

Sustainability in Education Survey Factsheet

*Faculty of Social and Behavioural
Sciences*

1 March 2021



Leiden University
Green Office



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Goodrise

Introduction

Leiden University Green Office (LUGO) and Goodrise conducted research on the sustainability attitudes of Leiden University students and their interest in including sustainability topics in their education. This research was conducted from December 2020 to February 2021. This fact sheet presents the findings for the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences. The full context, methods, and overall findings are described in the **main report**.

In total, we have collected 91 responses from the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, out of which 71 were bachelor students and 20 were master students. The ratio between men and women was 15 to 76. 0 respondents identified as another or no gender.

International students filled in the questionnaire 44 times, whereas 47 responses are from Dutch students. 0 respondents indicated their origin fits neither category clearly.

An overview of responses per programme is presented in Appendix I.

Defining sustainability and ranking the SDGs

The questionnaire asked respondents to briefly define sustainability. This helps the reader operationalise this term in the context of this research. These definitions are included in Appendix II. Additionally, respondents were asked to identify which five UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were most important to them. These findings are presented below.

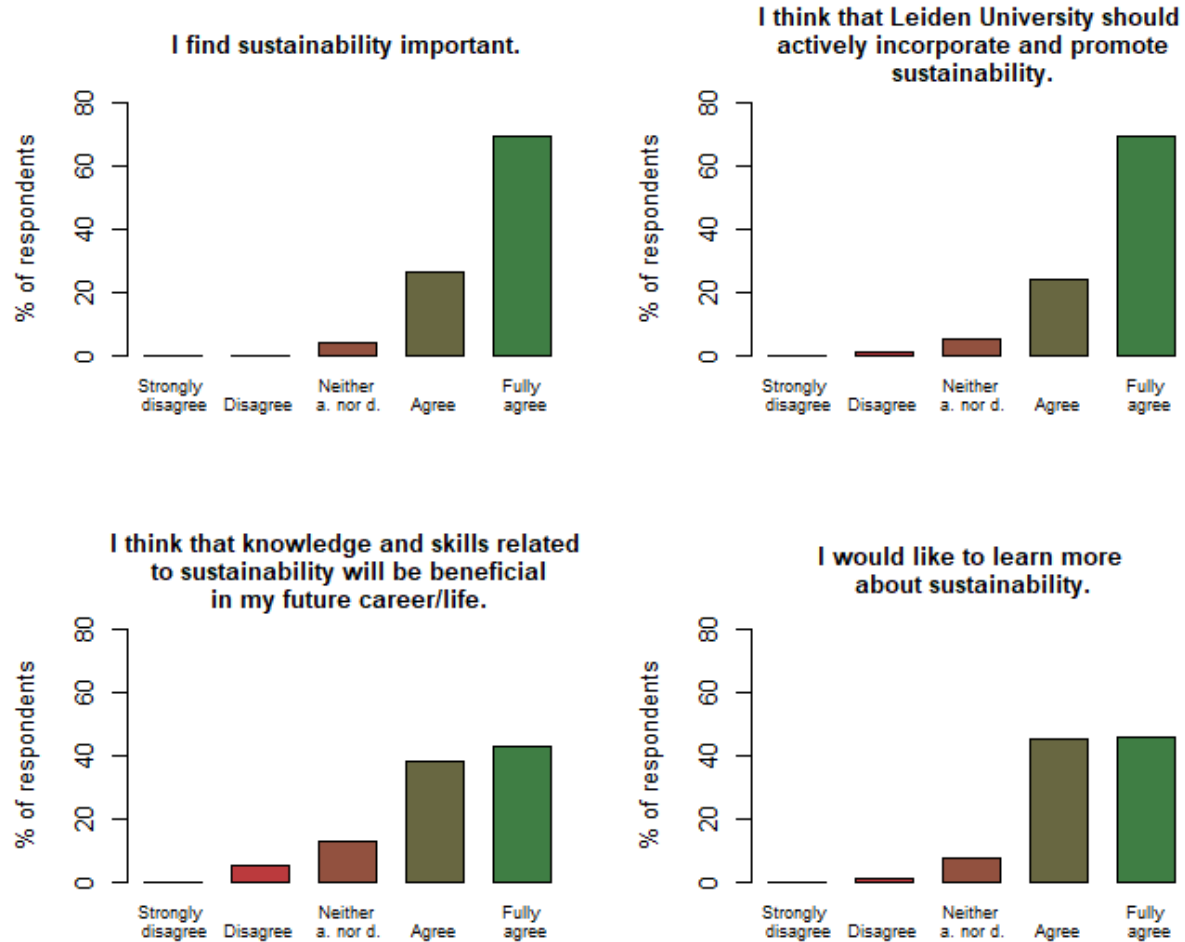
Most Important Sustainability Aspects, Acc. to Students





Students' general attitudes towards sustainability

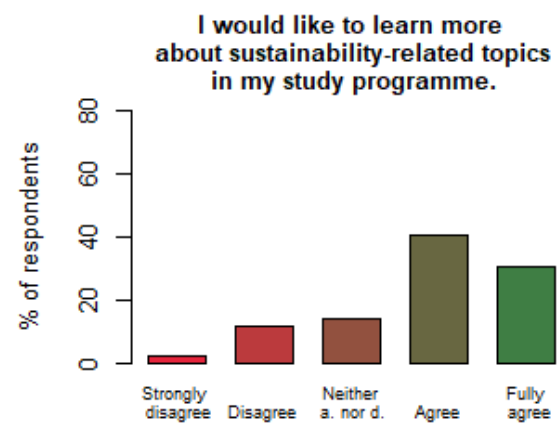
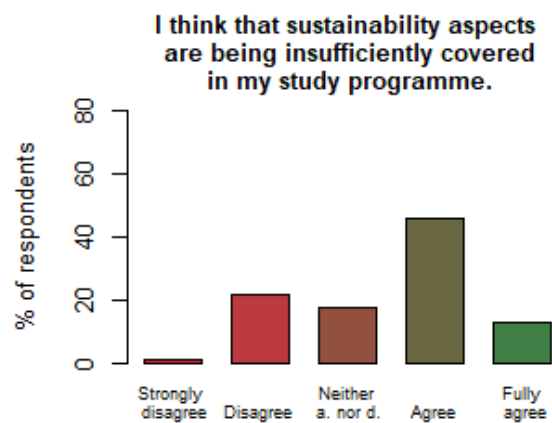
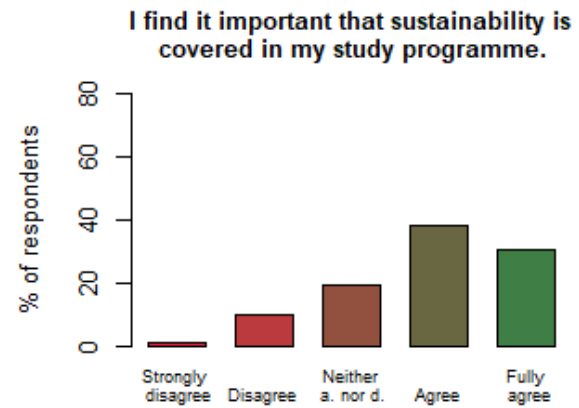
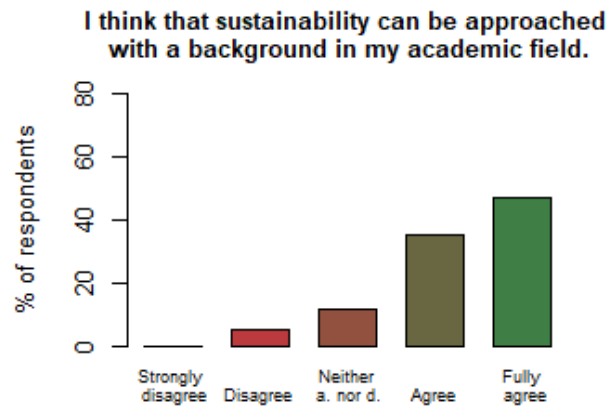
The survey presented several statements regarding sustainability to its respondents. Students were prompted to indicate the extent to which they agree with the statements, with answers as a 1-5 Likert scale. The answers to questions that were about sustainability in general or in relationship to the entire university are presented below.

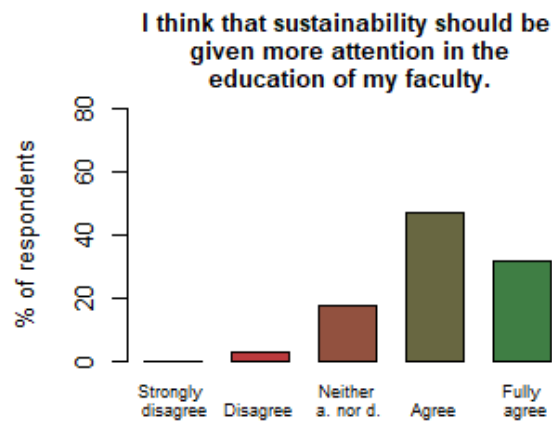
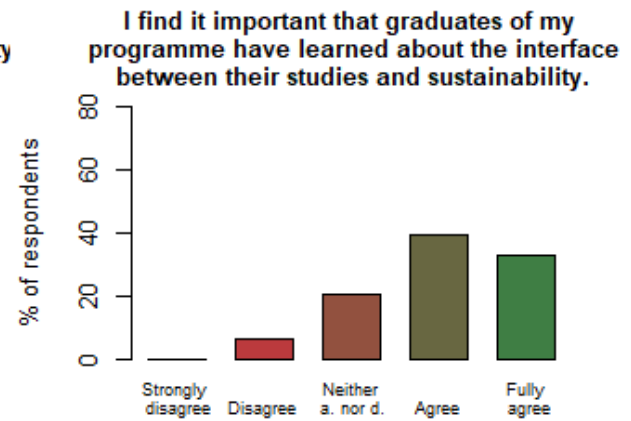
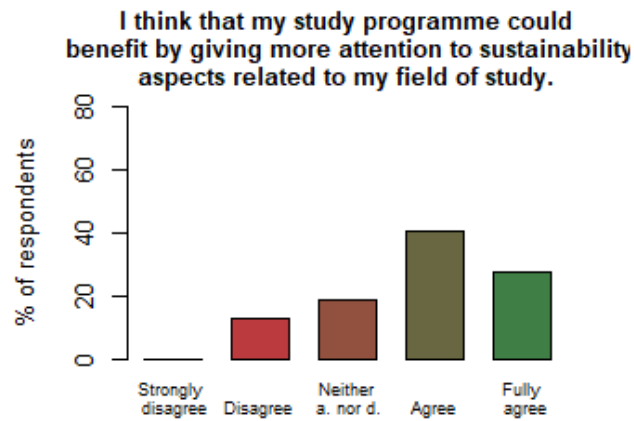




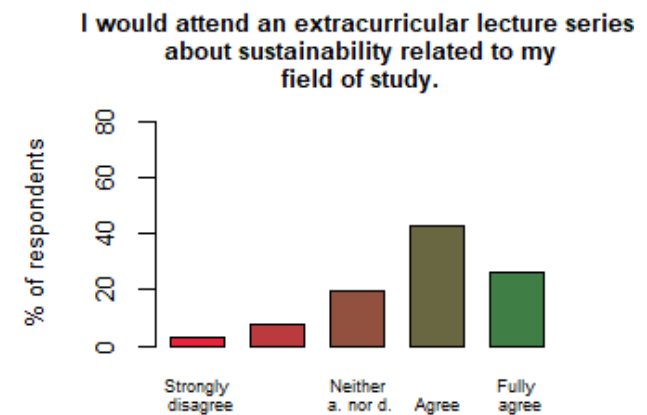
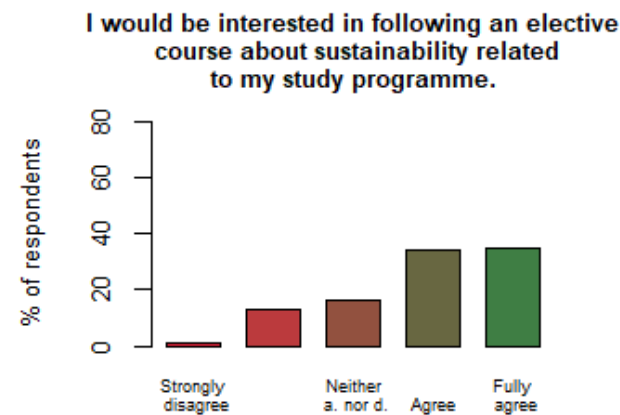
Students' attitudes towards sustainability in their study programme

The questionnaire resumed by presenting nine more statements about sustainability in relationship to their study programme.





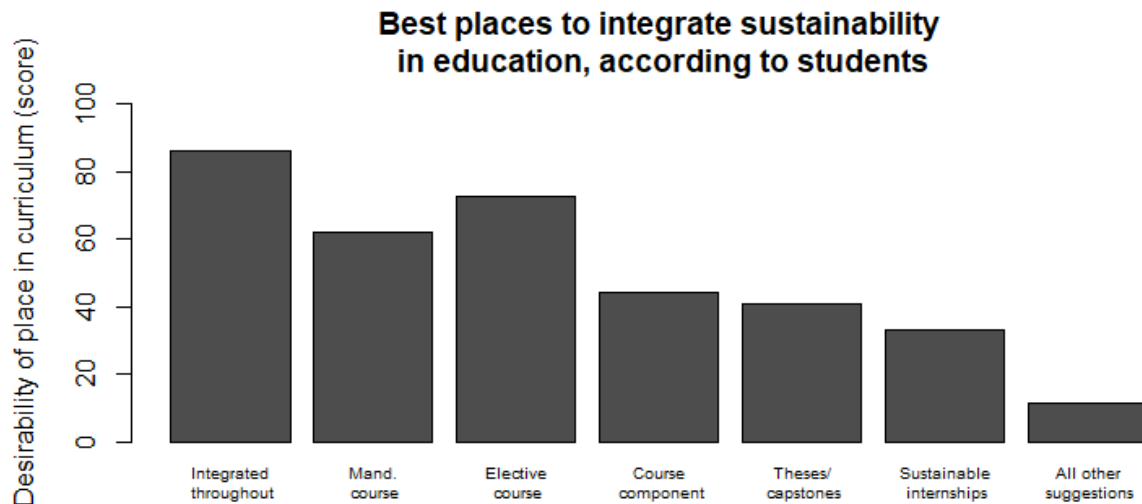
Finally, we asked if respondents are interested in an elective or extracurricular lectures.





Places in the curriculum to integrate sustainability

Several options exist for integrating sustainability in a study programme, such as creating elective courses or promoting the inclusion of sustainability throughout the existing programme curriculum. Students were asked where sustainability would fit best in their study programme by ranking seven options, including an open 'other' field. (See the full report for a detailed methodology on this metric.)



The survey also provided respondents the option to suggest a specific course in which sustainability could be given attention. These courses and other suggestions to further include sustainability in the curricula are included in Appendix III and IV, respectively. Further general comments on sustainability at the university are listed in Appendix V.



Appendices

Appendix I: Students per programme

Programme	n
BSc Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology	4
BSc Pedagogical Sciences	5
BSc Political Sciences	32
BSc Psychology	30
MSc Developmental Psychopathology in Education and Child Studies (research)	1
MSc Education and Child Studies	4
MSc Political Science	6
MSc Psychology	6
MSc Psychology (research)	3

Appendix II: Definitions of sustainability provided by students

Raw definitions of sustainability provided by students from the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences are provided below, in their original language.

- actions that preserve our environment
- op een manier met dingen omgaan zodat je er lang gebruik van kan maken.
- Duurzaamheid associeer ik met het zorgvuldig omgaan met het milieu en het bewust zijn van je consumptiegedrag.
- solutions for today's problems without harming future
- Keuzes maken waarbij je de voor en nadelen voor de natuur overweegt en hier rekening mee houdt.
- Niet (te) belastend voor het milieu
- Op een manier leven die goed is voor de planeet en toekomstige generaties
- iets wat over de langetermijn stand houdt.
- sufficiently meeting the needs of the current age without lasting detrimental effects or adverse reactions in the future



- living in sensible way in different aspects
- Practices of consumption or production that can continue in due course without causing detriment to the environment they work in.
- Kwaliteit boven kwantiteit, een oplossing die lang meegaat
- ability of a system to keep working in the far future
- Being responsible for our planet
- being able to provide for a better future for life on earth through renewable and clean resources
- What is durable, so lasts long and can still be used in the future.
- iets wat lang mee gaat, wat recyclebaar en herbruikbaar is en wat een hoge output heeft
- Manier van omgaan met producten waardoor zowel volgende generaties als niet-mensen een goed leven hebben
- Goed voor de planeet
- Groen
- Any activity that is possible to keep doing long term without damaging the planet or society
- bewust omgaan met de natuur, om op deze manier de natuur te beschermen en respecteren en op efficiënte manier te (her)gebruiken
- beter
- Zo min mogelijk belastend
- The ability to continue doing certain actions over a long time-period
- Long-term efficient allocation of resources including externalities
- Milieubewust, milieuvriendelijk



- Efficient omgaan met grondstoffen: gaat het lang mee, staat het nut in verhouding tot de gebruikte grondstoffen.
- Beslissingen maken die op de lange termijn positief uit pakken
- I understand sustainability mainly as something relating to environment/business: recycling, no overproduction/overconsumption
- A concept which ensures the survival of the planet and viability of the future
- Using resources in a way with guarantees a durable future
- Using different methods and products that last longer and are therefore also better for the environment
- smart choices considering the future
- Not harmful to the environment
- Leven op een manier die het leven van toekomstige generaties niet in de weg zit
- Toekomstbestendig
- Being able to extract resources at a rate in which they can be replenished.
- Practices that are durable over time
- Giving back as much or more than what you take
- Co-existence of a thriving global environment and human beings, who do not degrade the former for future generations
- The preservation of current resources in order to maximize them for the future
- Actions which allow the Earth to stay “healthy” in the long term
- milieubewust leven
- not taking more than there is



- Bewust van het effect op het milieu en bewust keuzes maken die het milieu ten goede komen of zo min mogelijk schaden
- behaviour or that support the recourses of the environment in a way these actions can still be carried out in the future
- using methods or part-taking in actions that can be used effectively now and in the future, while preserving the earth. .
- Using materials over and over, and relying on renewable sources of enegy that can 'sustain' us indefinitely.
- Being conscious of how your actions impact the environment, and reducing this impact.
- Sustainable is a circular economy. Things get reused, recycled or composted.
- Goed voor het milieu en weinig verspilling
- Aandacht voor het milieu, sociale geaccepteerde plaats voor iedereen
- Sustainability is a process that is sustainable in that it doesn't require many resources to keep it ongoing
- to enjoy freedom without harming another person's and animal's and living being's freedom - socially, economically, environmentally.
- Eco-friendly, recycling, reducing waste, low carbon footprint
- To be responsible and aware of how decisions you make have effect on the environment
- Being able to keep something at one level
- Hard to answer. I guess making sure that we are not only able to survive now, but also ensuring we survive in the future.
- Duurzaamheid is leven op een manier die geen/minimale schade aan de aarde oplevert.



- Minimalism, efficiency, renewable resources. Meeting our needs without compromising nature.
- Being able to effectively keep a balance of an aspect that's of concern at a long term perspective (e.g. energy)
- Actions that move us forward towards a more ecological and responsible life-style and production cycle.
- Ethical consumption that does not harm our environment or ethnic minorities
- Lowering our usage of natural resources & our waste (carbon emissions etc.) to a point where extinction & climate change are fixed.
- Using the resources we have in such a way that we don't completely deplete them. Things like not being wasteful, recycling, etc.
- Using the planet's resources in a manner that allows for replenishment
- Making use of something that already exists, buying something that you will cherish forever
- Duurzaamheid is kijken naar hoe we zuinig met dingen om kunnen gaan
- Goed voor het milieu
- Op een juiste manier met het milieu, natuur, energie etc. omgaan zonder dat het schade aanricht
- Zaken die het milieu ten goede komen of in ieder geval de belasting ervan zo veel mogelijk beperken
- Goederen produceren en gebruiken die klimaatneutraal zijn
- Using as many resources as they are able to replenish themselves.
- Iets wat lang meegaat en de planeet zo min mogelijk schaadt.
- Acties met een specifieke focus op het behoud van de natuur en voorkomen van opwarming van de aarde.



- Klimaatvriendelijk
- taking actions that respect and avoid harm being done to anyone/anything on this planet, so that we don't make things worse
- Trying to reduce Carbon print e.g buying products without packaging
- Taking care of the world first and then of yourself.
- duurzaam is goed voor het klimaat en de mens
- Multiple use and long lifespan
- Als mens alleen datgene nemen dat de natuur kan missen en kan herstellen.
- Sustainability is the responsible use of public goods so as to ensure that future generations benefit from them as much as we do.
- Bestendig voor de toekomst
- Living all together (people and environment) in harmony
- Gericht op lange levensduur zonder toekomstige schade aan mens, dier, klimaat etc.
- A way to live and organise society that doesn't prevent future generations to live decently.
- the interaction with and use of natural resources in a non-exploitative way and with respect towards other the human and natural dignity.
- Duurzaamheid is het behalen van de behoeftes van deze generatie zonder de behoeftes van toekomstige generaties in gevaar te brengen.
- Not causing harm to the environment

Appendix III: Potential courses for integrating sustainability

- global security
- culture and globalisation
- social and organizational psychology and group dynamics



- Global Security
- een vak dat alle researchmaster studenten krijgen, bijvoorbeeld Responsible Research in Practice
- History of Psychology
- Actors in world politics
- je algemene theorievak dat iedereen van die master krijgt
- Rational Choice
- Economics
- International Development
- Dynamics of International Organisation could have one week dedicated to governance of sustainability
- economics
- International development
- AWP
- Actors in World Politics, Global Security
- POCP
- Economic and consumer psychology
- Social & organizational psychology
- Inleiding vd psychologie
- Learning and instruction
- Personality, clinical and health psychology (second year), developmental psychology (2nd year), psychotherapy (elective)



- Social and organizational psychology
- stress health and disease? maybe?
- Social and Organizational Psychology
- Courses which are not statistics
- International relations
- Multiculturele achtergronden van opvoeding
- e.g. social psychology or stress, health & disease
- Global history
- International Development, Global History, Analysing International Relations, Contemporary Political Philosophy, International Political Economy, Global Security, Rational Choice Theory, Actors in World Politics,
- In het vak economy and ecology

Appendix IV: Other potential places for integrating sustainability

- additional voluntary extracurricular lectures
- None
- none
- Workshops
- as an extra curricular
- in the specialization course Health and Medical Psychology
- Not statistics courses
- Replacing statistics.
- Door op de faculteit hier energie in te steken, bijv. Een facultatief extra vak dat sociale wetenschappen aan duurzaamheid linkt



- Promote in minor

Appendix V: Further suggestions

Further suggestions on sustainability from students from the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences are provided below, in their original language.

- Arguably, it does not exist in my education experience at Leiden, it is something has to be wanted by the student - but some are not aware of it until going through various university experiences that make the idea of sustainability something that might be of interest to study
- Het is relevant om naar duurzaamheid te kijken omdat we er in de nabije toekomst veel mee te maken zullen krijgen en oplossingen moeten bedenken voor maatschappelijke problemen die gerelateerd zijn aan duurzaamheid.
- The waste in wijnhaven is not separated correctly once it is collected from the bins and everything is put together
- I hope Leiden University finds a way to integrate the topic of sustainability with the field of Psychology in a manner that is mandatory for Psychology students to learn about.
- Although I think it's an import subject to be educated on, I don't think it fits with a lot of study programs, it should rather be an extra-curricular thing.
- Succes met jullie project!! Hoop dat we de uni gezamenlijk duurzamer zullen maken:)
- Naar mijn idee is de universiteit over het algemeen actief in het bevorderen van duurzaamheid, maar niet zozeer op inhoudelijk gebied binnen mijn studie.
- Deel meer updates over welke middelen en maatregelen de uni nu al inzet en welke gepland zijn in de (nabije) toekomst.
- Sustainability can be approached by applied projects in reality, Leiden should therefore cooperate with the municipalities to realise projects
- In the fields of social psychology there are some electives and you are able to write a thesis on this topic, which is a big plus.
- I believe Leiden University is giving a fair shot at promoting sustainability. However, it could do a better job at integrating it as part of a student's mindset and not only at the superficial level (vegan options and recycling). Since students are future leaders



they need a strong framework for sustainability in the field.

- For me it's hard to see where there is room for education about sustainability since it is not really covered at all. I do find it an important subject and think it's a good idea to incorporate it on some level. However, it should not be pushed down people's throats. I'm a strong advocate for sustainability on all levels, but people's choices should also be respected (e.g. not making a course solely dedicated to sustainability mandatory)
- I wish we could learn more about sustainability related to economics, in first year, we only had one lecture with Dr. DiGuiseppe
- Environment in general seems to be more of a side note in the lectures
- I believe Leiden University should incorporate more about sustainability both in the courses and in campus life.
- Sustainability can be covered in nearly all programs, whether from the perspective of a natural science, politics, or humanities. The courses should fit the program, for example, a political science degree can incorporate a course which focuses on climate justice, and a degree in Cultural Studies can focus on the biggest threats facing that region and the institutions which are having an impact on climate there.
- Ik mis aandacht voor duurzaamheid in het curriculum op de universiteit Leiden.
- Leiden puts great effort in improving education and faculty to a more sustainable status. The studies of psychology could be enriched even more by the emphasis on how to treat, work and live even more sustainably than it already is. It is the study of how the mind works and what well-being means. By living a sustainable lifestyle Individuals and society will suffer less from inequality.
- Barely visible
- Sustainability at Leiden Uni is better than what I know from home, but there is still a lot more to do, especially in educating about it.
- Dat het beter in alle vakken een beetje toegepast kan worden, zodat iedereen het meekrijgt in plaats van dat je een apart keuzevak doet en er maar een paar studenten leren over duurzaamheid.
- For IRO, sustainability can be taught in a limited way because of the focus in the study (interstate relations, mostly at least). So sustainability can only/ mainly come



up in connection with international climate regimes and cooperation.

- ToF dat The Green Office bestaat en dat er al actief iets met duurzaamheid wordt gedaan qua afvalscheiding en watertaps
- Having some more free ecofriendly objects for students, for example thermos bottles or eco-shoppers.
- I think that Leiden University (and most of universities) do not act up to the stakes. Sustainability (which isn't sustainable growth because this is nonsense in my humble opinion) should and could be incorporated in most of the fields because it is not a field in itself, it is a way of doing. In addition, if these issues are not studied in universities where would they be ? For any issue, education is always one of the most powerful tool, and Leiden University should realise the power it has in terms of education of sustainability.
- No student of International Relations should be able to finish this Bachelor without understanding the political implications of the climate crisis. Without such knowledge a student of International Relations is simply not prepared for potentially the biggest challenge the international community has ever faced collectively. Therefore, I do not think that the interaction with topics regarding the climate crisis and sustainability should be limited to voluntary electives or lecture series.
- In het onderwijs is het wel aanwezig, maar het gedrag van de uni kan beter (bv meer vega eten in de kantines)