

Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) – FAQs

[1] What is the scope of the second major in SUD?

Over half the world's population lives in urban areas. Today there are over 400 cities of more than a million residents compared to 12 cities in 1900. By 2050 the share of the world's urban population is expected to reach 70 percent, and most growth will occur in the developing world. As urban population growth continues, it is important to acquire interdisciplinary knowledge to tackle the problems of aging infrastructure, economic growth, changing climate, congestion, pollution, and demands of inhabitants to enhance their quality of life.

[2] What specific learning outcomes can students expect to achieve upon completing SUD?

Upon completing the second major in SUD, students will be equipped with interdisciplinary knowledge and skillsets to develop strategies and related actions to enhance sustainability of cities covering the following areas:

- Sustainability enhancing practices in urban development and planning;
- Emerging policies, practices and technologies that promote efficient and low carbon delivery of urban services including transportation, energy, waste, water and sanitation;
- Approach to manage climate change risks and related adaptation actions; and
- Practices of sustainability planning adopted by global cities.

[3] When can students choose to do a second major in SUD?

Students can opt for SUD at the time of matriculation, or at a later time until the end of the fourth semester.

[4] Does SUD allow a double-counting of modular credits?

Yes, student doing SUD can do a double-counting up to 16 MCs (modular credits), equivalent to 4 modules. Some examples of modules that can be double-counted to meet the requirement of both the primary major and SUD are: General Education Modules (GEC1040 and GES1019), Final Year Research Project (Integrated Project(Primary Major)/Cross-Disciplinary Project (SUD)), EG2501 (Common Curriculum in CDE) and some program-specific modules.

[5] Is SUD restricted to students in CDE only?

No. SUD is an interdisciplinary second major, stackable to any primary major and therefore open to all undergraduate students in NUS.

[6] What is the unique educational experience that SUD offers?

SUD is the only program that integrates knowledge from diverse emerging disciplines, ranging from climate change science to green economy, to provide innovative and holistic solutions to urban problems in the context of creating a sustainable future. The SUD curriculum is sufficiently flexible, allowing students to pick and choose modules based on their career aspirations. SUD also provides opportunities for students to collaborate across disciplines to create new knowledge in topics of emerging interest and develop unique perspectives and practical problem-solving skills.

[7] Do I need to take additional modules as a SUD student?

No. There is no increase in the academic workload for SUD students. SUD students are required to do a foundation module related to sustainability: GEC1040 (General Education Module), or EG2501 (offered by CDE), or ENV1101 (Offered by CHS). These modules can be double-counted towards the requirements of both primary and second majors.

[8] What employment opportunities are available in the domain of SUD?

The need for a more sustainable world is growing. As such, the need for professionals who specialize in urban sustainability is equally becoming more important. This is evident by the number of green jobs that are becoming available and the fact that sustainable urban development is now an important component of corporate focus and culture across various different business fields. Companies worldwide face a consistent increase in pressure from investors, employees, customers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and numerous other stakeholders to increase transparency on sustainable and socially responsible practices, articulated through Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting.

Companies are now required to submit ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) data reports. ESG reporting is the disclosure of data explaining a company's impact and added value in three areas related to sustainability: environment, social and corporate governance. "Green jobs" related to green economy— for example, roles that contribute to the transition to a low-carbon economy — have been on the increase.

[9] What specific career options are available for students majoring in SUD?

Some specific career options are listed below.

- Sustainability Director
- Sustainability and Resilience Manager
- Sustainability Consultant
- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Specialist
- Carbon Footprint Manager
- Sustainable City Planner
- Renewable Energy Manager
- Climate Mitigation/Adaptation Specialist
- Green Process Design Consultant

[10] Where can I find more information about the SUD Curriculum?

The SUD curriculum has been crafted to provide students with both technical depth and cross-disciplinary breadth of knowledge and to enable them to solve complex urban problems.

More information about the SUD curriculum can be found at <https://cde.nus.edu.sg/cee/undergraduate/second-major-in-sustainable-urban-development/>