

Course information system		Year of study 2018-2019
Study programme	Applied Biology	
Course unit code	MN3408	
Course unit title	Ecosystem services and their value to society	
Location	's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands	
Coordinator (afk.)	Maaïke de Graaf	
Type of course unit (year)	Minor (3th year)	
Language of instruction	English	
Credits (ECTS)	15	
Moment of delivery (year and term)	May-July 2020	
Prerequisites	<p>To participate in this minor, you must have completed your first year college and have earned at least 40 ECTS in your second year.</p> <p>For this minor, an affinity for the living environment, agriculture or food is required.</p>	
Application deadline	1 February 2020	
Wijzigingen t.o.v. vorig jaar	N.A.	
<p>Course content (elaborate description of course content, in which the following questions are answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why this course (necessity and importance)? - Which themes are discussed? - Why sign up for this course? (think also of students outside of HAS University of A.S.) <p>Max 350 words</p>	<p>The world's population increases rapidly, climate changes, our natural resources are running out and biodiversity decreases. These issues result in an increased pressure on our ecosystems (both natural and man-made). However, we rely on these ecosystems to provide important services to man, such as the production of food, purification of air and water, pollination of crops, regulation of diseases and climate, and opportunities for recreation. Degradation of ecosystems results in a reduced capacity for ecosystem services and hence in a reduction in benefits to our society. It is time to change this process!</p> <p>In this course, you will learn to consider our natural capital (i.e. ecosystems) and the services it provides, as a starting point for sustainable development. By looking at aspects like biodiversity, health, food, energy and green business opportunities, we can see our ecosystems as an endless source – if used wisely – of services that are essential to our high quality of life. We will look at the value of ecosystem services for different goals and at different scales. Would you, too, like to learn how to develop sustainable regional plans, green business plans or innovative nature management plans by taking ecosystem services and their value to society as a starting point?</p> <p>Besides understanding the theory of ecosystem services, an important part of the minor is a multidisciplinary group assignment, in which the concept of ecosystem services is used as a principle to find sustainable solutions for challenges in national and international case studies and study areas. Solutions can be found in social innovations, in improved nature management and agricultural methods or in new green business models.</p> <p>Why sign up for this course?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get inspired by the new expertise field of ecosystem services 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in a multidisciplinary project setting on sustainable developments, taking into account social, economic and environmental aspects. • Attend a diverse programme of lectures and guest lectures from sustainability experts • Build experience in an international context • Meet the challenges of various national and international cases and projects • Develop your talents: demonstrate your field of expertise related to the project to your fellow students 	
Learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, attitude and behavior)	<p>On completing this minor, you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in a multidisciplinary project setting, taking into account stakeholders from different backgrounds - Understand social, economic and ecological aspects of sustainability - Understand the concept of ecosystem services - Apply the concept of ecosystem services to a real-life project - Determine the value of ecosystem services for society - Know how to build concepts for sustainable developments on different scale levels 	
Learning activities and teaching methods (elaborate description)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multidisciplinary project work - Lectures and guest lectures, literature and field visits - International cooperation - Demonstrate your field of expertise related to the project to your fellow students 	
Learning activities and teaching methods	Method	Study load (hours)
	(guest-) lectures, excursions	210
	Project	210
	Total	420
Time table	To participate in this minor you must be full time available. No time table available yet.	
Costs	€ 150 max. for literature and excursions (possibly international).	
Themes	Ecosystem services, sustainable development, biodiversity, health, food, energy, green business opportunities, nature management, data handling.	
Remarks	Maximum of 60 students.	