods

CLCS 497	Thesis Development and Research

Environmental Studies

MAT 282	Intermediate Statistics

One of the following

ENV 210	Natural Disasters, Catastrophes, and the Environment
ENV 240	Environment and Health
ENV 250	Quantitative Methods for Environmental Science
ENV 280T	Managing the New Zealand Environment

Research Methods

ENV 495	Advanced Research Methods for Environmental Science

Politics

POL 300	Comparative Politics

One of the following

POL 254	Designing Political Representation
POL 300	Comparative Politics
POL 302	Political Philosophy
POL 321	International Organization
POL 376T	International Environmental Politics
POL 381T	Sustainable Development in Africa

Research Methods

POL 497	Readings and Methods in Political Science and International Relations

CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT — 3 credits

SJS 499	Capstone: Research Based Thesis

*The remaining credits required to complete the degree are fulfilled through **interdisciplinary electives**, allowing students to explore courses across Franklin's academic offerings.*

CLICK HERE TO **LEARN MORE** ABOUT THE MAJOR

3-YEAR OPTION

This major is also available as a three-year accelerated bachelor's degree for students who qualify for advanced standing based on their high school academic credentials. Students admitted with 30 U.S. credits of advanced standing receive a head start on their university studies, allowing them to complete their degree in three years.

GET TO KNOW OUR FACULTY



CAROLINE WIEDMER

Professor and Program Director, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies



ROSSANA GALLI

Adjunct Professor, Development Economics



JEAN WU

Director, Green Office Sustainability Programs

ACADEMIC TRAVEL

EXPERIENCE THE PLACES YOU STUDY

Academic Travel courses allow students to learn beyond the classroom by exploring real-world environments alongside knowledgeable and passionate professors, turning travel destinations into immersive, living classrooms.

EXPLORE SOME MAJOR-RELATED ACADEMIC TRAVELS

BUS 235T CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
Understand the challenges and strategies of corporate sustainability and social responsibility. Explore real-world examples to learn how companies navigate ecological, social, and stakeholder demands.

ENV 280T MANAGING THE NEW ZEALAND ENVIRONMENT
Examine New Zealand's environmental management, from native species preservation to habitat restoration and sustainable tourism. Explore restoration projects and the influence of Maori culture on sustainability practices firsthand.

SJS 377T SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION IN MADAGASCAR
Examine the social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by rural Madagascar, with a focus on understanding the roots of its struggling educational system. Through immersive travel hosted by local schools, students experience daily realities, connect with community members, and engage in NGO-supported development work.



LEARN MORE ABOUT ACADEMIC TRAVEL AND EXPLORE OUR COURSES

WHY CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

Dual Accreditation
United States (MSCHE) & Switzerland (Swiss Accreditation Council)

Residential Campus
with 6 residence halls

350+ Students representing
55+ Countries
8K+ Alumni Community

Academic Travel
once a Semester for Experiential Learning

19 Majors
1 Master
(Master of Arts in Sustainability and Transformation)

Language
Programs fully taught in English

Small Class Sizes
with 16 students on average; 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio

Career-Ready Graduates
75% of Franklin students secure full-time employment within 6 months of graduating; 95% within 12 months.



HOW TO APPLY

1. **Online Application**
   Apply online through our **website** or **Common App.**
2. **Academic Transcripts**
   Submit at least 3 years of High School transcripts.
3. **Personal Statement**
   Share what motivates you, the experiences that have shaped you, and the goals you hope to achieve.
4. **Recommendation Letter**
   The recommendation letter can come from a teacher, counselor, or other staff member who is well acquainted with your academic profile.
5. **English Proficiency (if required)**
   If your studies were not in English, submit a TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo.
6. **WELCOME TO FRANKLIN**

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Write to our counselors at **admissions@fus.edu** or visit **www.fus.edu**