



Global Environments Summer Academy 2012 Socio-Ecological Interactions in a Dynamic World

1 – 24 August

**Munich International Summer University
Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich**

Overview (version 15.12.2011): information provided here is tentative and subject to change

The Global Environments Summer Academy 2012 (GESA 2012), which is part of the Munich International Summer University (MISU), will focus on human dimensions of global environmental change, ranging from adaptive community management to planetary processes. It will span local to global scales in exploring the most critical contemporary environmental issues from the perspective of biocultural diversity studies, environmental history and sustainability science.

The Academy is designed to broaden and deepen the knowledge, networking, and communication skills of postgraduate students and professionals who are concerned about human dimensions of environmental challenges. The GESA website (<http://www.globalenvironments.org/about-us/gesa/>) provides an overview of the first Summer Academy, held from 2 - 26 August 2011.

General Description

GESA 2012 will take place at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU) in Munich, Germany under the auspices of both the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society and the Global Diversity Foundation. The Rachel Carson Center (RCC) is an international, interdisciplinary center for research and education in environmental studies. The Global Diversity Foundation (GDF) is an international organization that promotes agricultural, biological and cultural diversity around the world through research, training and social action. Registered as a non-profit in the United States and as a charitable organization in the UK, GDF has regional programs in Mesoamerica, North Africa, Southeast Asia and Southern Africa.

Using a multidisciplinary approach, GESA 2012 will combine a variety of learning approaches such as lectures, round-table discussions, small group work, student presentations and hands-on exercises. Students will gain an understanding of policy matters and acquire skills in research design, fieldwork methods and data analysis related to documenting local environmental knowledge and community institutions.

Dr. Gary J. Martin, GDF Director and RCC Fellow, will lead the Academy with the support of RCC Director Prof. Dr. Christof Mauch and Professor Gordon Winder of the LMU Department of Geography. Academic and community professionals from diverse backgrounds will be invited to present their current perspectives and practical work. Students will be able to interact with Rachel Carson Center Fellows who are in residence during the course.

GESA participants are all encouraged to engage in the vibrant international student life on the campus of LMU Munich and its surroundings in Bavaria, Germany during the summer of 2012.

Target Group

The course convenors will select 15 – 18 Masters/PhD students or professionals from around the world who have the capacity to become future environmental leaders in academic, civil society or governmental institutions. Some partial and full scholarships will be available to cover travel, living costs in Munich and the course fee. We invite applications from students in the humanities, natural sciences and social sciences – as well as from postgraduates already working in advocacy, media or policy – who focus on the relationship of environment and society. We expect to choose candidates from a diverse range of disciplines including (but not limited to) anthropology, area studies, conservation biology, earth sciences, ecology, economics, environmental history, environmental studies, geography, history, literary studies, media studies, philosophy, psychology, religious studies, sociology, visual arts and other fields.

The ideal candidate should be highly motivated, willing to explore new ideas and techniques and eager to interact with other students and scholars. An exceptional academic background, broad practical experience, and an excellent command of English are essential.

Summer Academy Fees and Scholarships

The course fee for the Summer Academy is €1500 inclusive of registration, LMU accommodation (approximately €360 will be deducted if the student prefers to find housing independently), tuition, field trips, insurance and materials, but excluding local and international travel, meals and other living costs. MISU estimates that students will need a minimum of €10 a day for local living costs.

Some partial and full scholarships will be available to cover travel, living costs in Munich and the course. Some of these scholarships will be restricted to students who are enrolled in one of the 438 LMU partner universities in 58 countries.

Selected candidates, including those with full scholarships, will be required to pay a €200 non-refundable registration fee (that is part of the total course fee of €1500) by 1 May 2012 in order to confirm a place in GESA 2012. Any students on full scholarships will have the registration reimbursed upon arrival in Munich.

The final tuition fee will be required by 1 June 2012. Please bear in mind that credit cards are not accepted and that all fees must be paid by bank transfer.

Application

Please note before you apply that the selection process will be highly competitive and that only a small percentage of applicants will succeed in securing one of the 15 – 18 places in GESA 2012. Over 1000 people from 95 countries have expressed an interest in the Global Environments Summer Academy, and hundreds of them are expected to apply for GESA 2012. Ensure that you follow the application instructions carefully and submit all materials by 15 March 2012.

- Fill in the online application form on <http://www.bdlm.net/globalenvironments-2012>
- Include a personal statement of 500 words or less in the online form
- Upload your CV (of no more than 2 pages) in pdf format

Successful applicants will be offered a place in the summer academy by 15 April, and the unsuccessful applicants will be informed by 1 May.

Accommodation and meals

The Munich International Summer University (MISU) will arrange accommodation for GESA 2012 participants in very modest single occupancy rooms in dormitories located on or near the LMU Munich campus. The rooms have access to a conveniently located communal kitchen. Sheets, blankets and simple cookware are included in the rooms and on-site laundry facilities are available

but please note that towels are not provided. Some rooms are en suite (that is, with a private bathroom and showers) but most have shared dormitory bathrooms and showers.

Rooms in the student dormitories will be available from Wednesday 1 August only and must be vacated by no later than Thursday 30 August.

Health Insurance

All GESA 2012 participants will need to be covered by German-approved health and accident insurance. For students from European Union countries, as well as those with health and accident insurance valid in Germany, presentation of the EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) is sufficient. For students from non-EU countries, MISU will arrange a one-month private insurance policy whose cost is included in the academy tuition.

Visa

Letters of acceptance will be sent to selected candidates to enable them to apply for a visa, if needed.

Credit Transfer

Although not a requirement of MISU, some students may wish to transfer credits to their home universities. Most international colleges and universities accept MISU credits, but each institution has its own policy. Applicants who are concerned about potentially obtaining credits should contact their professor or study abroad advisor to enquire about credit and grade approval.

Summary calendar

1 October – 15 December 2011: Pre-application period

16 December 2011 – 15 March 2012: Application period

15 April 2012: Successful applicants notified individually and original letter sent for visa application

1 May 2012: All applicants notified of the final selection of candidates in a group mailing

15 May 2012: Deadline for selected candidates to register for GESA 2012 and pay €200 registration fee

15 June 2012: Deadline for payment of the remaining tuition fee

1 – 24 August 2012: GESA 2012

30 August 2012: Last day for check-out from university accommodation