



## **Global Environments Summer Academy 2011 Socio-Ecological Interactions in a Dynamic World**

**1 – 26 August**

**Munich International Summer University  
Rachel Carson Center  
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich**

**Overview (version 15.12.2010): information provided here is tentative and subject to change**

The Global Environments Summer Academy 2011 (GESA 2011), as 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.

### **General Description**

GESA 2011 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.

GESA 2011 will provide both a platform and point of departure for students to learn, discuss and reflect upon the most pressing, controversial and planetary challenges of our time. The Academy is designed to broaden and deepen the knowledge, skills and communication abilities that are fundamental for future environmental leaders.

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the course 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, who will organize the participation of various lecturers from LMU Munich. 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 2011 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 2011.

## **Target Group**

The RCC and GDF are seeking 15 – 18 Masters or PhD students from around the world who have the potential to become future environmental leaders in academic, business, community or governmental institutions. The goal is to build an international community of young environmental scholars who will continue to network with each other as they develop their careers. Students from a wide variety of academic backgrounds as well as diverse cultures and geographical areas will be selected.

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 exact fee and availability of scholarships will be announced on 15 January 2011 when the GESA 2011 website is launched. The current estimated cost for the Summer Academy is €1250 inclusive of 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 tuition. Some of these scholarships will be restricted to students who are enrolled in one of the 438 LMU partner universities in 58 countries (please consult <https://www.moveon.verwaltung.uni-muenchen.de/move/moveonline/exchanges/search.php>).

Selected candidates, including those with full scholarships, will be required to pay a €200 non-refundable registration fee by 1 May 2011 in order to confirm a place in GESA 2011. Any students on full scholarships will have the registration reimbursed upon arrival in Munich.

The final tuition fee will be required by 1 June 2011. 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 2011. Ensure that you follow the application instructions carefully and submit all materials by 15 March 2011.

- Fill in the online application form on [www.globaldiversityfund.net/globalenvironments](http://www.globaldiversityfund.net/globalenvironments)
- Ensure that you 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.

## **Accommodation and meals**

The Munich International Summer University (MISU) will arrange accommodation for GESA 2011 participants in very modest single occupancy rooms in efficiency apartments located on or near the LMU Munich campus. The rooms are either equipped with a small kitchen or have access to a conveniently located communal kitchen. Sheets and blankets are included in the rooms and on-site laundry facilities are available but please note that towels and kitchen utensils are not provided.

Rooms in the student dormitories will be available from Monday 1 August only and must be vacated by no later than Sunday 28 August.

## **Health Insurance**

All GESA 2011 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 required. 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 November – 15 December 2010: Pre-application period

15 December 2010 – 15 March 2011: Application period

15 January 2011: GESA 2011 website launched

15 April 2011: Successful applicants notified individually and original letter sent for visa application

15 May 2011: Deadline for selected candidates to register for GESA 2011 and pay €200 registration fee

15 May 2011: All applicants notified of the final selection of candidates in a group mailing

15 June 2011: Deadline for payment of final tuition fee

1 – 26 August 2011: GESA 2011

28 August 2011: Last day for check-out from university accommodation