Dear Incoming Student,

Welcome to SIT Graduate Institute!

Congratulations on your decision to attend the Sustainable Development: International Policy and Management program at SIT Graduate Institute in Washington, DC. We look forward to welcoming you to the “DC Center” and are keen to work with you to support you in achieving your academic and professional goals in the year ahead!

This brief letter will give you more information about the sustainable development program in DC. Please know that you will receive additional and regular communications later this spring and summer, including program participant questionnaires that you will need to fill out before you arrive on campus. We are planning a new student orientation beginning August 31st which will begin our journey together as a community.

Our program will help you gain the knowledge, skills, professional know-how, as well as personal and interpersonal awareness necessary to work as an inspired and engaged professional, citizen, and leader in your chosen field. In addition to the program’s required core courses, the Sustainable Development degree includes a short-term intensive field study course, as well as a practicum semester spent working in the field.

Additionally, students select a professional concentration from among the following three options:

- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
- Policy Analysis and Advocacy
- Social Innovation and Management

This means that in addition to gaining a Master’s Degree in sustainable development, you will also gain specialized knowledge and best practices in a specific professional area. Please be aware that regardless of the track you select, everyone in the program will gain some level of exposure to all three specialization areas.

**Suggested Pre-Arrival Reading:**
There is so much wonderful literature in this field that it is hard to single out a few suggested readings, but here is a sampling of books that you might find useful and interesting for the summer:

Leslie Crutchfield and Heather McLeod Grant, *Forces for Good*
Thomas Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree: Understanding Globalization*
Duncan Green, *From Poverty to Power: How Active Citizens and Effective States Can Change the World.*
Richard Peet and Elaine Hartwick, *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments and Alternatives.*
Jeffrey Sachs, *The Age of Sustainable Development*
Amartya Sen, *The Idea of Justice*
Jeff Unsicker, *Confronting Power: The Practice of Policy Advocacy*

You have chosen an exciting program and we, along with our colleagues, look forward to meeting and working with you. Together we will discover new ways to view the work that we do in the world!

If you have questions about the program, please contact the admissions office at 1 800-336-1616 (802 257-7751 outside the United States) or visit SIT’s website at [www.sit.edu/graduate](http://www.sit.edu/graduate). We look forward to meeting you soon.

All the best,

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