

WMU PhD Elective Subjects

Of the total 240 EC required for the degree of PhD, 60 EC must be earned through compulsory and elective taught subjects. Taught subjects contribute to the knowledge acquisition and skills formation of PhD students by providing the following:

- Attainment of knowledge and skills necessary to conduct independent research, including an overview of science, application, and implementation;
- Understanding of methodological issues as well as writing texts and defending or discussing them during seminars in combination with learning to take part in the scientific discourse;
- Methodology and competence necessary not only for writing the dissertation but also preparatory for a continued career in research;
- A general introduction to research and science, and deeper knowledge within the research priority area (RPA);
- Understanding of different research methods and a broader foundation in the given specific RPA;
- Systematic understanding of the subject area and familiarity with the scientific method in general, and with methods specific to the RPA in particular; and
- Attainment of deep and up-to-date knowledge within the RPA.

Below is a list of scheduled and delivered elective subjects in the WMU PhD Program.

[2021](#)

[2020](#)

For further information or signify interest in enrolling in any of the electives, please contact the WMU PhD Office <phd@wmu.se>.

2021

PHD 209 - Resources Efficiency: From Linear to Circular Economy

- Credits (EC): **4 EC**
- Total student workload (hours): **100 hours**
- Faculty in charge: **F. Ballini**
- Dates of delivery: **2021.01.27 - 2021.03.01**
- Synopsis: *The Circular Economy (CE) approach is one essential contribution to a more sustainable, low-carbon, resource-efficient and competitive economy. The elective subject is designed as an introduction to the topic of Circular Economy Towards a Sustainable Port and provides the basic concept of CE, exploring visions and business opportunities, in particular the impact of CE on society. This elective will furthermore discuss the interconnection between Circular Economy approaches and its potential in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This elective will be delivered using a mixed mode of learning through both pre-recorded and live/real-time classes. This subject will enhance the students' knowledge of CE through expert-run sessions and will furthermore increase the students' critical thinking.*

2020

PHD 201 - Gender Equality for the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

- Credits (EC): **2 EC**
- Total student workload (hours): **50 hours**
- Faculty in charge: **F. Neat**
- Dates of delivery: **2020.03.30 - 2020.04.24**
- Synopsis: *WMU has been promoting gender equality as a research agenda as well as a cross-cutting theme for all maritime and ocean research at the Doctoral level. WMU has launched a research project on Empowering Women for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, supported by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This project will look into the role of gender equality and empowerment of women in the conduct and delivery of ocean scientific research, as well as in the delivery of ocean science and governance related advice for regulatory and other purposes. The course is designed as an introduction to gender research approaches towards the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The course will incorporate a mixed methodology including literature review, critical discussion, presentation and in-class learning. This course will enhance the student's methodological and analytical skills needed for gender research. Overall the course will enrich the students' understanding of gender and its impact on research process and outcome.*

PHD 202 - Gender and Environment in Maritime and Ocean Sciences

- Credits (EC): **2 EC**
- Total student workload (hours): **50 hours**
- Faculty in charge: **M. Kitada**
- Dates of delivery: **2020.03.20 - 2020.04.24**
- Synopsis: *WMU has been promoting gender equality as a research agenda as well as a cross-cutting theme for all maritime and ocean research at the Doctoral level. Regardless of PhD research topics, gender research provides a unique and important*

perspective to support the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The course is designed as an introduction to gender and environment in maritime and ocean sciences with a mixed methodology of online and in-class learning. Through the active participation by students, this course aims to enhance the students' understanding of gender and its impact on research process and outcome.

PHD 203 - Sustainability, fisheries and social impacts

- Credits (EC): **10 EC**
- Total student workload (hours): **250 hours**
- Faculty in charge: **F. Neat**
- Dates of delivery: **2020.03.03 - 2020.06.26**
- Synopsis: *The subject is designed as an introduction to sustainable fisheries with a view to their environmental and social impact across the maritime and ocean communities. The subject will incorporate a mixed methodology including literature review, critical discussion, and in-class learning. Japanese fisheries will be used as a specific case study. This subject will enhance the student's cross-disciplinary knowledge, critical thinking and analytical skills needed for maritime and ocean research.*

PHD 204 - Foundations of Ocean Governance

- Credits (EC): **8 EC**
- Total student workload (hours): **200 hours**
- Faculty in charge: **C. Schofield**
- Dates of delivery: **2020.04.27 - 2020.05.08**
- Synopsis: *This subject is designed for students who want to enhance their knowledge of the international legal framework for the oceans established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOSC). This subject takes a multi-disciplinary approach to exam and analyse coastal and ocean governance, law, policy and management. It will explore how LOSC was developed, how its provisions are implemented and how the LOSC regime interacts with other international and regional bodies, non-state institutions and private entities. In addition, it will engage with leading legal experts and scholars to critically analyse selected cutting-edge topics within contemporary ocean governance.*

PHD 205 - International Agreement Negotiation: Theory

- Credits (EC): **10 EC**
- Total student workload (hours): **250 hours**
- Faculty in charge: **R. Long**
- Dates of delivery: **2020.05.26 - 2020.07.31**
- Synopsis: *This subject is designed for students who either are or intend to seek the opportunity to be appointed as a member of the national delegation or official representative to a particular international law-making forum. It applies to negotiations on both bilateral and multilateral levels in maritime and ocean law-making forums, including the International Maritime Organization, United Nations bodies, other intergovernmental international organizations and diplomatic conferences. This subject will incorporate a mixed methodology approach including literature review, critical discussion, mock negotiation, interview, writing, presentation and in-class learning. The subject will enhance the students' understanding of the theoretical principles of public administration and diplomacy, the role of different actors in the negotiation process, and the legal theories of international treaty law, international environmental law and the law of the sea.*

PHD 206 - Academic Writing for Publication

- Credits (EC): **8 EC**
- Total student workload (hours): **200 hours**
- Faculty in charge: **J. Hollander & Z. Sun**
- Dates of delivery: **2020.12.16 - 2020.04.07**
- Synopsis: *This PhD elective subject on academic writing provides doctoral candidates with the opportunity to understand and apply academic writing with a specific focus on scientific journal articles. The most common organizational structures in academic writing will be covered, including the IMRAD method. The PhD candidates will be introduced to a range of writing tools, learn how to analyse scientific texts, and conduct peer-review examinations. Aside from lectures, this elective subject will include a practical writing exercise where PhD candidates will be required to work on a draft article of their choice. This elective introduces and discusses the similarities and differences in academic writing in a range of disciplines such as natural and social sciences, law, policy, economics, and engineering. It is designed for PhD candidates from all research disciplines within*

the university's doctoral programme.

PHD 207 - Identifying Gender Equality Opportunities for the Ocean Decade

- Credits (EC): **8 EC**
- Total student workload (hours): **200 hours**
- Faculty in charge: **M. Kitada**
- Dates of delivery: **2020.06.15 - 2020.09.30**
- Synopsis: *In 2017, the United Nations proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, to be held from 2021-2030. The Decade will provide a common framework, across the science-policy interface, to strengthen the management of our oceans for the benefit of humanity. Recognising the neglected or underutilized human experience, skills, knowledge and creativity represented by women in the science community, achieving gender equality has become a cornerstone across all strands of the Decade. This subject is to identify gender equality opportunities in the maritime and ocean sectors. It will visit selected feminist theories such as ecofeminism and feminist political ecology; instruments such as gender mainstreaming and associated techniques; survey the status quo of the practice of selected international organizations; critically analyse the challenges and gaps in current organizational practices; and discuss opportunities and mechanisms to achieve gender equality for the Decade. The subject will incorporate seminars with subject experts and guided self- and group-studies. It will help develop the student's methodological and analytical skills needed for gender research*