



**CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP
IN GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY**
VIRGINIA TECH



Online Master of Natural Resources

PROGRAM GUIDE

CONNECT WITH CLIGS

VISIT: cligs.vt.edu ■ EMAIL: CLIGS@vt.edu ■ CALL: 571-858-3338

The Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability (CLiGS) is housed within Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment and headquartered in Blacksburg, Virginia.



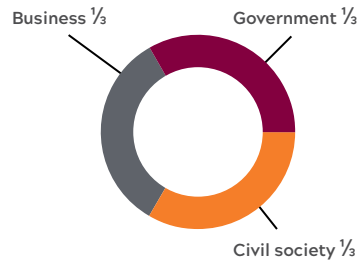
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About the Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability

The Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability (CLiGS) equips current and aspiring environmental and sustainability professionals with the credentials, competencies, connections, and confidence to become more effective leaders, now and in the future.

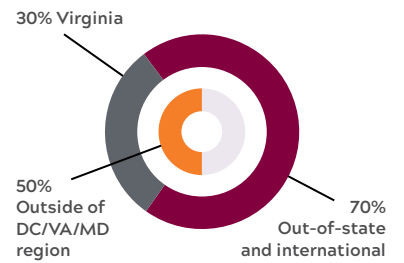
Our mission is to **educate, inspire, and empower** sustainability professionals to create a better future for people and our planet.

SECTOR



(Where our students work)

GEOGRAPHY



(Where our students live)



1,000+
GRADUATES



LET'S CONNECT!

■ EMAIL: CLIGS@vt.edu



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Online Master of Natural Resources (OMNR)

The Online Master of Natural Resources (OMNR) is a 30-credit, virtual, and flexible degree program that prepares students for careers in environmental sustainability. The program combines online coursework and participation in a 10-day, face-to-face Global Study that takes the place of the typical professional graduate degree capstone project. Students interested in more than one Global Study may pursue additional opportunities through the Study Abroad option, to be discussed with a graduate advisor upon admission.

Whether you're about to graduate with your Bachelor's degree, are a recent grad, or have been working for a decade or longer, this flexible interdisciplinary program instills the conceptual and critical thinking skills necessary for lifelong learning and career development. MNR graduates are prepared to succeed on a truly global stage as natural resource, environmental, and sustainability professionals.

COURSES

- **Core courses:** Global Issues in Environmental Sustainability, Leadership Communication for Sustainability Professionals, Constructing Sustainability, Strategies for Sustainability, Sustainability Systems
- **Elective courses in these focus areas:** Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Cities and Urban Systems, Climate Change, Environmental Policy, Sustainable Business, Water and Marine Systems

[SEE THE FULL LIST
OF ELECTIVE COURSES
ON OUR SITE.](#)



LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE
MASTER OF NATURAL
RESOURCES ON
OUR SITE

Important Application Information

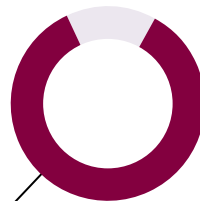
- Completed undergraduate degree
- Completed VT Application for Admission
- No GRE required
- No additional cost for out-of-state or international students
- English proficiency assessment is required for international students per Graduate School requirements



AVERAGE AGE: ~35
AGE RANGE: ~20-55



AVERAGE ENROLLMENT:
~15-20 STUDENTS PER
COURSE



85% OF INSTRUCTORS ARE
ACTIVE PRACTITIONERS IN
THEIR FIELDS



Global Study

MNR students participate in a ten-day Global Study experience—a required part of our degree in both programs—to engage with real-world global sustainability challenges.

Students in the **Online Master of Natural Resources (OMNR)** are able to choose from the Global Study options offered while they are degree-seeking in the program.



Past OMNR locations for Global Study have included Argentina, Bali, Brazil, China, Croatia, Cuba, Estonia, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Finland, Morocco, Turkey, South Africa, and Switzerland.

Those who are interested in emphasizing international experiential learning during their time in the program have an opportunity, if desired, to visit multiple destinations as part of their graduate degree coursework.

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

Understanding similarities and differences between cultures, and how those factors underlie different perspectives, is a key to success for global sustainability professionals. Students complete an intercultural competency assessment to enhance their understanding of their own culture and others as well.

LEARN MORE
ABOUT GLOBAL
STUDY
ON OUR SITE



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Alumni

Our graduates live and work all over the world, but they remain closely connected, both in person and online. Here's a small sample of the types of jobs and organizations where you can find our alumni.

"What was most valuable for me was the confidence I gained in discussing important and complex sustainability issues. I now have the credentials to speak up and make an impact."

ARSLAN AHMAD

"Throughout my experience, I learned how to step back and see things at a broad level—only then can problems be identified and broken down to achieve a long-term goal."

MIKE BECKNER

"This degree has helped me to build an international work portfolio and is also helpful as I assist in urban renewal programs in my hometown of Detroit. Challenges of sustainability are truly relevant wherever we find ourselves."

MAGGIE STRIZ CALNIN

"They're really teaching you the skills you need to be a leader in your field and to understand decisions that other leaders are making."

VIRGINIA FOSTER

"I was looking to move my career from a mid-level government employee to an executive position. After graduating, a year and a half later I became the executive director of a non-profit."

KATE FRITZ



WHO ARE OUR ALUMNI?

- Executive Director, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Energy and Sustainability Liaison at District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Sustainability Consultant, Dominion Energy
- International Trade Policy Leader at USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)
- Senior Client Engagement Lead at the Global Carbon Capture and Sequestration Institute
- Environmental and Social Specialist at MIGA-World Bank Group
- Conservation Strategy Specialist, Restoring America's Forests at The Nature Conservancy
- Country Director at the Institute for Sustainable Communities
- Sustainability and Environmental Specialist, U.S. Geological Survey
- Senior Product Manager at National Geographic Society
- Utility Programs Manager at project:HOMES
- Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Greenville
- National Program Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Natural Resource Specialist, U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- USAID Grants Auditor, Macfadden
- Communications Strategist and Science Writer, Duke University
- President, Sustainable Designs LLC
- Site Manager, GE Renewables

FOR
MORE STORIES,
VISIT THE
ALUMNI SECTION
ON OUR SITE



Student Resources

Whether it's student advising, career coaching and resume help, financial aid, or veterans' benefits, all MNR students can count on the support of Virginia Tech's faculty and staff.

GREEN CAREERS

As the sustainability field matures, employers look for skills beyond technical expertise. The issues and challenges are complex, global, and interconnected. People working on solving these challenges need to have the ability and the training to think strategically and systemically, and work collaboratively across many disciplines.

CAREER COACHING AND RESUME GUIDANCE

All our graduate students and recent alumni have access to personal career coaching. Even if you have a solid grasp of your values and skills, career coaching can help you advance in your career or pivot successfully to a new one.

FINANCIAL AID

Students may qualify for financial aid, usually in the form of student loans. Learn more on our [website](#).



THE VALUE OF A MASTER'S DEGREE



80% of employees in the Environmental, Health, Safety, and Sustainability field earn more than \$100,000/year.*



27% average salary increase between 2020 - 2023.*



A masters degree increases average salary by more than \$10,000/year for those with more than 3 years of work experience.*

2023 EHS & Sustainability Salary Report
National Association of Environmental Management (NAEM)*



Virginia Tech has been awarded designations as "Military Friendly, Silver Medal" by [militaryfriendly.com](#) and "Best for Vets" by [MilitaryTimes.com](#). Students who are veterans, active military, or military spouses comprise almost 15 percent of each graduating class in the Online MNR.