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— Re-announcement of Subject-Specific Appendix 5.13 Psychology and Sustainability to the Framework Examination Regulations for Master's Programs at the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg

Re-announcement of Subject-Specific Appendix 5.13 Psychology and Sustainability to the Framework Examination Regulations for Master's Programs at the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg

The Executive Board of Leuphana University hereby publishes the text of Subject-Specific Appendix No. 5.13 Psychology and Sustainability in its currently valid version, taking into account the

- first amendment of November 12, 2025 (Leuphana Gazette No. 05/26 of January 12, 2026)

to the framework examination regulations for the master's programs at the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg dated September 17, 2008 (Leuphana Gazette No. 15/08 dated October 6, 2008), last amended on April 19, 2023 (Leuphana Gazette No. 49/23 dated June 16, 2023).

SECTION I

Regarding § 1 RPO, scope and designations:

The course components to be completed in Lüneburg are governed by the framework examination regulations for the Master's programs of the Graduate School and by this subject-specific appendix. The course components to be completed alternatively at the University of Groningen in the third and fourth semesters are governed by the examination regulations of the University of Groningen.

Regarding § 2 RPO, aim of the program, purpose of the examination

Professional competencies

Successful graduates of the Master's program will be able to...

- analyze transdisciplinary approaches at the interface between psychology and sustainability on the basis of empirical sciences.
- critically evaluate psychological theories and empirical findings with regard to their application in the context of sustainability.
- analyze human behavior and experience in situations relevant to sustainability in order to systematically understand underlying psychological mechanisms that prove to be barriers or conducive processes.
- apply and interpret selected interdisciplinary methods and advanced statistical approaches to sustainability issues with a specialized psychological focus.
- analyze current problems and existing debates in environmental psychology and sustainability sciences and reflect on them from a bottom-up perspective (individual-to-system) and a top-down perspective (system-to-individual).
- Apply a scientific multi-level perspective to the psychology of sustainability in order to analyze, describe, predict, and change the sustainable development of social, economic, or ecological systems based on human experience and behavior.
- Evaluate sustainability challenges and conceive and design psychological interventions to promote transitions to sustainable development that target individual behavioral s (I-frame) on the one hand, but also consider

the role of change agents in the context of social groups (G-frame) and systemic structures (S-frame) on the other.

Personal skills

Successful graduates of the master's program are able to...

- Discuss complex subject-related positions and problems with experts and laypeople, critically evaluate and present their own solutions by arguing effectively, and expand on these together with students, scientists, and practitioners from other fields.
- extract the knowledge they have acquired from one context, transfer it to other contexts and different levels, illustrate it, and communicate it to an audience in an understandable way.
- familiarize yourself with new, subject-related topics in order to achieve a self-selected learning or work goal, define the necessary steps to carry out this process, reflect on them, and pursue them in a goal-oriented manner.
- Clearly define personal learning goals and project-related goals, assess their feasibility, create and pursue results-oriented work plans, especially for sustainability topics.
- Expand their problem orientation and identify concrete solutions.
- Communicate appropriately in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary dialogues.
- Apply critical thinking to analyze complex situations in which human experience and behavior play a role at different levels, flexibly switching between different perspectives and models to develop approaches appropriate to the situation.
- apply different methods and approaches to analyze human experience and behavior in order to effectively develop and implement evidence-based interventions that address individual, group, and systemic challenges.

Regarding § 3 RPO, standard period of study, study structure, and scope

The standard period of study is two years. The scope of study is 120 credit points.

The first and second semesters are studied at Leuphana University Lüneburg. After the first two semesters completed together, students deepen their knowledge in the third and fourth semesters at Leuphana University or the University of Groningen by taking one of the following study paths:

- (1) Bottom-up perspective: in-depth study of interdisciplinary topics in sustainability science at Leuphana University, including a practice- or research-oriented internship (the latter with the option of a doctoral track)
- (2) Top-down perspective: Disciplinary specialization in topics of environmental psychology (ecological dimension).

Only those who have successfully completed all modules of the first and second semesters can be admitted to the second year in Groningen. The master's program is completed when a total of 120 credit points (CP) have been earned at Leuphana University Lüneburg or the University of Groningen in accordance with this subject-specific appendix or in accordance with the examination regulations of the University of Groningen. The modules scheduled in Lüneburg must be completed at Leuphana University, and the modules scheduled in Groningen must be completed at the University of Groningen. The final documents (transcript, master's degree certificate, diploma supplement, transcript of records) will be issued by Leuphana University for the study path at Leuphana and by both participating universities for the study path at the University of Groningen.

Regarding § 5 RPO, Academic Degrees

Master of Science (M.Sc.); Award of a degree, Master of Sciences (M.Sc.) after completing the study path "Perspective Bottom Up": Specialization in interdisciplinary topics in sustainability science at Leuphana University" from Leuphana University or Awarding of two degrees, one Master of Science (M.Sc.) from Leuphana University Lüneburg and one from the University of Groningen after completing the "Top Down Perspective" study path: disciplinary specialization in topics of environmental psychology (ecological dimension)" (double degree).

Regarding § 6 (3) RPO

The language of instruction and examination is exclusively English.

Regarding §7 (1) RPO

In the following module, the examination performance is ungraded: "Internship" (MA-P&S-10)

Regarding §7 (8) RPO

In the following module, the completion of coursework in accordance with § 7 (8) is a prerequisite for admission to the module examination, as this serves to advance the content of the course and the acquisition of skills and knowledge.

- Transdisciplinary Research Design (MA-Sust-2a); type of academic achievement: combined academic achievement, scope of academic achievement: 1 reflection sketch and 1 reflection discussion

Regarding § 8 RPO

The processing time for the master's thesis is 5 months. The scope of the thesis is specified by the examiners. The master's thesis includes an oral examination (§ 7 RPO), in which the examinee presents the results of his/her master's thesis and answers critical questions from his/her examiners. The oral examination is graded like any other examination. The grade for this examination accounts for one-fifth of the overall grade for the master's thesis.

Module overview Master's in Psychology & Sustainability

LG or Gr	4	Internship (MA-P&S-10) 10 CP	Master's Thesis 25				
LG or Gr	3		Applications from Communication Psychology: The Dissemination of Scientific Insights (MA-EAL-9) 5 CP	Selected Topics of Sustainability Psychology II (MA-P&S-9a) 5 CP	Sustainability Science (MA-Nawi-3) 5 CP	Sustainability Science Elective 5	Complementary Studies 5 CP
	2	Top-Down Perspectives in Sustainability Psychology: From Change Agency to Local Impact (MA-EAL-6) 5 CP	Selected Topics of Sustainability Psychology I (MA-P&S-9a) 5 CP	Applications from Research Methods in Psychology: Conducting Multivariate Analyses (MA-P&S-1) 5 CP	Transdisciplinary Research Project (MA-Nawi-6) 10 CP		Complementary Studies 5
	1	Bottom-Up Perspectives in Sustainability Psychology: From Individual Behavior to Global Impact (MA-EAL-2) 5 CP	Insights from Evolutionary and Developmental Psychology: Reflecting the Origins of Sustainable Behavior and Actions (MA-P&S-3) 5 CP	Interventions from Social and Community Psychology: Promoting Sustainable Social Identities (MA-P&S-4) 5 CP	Applications from Organizational and Political Psychology: Managing and Negotiating Sustainability Conflicts (MA-P&S-5) 5 CP	Transdisciplinary Research Design (MA-Sust-2a) 5 CP	Complementary Studies 5 CP

Modules at Leuphana University

Complementary Studies (CS)

In their second year, students choose one of two in-depth perspectives at Leuphana University or the University of Groningen:

- (1) "Bottom Up" perspective: Interdisciplinary topics in sustainability science at Leuphana University with the following modules worth 60 CP:
 - Internship (MA-P&S-10) (10 CP)
 - Applications from Communication Psychology: The Dissemination of Scientific Insights (MA-EAL-9) (5 CP)
 - Selected Topics of Sustainability Psychology II (MA-P&S-9b) (5 CP)
 - Sustainability Science (MA-Nawi-3) (5 CP)

As well as one module from nine Sustainability Science Electives (5 CP each):

- Introduction to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functions (MA-EBS-1)
- Resources and Sustainable Chemistry (MA-RMC-1)
- Introduction to Sustainability Governance (MA-GL-1)

- Organizational Sustainability Transformation Management & Entrepreneurship (MA-EAL-1)
- Current Topics of Sustainability Science II (MA-Sust-5)
- Global Sustainability Politics and Sustainable Statehood (MA-GL-5)
- Consumers as Agents for Sustainable Development (MA-EAL-5)
- Market Oriented Sustainability Management and Market Transformation (MA-EAL-4)
- Sustainable Energies (MA-Sust-7)

(2) Top-down perspective: In-depth study of topics in environmental psychology (ecological dimension) at the University of Groningen with modules worth 60 CP.

The study components to be completed at the University of Groningen are governed by the examination regulations of the University of Groningen in accordance with § 1 (2) RPO. The relevant examination modalities will be announced in good time via the university information system. The master's thesis must be written in accordance with the provisions of the examination regulations of the University of Groningen. The first supervisor is an examiner from the University of Groningen and the second supervisor is an examiner from Leuphana University Lüneburg.

Modules of the Master's program in Psychology & Sustainability

Modules in the first year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 1st semester

Modules	Content	Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)	Module requirements	CP	Comments
<i>Bottom-Up Perspectives in Psychology: From Individual Behavior to Global Impact</i> (MA-EAL-2)	<i>The course addresses fundamental sustainability problems and questions regarding the psychological dimensions of sustainable behavior. The course offers an overview of psychological theorizing and empirical findings that aim to understand, explain, predict, and change human behavior in the context of sustainability. Psychological barriers towards sustainable behavior are explored and behavior change interventions are demonstrated to present important levers.</i>	<i>1 Lecture (2 CH)</i>	<i>Written examination under supervision (60 min.) or Combined Scientific Work</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>English</i>
<i>Insights from Evolutionary and Developmental Psychology: Reflecting the Origins of Sustainability Behaviors and Actions</i> (MA-P&S-3)	<i>This course explores the developmental and evolutionary origins of sustainable behavior. It examines the cognitive processes underlying sustainable behavior, how these develop in children, and what their evolutionary roots may be.</i>	<i>1 seminar (2 CH)</i>	<i>Combined Scientific Work</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>English</i>

Continuation of modules in the first year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 1st semester

Modules	Content	Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)	Module requirements	CP	Comments
<i>Interventions from Social and Community Psychology: Promoting Sustainable Social Identities (MA-P&S-4)</i>	<p>People's willingness to engage in sustainable behavior is significantly shaped by the social groups they belong to and the social identities tied to those groups. The module covers different social and community psychological theories and empirical findings on inter- and intragroup processes relevant to the sustainable transformation of societies. Based on this knowledge, students will develop an intervention concept aimed at transforming the social identity associated with a specific group or community (e.g., a school, a county) into a sustainable one.</p>	1 Seminar (2 CH)	Written examination without supervision or oral examination	5	English
<i>Applications from Organizational and Political Psychology: Managing and Negotiating Sustainability Conflicts (MA-P&S-5)</i>	<p>The course explores psychological factors and processes that shape economic and political transformation negotiations in sustainability-related conflicts, drawing on scientific and empirical research. Students reflect on psychological theories and develop strategies for negotiation and conflict management in the transformation of organizations and political institutions towards sustainability. Practical exercises bring the theory to life from an applied perspective.</p>	1 seminar (2 CH)	Combined Scientific Work	5	English
<i>Transdisciplinary Research Design (MA-Sust-2a)</i>	<p>This module provides the theoretical and epistemological fundamentals of transdisciplinary sustainability research. It introduces integrative approaches to socially relevant problems, transformative methods of sustainability research, collaboration skills, and team roles. Parallel to the lecture, students begin to familiarize themselves with the strand-specific case (i.e., context, structures and processes, historical development) and explore possible joint research objects.</p>	1 Lecture (2 CH) 1 Seminar (1 CH)	Written examination under supervision (90 min) The completion of a combined academic performance in accordance with § 7 section 8 is a prerequisite for admission to the module examination	5	English

Modules in the first year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 2nd semester

Modules	Content	Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)	Module requirements	CP	Comments
<i>Top-Down Perspectives in Sustainability Psychology: From Change Agency to Local Impact</i> (MA-EAL-6)	<i>This module examines how macro-level changes such as transformative policies and institutional frameworks may promote sustainable behaviors and translate into local impact. The course moreover focuses on the interactions between different levels, including how policy support influences system-level decisions and how these decisions, in turn, shape local engagement and sustainability outcomes.</i>	Lecture (2 CH)	Written examination under supervision (60 min.)	5	English
<i>Selected Topics of Sustainability Psychology I</i> (MA-P&S-9a)	<i>The module deepens knowledge in current research fields of sustainability psychology. For example, students learn about the connections between sustainability goals, e.g., in the area of climate change, and mental health, and how to protect, maintain, or restore mental health despite crises.</i>	1 Seminar (2 CH) or 1 lecture (2 CH)	Written Exam or Combined Scientific Work	5	English
<i>Applications from Research Methods in Psychology: Conducting Multivariate Analyses</i> (MA-P&S-1)	<i>In this course, students will learn about data analysis techniques for hierarchical and multidimensional data, and data with a time component. Selected statistical techniques will be discussed in detail. The mathematical foundations of these techniques will be introduced, and the techniques will be applied to data sets from psychology and sustainability science. Students will learn how to apply these models and draw inferences from them.</i>	1 seminar (2 CH) or 1 Lecture (2 CH)	Written Exam or Combined Scientific Work	5	English

Continuation Modules in the second year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 2nd semester

Modules	Content	Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)	Module requirements	CP	Comments
<i>Transdisciplinary Research Project</i> (MA-Nawi-6)	<i>In this module, students implement the research plan that they developed in the module "TD Research Design" and autonomously apply methods of transdisciplinary research. In cooperation with practice partners, they work with different strategies and proposals on the co-production of knowledge and solutions for sustainability. With the help of regular coaching and input from the lecturers, the students work independently to solve the previously identified case-specific problem, and it is their duty to close these knowledge gaps in both a scientific and practical manner. At the end of the project, re-integration products are finalized and final-products publicly presented and discussed.</i>	<i>1 Project (4 CH)</i>	<i>Combined Scientific Work</i>	10	<i>English</i>

Module in the second year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 3rd semester

Modules	Content	Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)	Module requirements	CP	Comments
<i>Internship</i> (MA-P&S-10)	<i>This module provides psychology students with practical experience and deeper insights into professional and research settings. Students will undertake an internship, either in an organization working on an applied project or in a research institution focusing on research in the field of sustainability psychology. Through their internship, they will have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world challenges and develop relevant skills. At the end of the 2nd semester course, students will present their experiences, key learnings, and findings in an internship workshop.</i>	<i>1 Seminar (1 CH) 1 Seminar (1 CH)</i>	<i>1 Combined Examination according to § 14 RPO, the examination performance is graded as "pass" or "fail"</i>	10	<i>English</i>

Continuation of modules in the second year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 3rd semester

Modules	Content	Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)	Module requirements	CP	Comments
<i>Applications from Communication Psychology: The Dissemination of Scientific Insights</i> (MA-EAL-9)	<i>The module focuses on the fundamentals of science communication, including sustainability communication. The theoretical perspectives are applied to current implementation strategies, including climate change communication and mis-and disinformation surrounding contested science.</i>	<i>1 Lecture (2 CH)</i>	<i>Combined Scientific Work</i>	5	<i>English</i>
<i>Selected Topics of Sustainability Psychology II</i> (MA-P&S-9b)	<i>The module deepens knowledge in current research fields of sustainability psychology. Within this framework, students expand their knowledge of psychological theories and empirical findings in order to describe, analyze, predict, and change human behavior in the context of sustainability.</i>	<i>1 seminar (2 CH) or 1 Lecture (2 CH)</i>	<i>Written Exam or Combined Scientific Work</i>	5	<i>English</i>
<i>Sustainability Science</i> (MA-Nawi-3)	<i>Beginning with an overview of the existing theoretical foundations of sustainability science and research, the seminar deals with the historical development, current challenges, and future potential of this research field. Key aspects include an examination of coupled human-environment systems, sustainable development, and global change. The interaction of disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research in sustainability science and the fundamentals of a problem- and solution-oriented research field are also discussed.</i>	<i>1 seminar (1 CH) 1 lecture (1 CH)</i>	Written examination without supervision	5	<i>English</i>

Continuation of modules in the second year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 3rd semester

Modules	Content	Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)	Module requirements	CP	Comments
Sustainability Science Electives					
<i>Introduction to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functions</i> (MA-EBS-1)	<i>Biodiversity has several components, including species diversity, functional diversity, and phylogenetic diversity, all of which are essential for understanding ecosystem level consequences of ongoing global biodiversity loss. This course focuses on biodiversity-ecosystem functioning (BEF) research as well as the larger implications of social ecological systems for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. It examines how global environmental change drives impact on biodiversity but also ecosystem functioning, ecosystem services, and nature's contributions to people.</i>	<i>1 Lecture (1 CH) and 1 seminar (1 CH)</i>	<i>Combined assessment</i>	5	<i>English</i>
<i>Resources and Sustainable Chemistry</i> (MA-RMC-1)	<i>Concepts of sustainable chemistry along the life cycle of chemical substances, materials, and complex products are explained (e.g., sustainable chemistry and green chemistry, importance of resources, green syntheses, materials and products, specifics of metals, recycling, dissipation, benign by design; safe and sustainable by design, and other concepts, new business models, international substance, material, and chemical management, EU Green Deal with a view to materials and chemicals).</i>	<i>1 Lecture (2 CH)</i>	<i>Combined assessment</i>	5	<i>English</i>

Continuation of modules in the second year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 3rd semester

Modules	Content	Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)	Module requirements	CP	Comments
<i>Introduction to Sustainability Governance (MA-GL-1)</i>	<p><i>This module offers a comprehensive and advanced introduction to environmental and sustainability governance. It aims to provide a thorough understanding of key concepts and theoretical approaches in this field and their application to real-world cases. The module explores the functioning of governance systems in the development and implementation of public policies that address pressing environmental and sustainability issues at local, national, and international levels. The module focuses on both the structural and procedural aspects of governance.</i></p>	1 Lecture (2 CH)	Written examination under supervision (60 min.)	5	English
<i>Organizational Sustainability Transformation Management and Entrepreneurship</i>	<p><i>This course introduces sustainability transformation management and entrepreneurship for organizations. Sustainability transformation management aims to fundamentally change an existing company so that it is both sustainable at the organizational level and contributes effectively to a sustainable market, society, and natural environment beyond organizational boundaries. Sustainable entrepreneurship initiates and establishes sustainability transformations at the meso level of markets, regions, associations, etc., and the macro level of societies and planetary ecosystems by founding and scaling new business units or independent organizations, which may be profit- or non-profit-oriented or hybrid organizations. By discussing processes, actors, and methods of sustainability transformation, this course offers an overview of approaches, opportunities, and limitations to foster sustainable development for and with organizations.</i></p>	1 Lecture (2 CH)	Combined assessment	5	English

Continuation of modules in the second year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 3rd semester

Modules	Content	Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)	Module requirements	CP	Comments
<i>Current Topics in Sustainability Science II</i> (MA-Sust-5)	<p><i>The module deepens knowledge in current research fields of sustainability science. Social-ecological systems are considered in a scientifically sound and interdisciplinary manner and are processed against the background of the respective disciplinary foundations and related to current challenges, whereby the problem-solving contribution and the potential of the research field become clear.</i></p>	<p><i>1 lecture (1 CH) and 1 seminar (2 CH)</i></p>	<p><i>Written examination without supervision or written examination under supervision</i></p>	5	<i>English</i>
<i>Global Sustainability Politics and Sustainable Statehood</i> (MA-GL-5)	<p><i>In September 2015, 193 member states of the United Nations agreed on the 2030 Transformation Agenda and, within it, on global sustainability goals (SDGs). Since the Agenda is not binding under international law, the question arises as to what significance the Agenda has for nation states and to what extent they are actually moving forward on the path to sustainable development. The seminar will use literature, empirical information, and country studies to examine the status and potential of sustainable statehood in the context of inter- and transnational political, social, and economic contextual conditions and dynamics.</i></p>	<p><i>1 seminar (2 CH)</i></p>	<p><i>Combined assessment</i></p>	5	<i>English</i>

Continuation of modules in the second year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 3rd semester

Modules	Content	Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)	Module requirements	CP	Comments
<i>Consumers as Agents for Sustainable Development</i> (MA-EAL-5)	<p><i>The seminar deals with the role of consumers in the context of sustainable development. In order to be able to present unsustainable consumer behavior, different theories and concepts of sustainable consumption will be dealt with. The seminar draws on approaches from different disciplines, such as business administration, economics and psychology. On this basis, barriers and facilitating factors of sustainable consumption are identified and existing concepts for the promotion of sustainable consumption are discussed. Based on this content, students work in groups to develop their own possible measures to strengthen sustainable consumption behavior.</i></p>	1 seminar (2 CH)	Combined assessment	5	English
<i>Market-oriented sustainability management and market transformation</i> (MA-EAL-4)	<p><i>The aim of this course is to acquire knowledge and reflect on fundamental perspectives, concepts, methods, and practices of market-oriented sustainability management and marketing. Market-oriented sustainability management aims to foster sustainability transformations through organizational, product, service, and process innovations that convince market actors (consumers, suppliers, competitors, etc.) and others (regulators, media, etc.) to engage in a sustainability transformation of the market.</i></p>	1 lecture (2 CH)	Combined assessment	5	English
<i>Sustainable Energies</i> (MA-Sust-7)	<p><i>The seminar focuses on the analysis of sustainable energies in terms of sustainability aspects, presenting current research and development examples as well as analyzing the application of systems.</i></p>	1 seminar (4 CH)	Written examination without supervision	5	English

Module in the second year of study at Leuphana University Lüneburg – 4th semester

Master's thesis (MA-P&S-11)	Writing of a master's thesis	None	1 Master's thesis and 1 oral examination	25	<i>English</i>
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SECTION II**Entry into force**

This subject-specific appendix shall enter into force on the day after its publication in the official gazette of Leuphana University Lüneburg (Leuphana Gazette) for the winter semester 2026/2027.

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