



M.Sc. Programme

# Sustainability Science, Policy and Society

Ron Cörvers

Master's Open Day

March 16, 2019





## Fast facts

- ✔ the youngest and most international university in the Netherlands
- ✔ 16.000 students, 4.000 staff, 40.000 alumni
- ✔ one of the best young universities in the world (THE, QS)
- ✔ the only Dutch university in the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)



International Centre for  
Integrated assessment and  
Sustainable development (ICIS)

Research, Education & Learning for  
*Sustainable Development*

*Towards a  
sustainable  
world*



International Centre for  
Integrated Assessment  
and Sustainable  
Development

## The Brundtland Definition (1987)

**“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”**

## Worldwide interdependencies

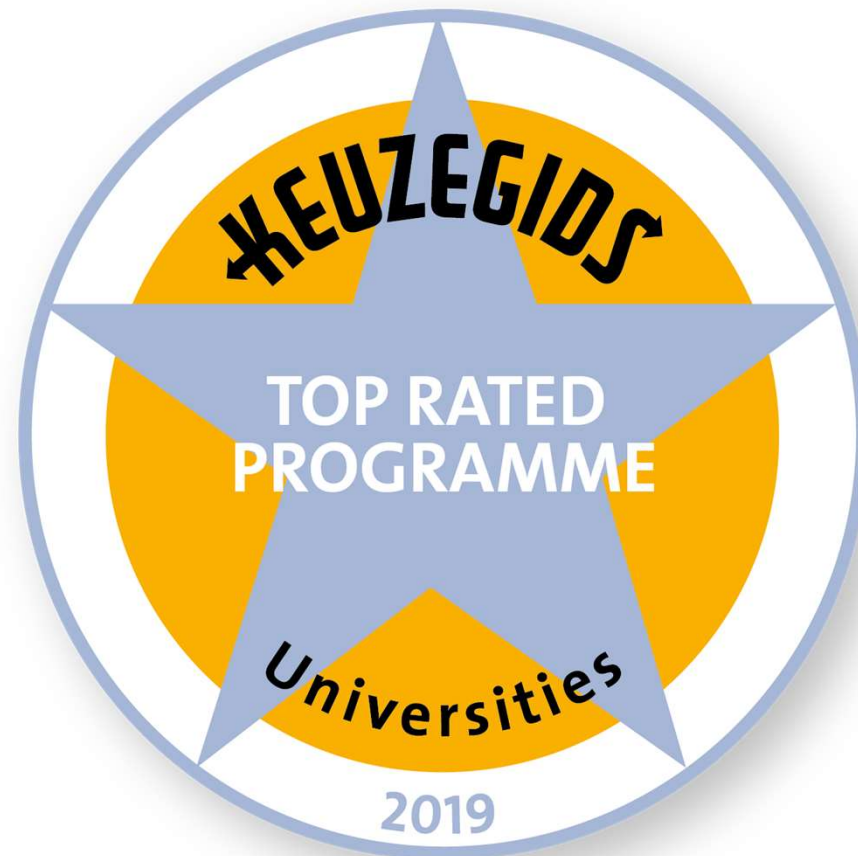
- **ecological interdependencies**  
(ecosystem services, life support systems, nature, etc.)
- **economic interdependencies**  
(global markets, international trade, supply and value chains, etc.)
- **political interdependencies**  
(nation states, EU, UN, WTO, NATO, etc.)

Sustainable Development = complex & normative

=> integrative approaches



# Master programme Sustainability Science, Policy and Society

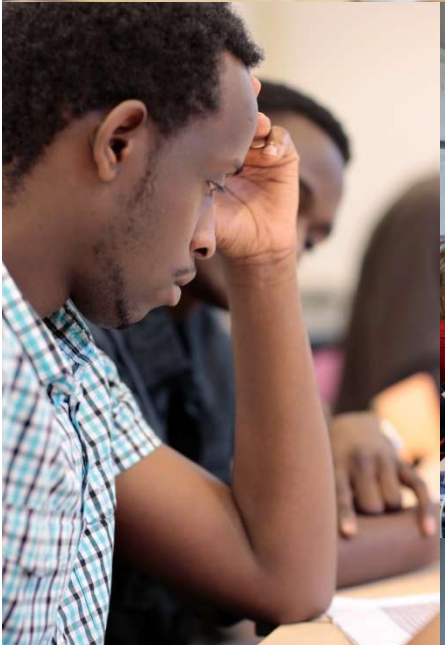




- 1-year program fully taught in English
- Problem-based Learning (PBL)
- international, multidisciplinary student group
- small-scale teaching and learning
- thematic courses focusing on sustainable development
- research for real clients (Integrated Sustainability Project)
- weekly 10–12 hrs classes, 28–30 hrs group work & individual





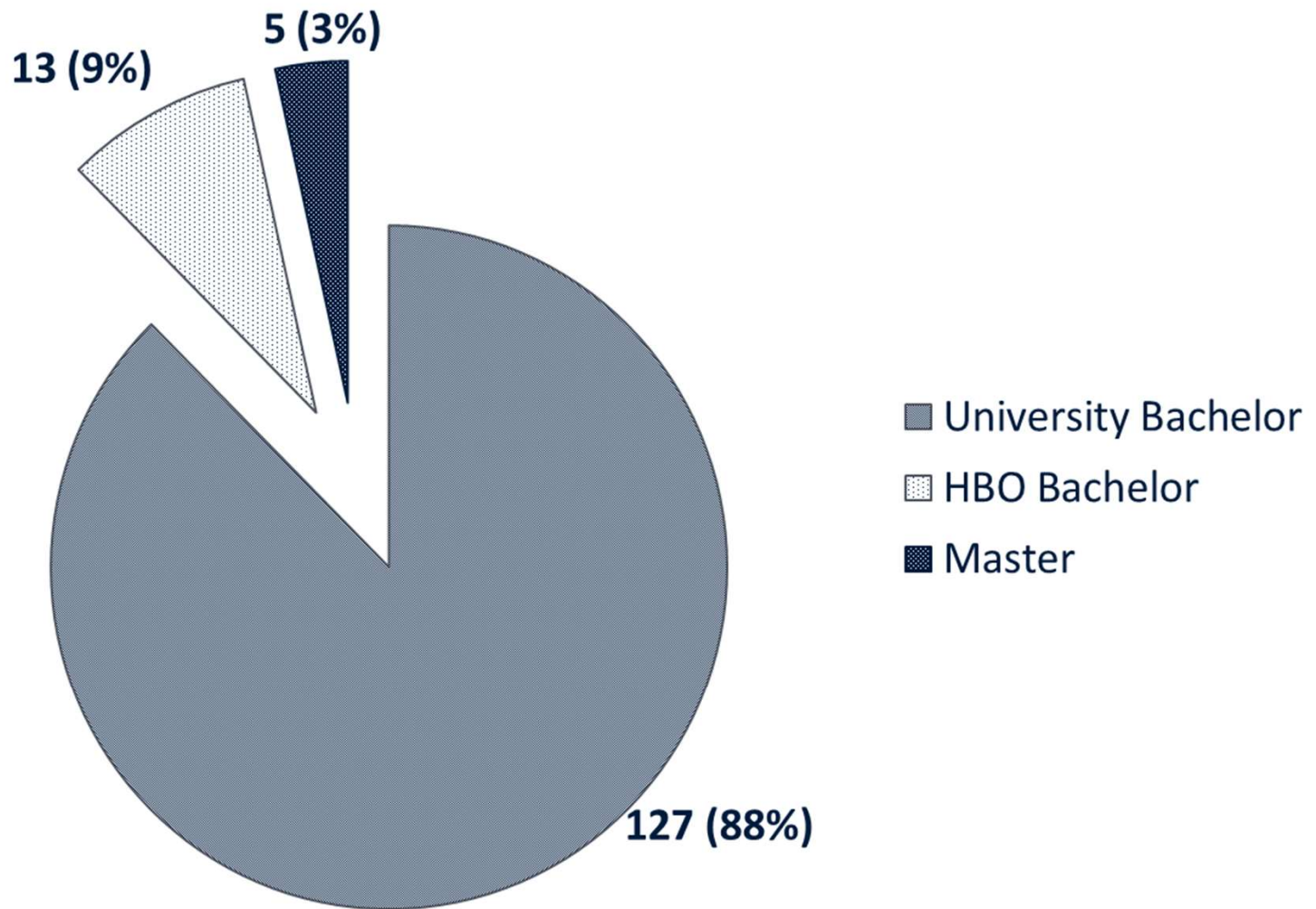




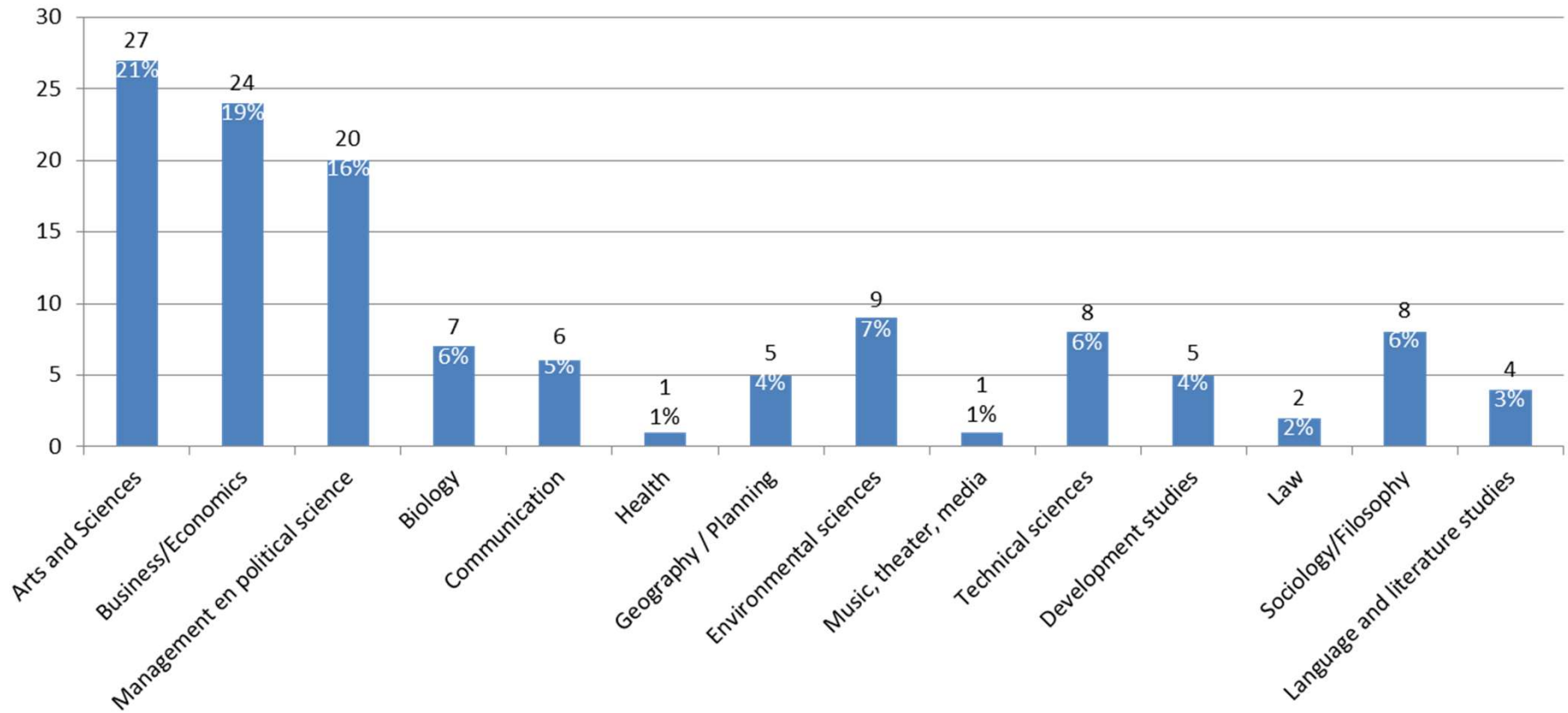
Year	Total students	NL	Other European	Non European
2011/12	<b>10</b>	3	6	1
2012/13	<b>22</b>	6	12	4
2013/14	<b>18</b>	1	11	6
2014/15	<b>13</b>	2	7	4
2015/16	<b>37</b>	9	23	5
2016/17	<b>44</b>	8	27	9
2017/18	<b>46</b>	13	26	7
2018/19	<b>49</b>	9	31	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>51 (21%)</b>	<b>141 (60%)</b>	<b>45 (19%)</b>

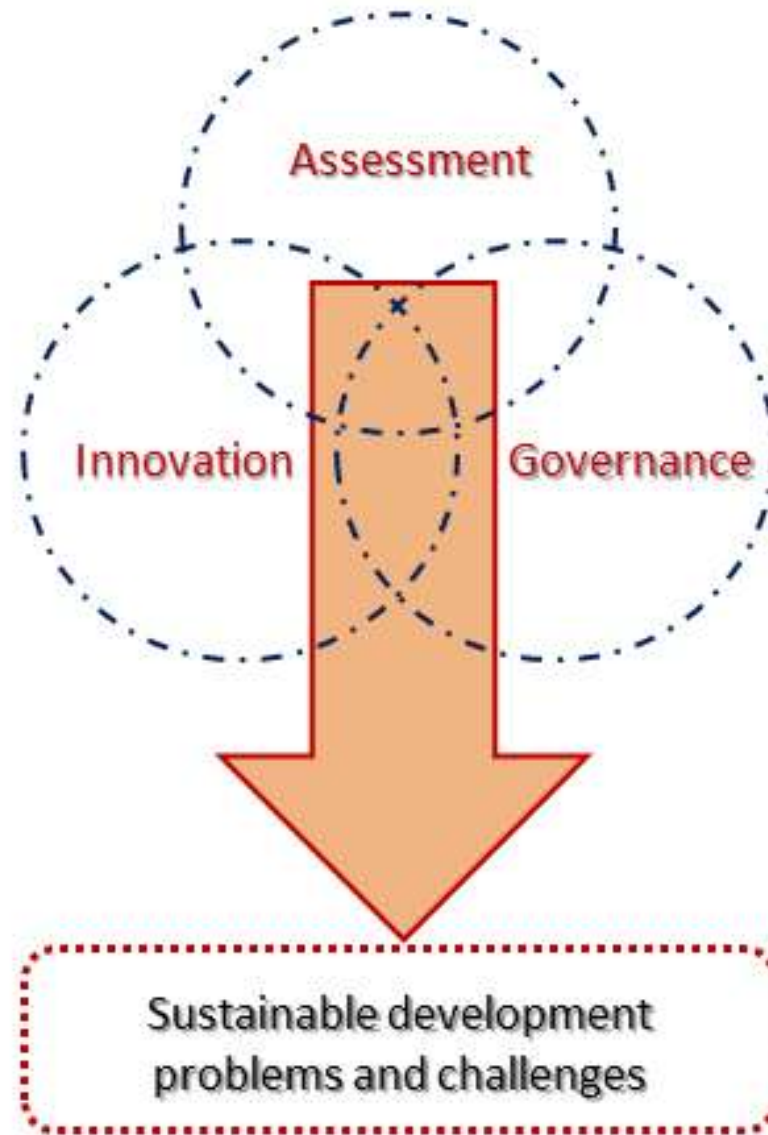


**Previous education Master SSP students 2011-2017 (N=145)**



## Education background master SSP alumni 2011-2016 (N=127)







# Master programme

## Sustainability Science, Policy and Society (60 ECTS)



- Problem Based Learning & Academic skills (1)

### *Understanding sustainability*

- Sustainable Development (5)
- Sustainability Science (5)

### *Policy for sustainability*

- Governance for Sustainable Development (5)
- Innovation for Sustainable Development (5)
- Sustainability, Law and the Environment (5)

### *Assessing sustainability*

- Methodology for Sustainability Assessment (5)
- Sustainability Assessment Skills (4)
- Integrated Sustainability Project (5)

### *Master's thesis on sustainability*

- Research Approaches and Methods (2)
- Thesis Research Proposal (3)
- Master Thesis (15)

## *Understanding sustainability*

### ❖ Sustainable Development

- provides an introduction into the field of study
- history and main ideas underlying sustainable development
- important theories, concepts and milestone publications regarding the complex interactions between environment and society

### ❖ Sustainability Science

- science at the interface of science and policy
- role(s) of scientists
- concept of boundary work
- structuring of sustainability problems

❖ **Governance for Sustainable Development**

- shift from governing by government to governing as governance
- global governance, local governance, multi-level governance
- all in the context of sustainable development

❖ **Innovation for Sustainable Development**

- different forms of innovation (product, process, social)
- transitions, socio-technological transformation
- social economy initiatives, experiments and social learning

❖ **Sustainability, Law and the Environment**

- builds on governance theory, examines role of law for environmental protection from the perspective of the government, business and victim (e.g. NGOs)
- international climate policy and law (e.g. Paris Agreement, European ETS)



## *Assessing sustainability*

### ❖ **Methodology of Sustainability Assessment**

- steps in sustainability assessment
- how to apply and combine different methods
- project plan for a sustainability assessment of a real-world sustainable development problem commissioned by an external client

### ❖ **Sustainability Assessment Skills**

- students practise and improve their skills in basic modelling, participatory methods, scenarios, and multi-criteria analysis

### ❖ **Integrated Sustainability Project**

- students work in small teams and conduct the assessment, which include an integrated analysis of the problem, identification and assessment of solution options, and formulation of recommendations for the client

## Integrated Sustainability Project (in 2018)

<b>Sustainable protection of drinking water sources</b>	2018	Waterleiding Maatschappij Limburg (WML)
<b>Mobility as a Service (Maas) in Maastricht</b>	2018	Maastricht Bereikbaar
<b>Sustainable Community Centres in Limburg</b>	2018	Spirato
<b>Sustainable energy in Heerlen primary school: BS Frans Postma</b>	2018	Province of Limburg
<b>Sustainability in Primary Schools: Suringar P.C. Basisschool in Maastricht</b>	2018	Province of Limburg
<b>Energy transition of the social housing stock: what can the municipality of Heerlen do?</b>	2018	Municipality of Heerlen
<b>Making cycling the social norm in Maastricht</b>	2018	via story
<b>The impact of the Paris climate agreement on businesses in Limburg</b>	2018	Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs & Climate
<b>The Overview Effect as a means to foster sustainable mindset and behavior</b>	2018	Columbus Earth Center, Kerkrade



## *Master's thesis on sustainability*

### ❖ **Research Approaches and Methods**

- research traditions, ways of knowing
- research methods (e.g. literature review, qualitative & quantitative methods)

### ❖ **Thesis Research Proposal**

- Thesis market (December) for students and staff
- topic and supervisor
- research proposal (April)

### ❖ **Master Thesis**

- research and writing (May onwards)
- presenting (begin July or late August)

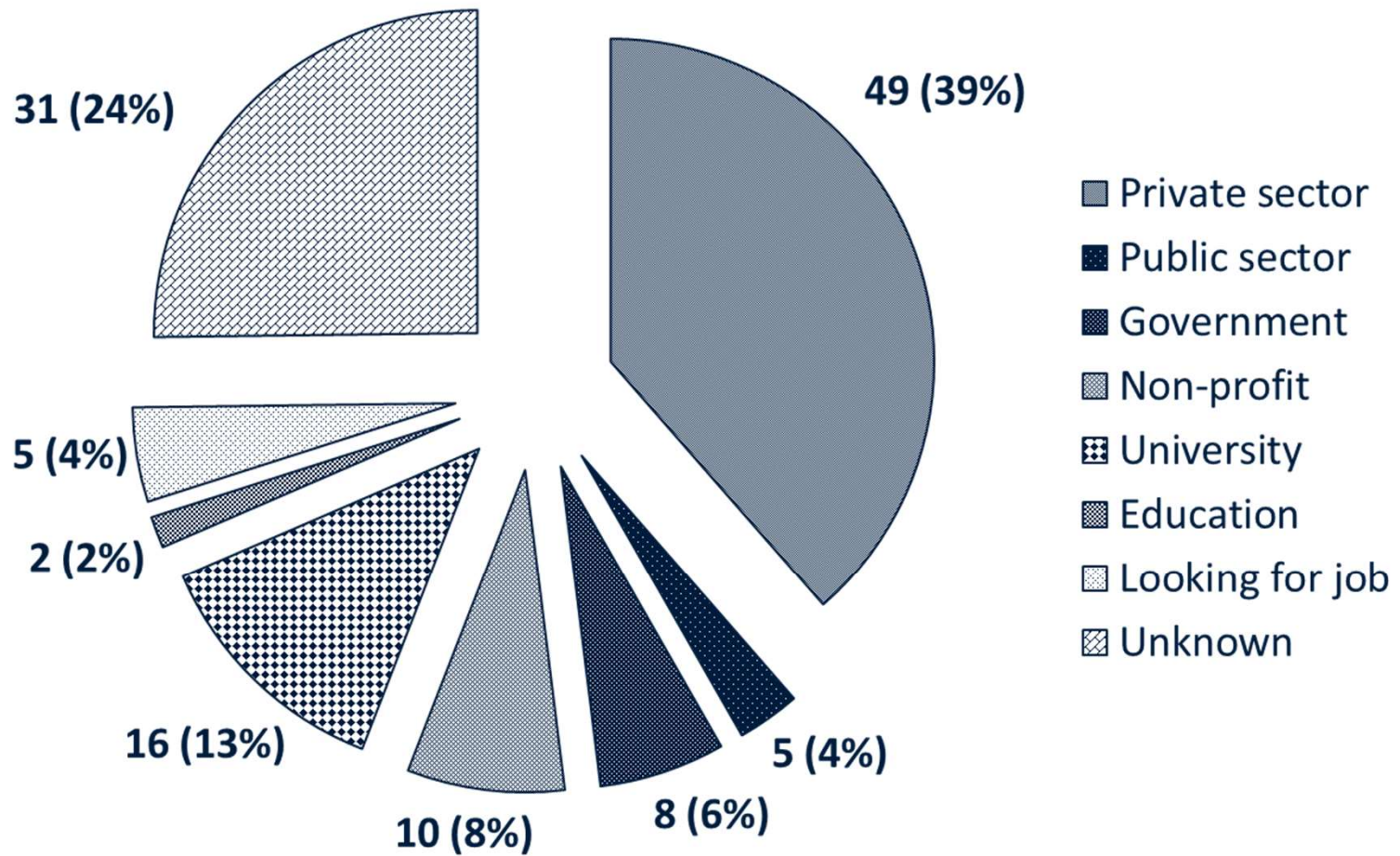
# Master SSPS graduates



Total	Graduated	Re-registered	Stopped
190	170 (90%)	12 (6%)	8 (4%)

Graduates (1 March 2019)

### Sector of employment Master SSP alumni 2011-2017 (N=127)



Graduates report suitable careers as sustainability professional, e.g.

- advisor
- analyst
- consultant
- lecturer
- manager
- policymaker
- researcher
- trainer
- PhD candidate
- etc.

## Examples employers

- Amnesty International
- Columbus Earth Center
- Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute Europe
- CSR Europe
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- Ernst & Young
- European Environment Agency
- General Electric
- Green Trust
- KPMG
- Siemens
- Tata Consultancy Services
- Universities (Aalborg, Charleston, Maastricht, etc.)
- WWF European policy office





# UM Master SSP website

<http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/masterssp>

Introductory video

A screenshot of the Maastricht University website. The top navigation bar includes links for "About UM", "Research", "Education", "Faculties", "Library", "Information for", "Contact", "Agenda", and "News". A search bar with the text "Zoeken" is on the right. The main header features the Maastricht University logo and the text "International Centre for Integrated assessment and Sustainable development". A left sidebar contains a list of menu items: "Sustainability Science and Policy", "Programme information", "Course descriptions", "Career prospects", "Testimonials", "Application and admission", "Frequently Asked Questions", and "Contact". The "Frequently Asked Questions" item is highlighted. The main content area is titled "Frequently Asked Questions" and includes a paragraph: "If you have a question that is not covered in the FAQs, please [contact us](#) and someone will get back to you as soon as possible." Below this is a section titled "Application & Registration" with a list of questions: "What are the admissions requirements for the MSc SSP?", "What are the application deadlines?", "Will applying for one of the earlier application deadlines increase my chances for admission?", "How can I register and apply?", "I am currently an undergraduate student. Can I apply for postgraduate study before I have completed my undergraduate degree?", "I have not yet fulfilled all the criteria of scientific basis on sustainability and/or research methodology, can I still apply?", "Can I defer entry to the programme?", "What if my first language is not English?", "When does the programme run?", and "Is it possible to study part-time or start in February?".



UM Master SSP website

<http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/masterssp>

Thank you for your attention!

QUESTIONS??

