

# MSLS2012

Master's Programme in  
Strategic Leadership  
towards Sustainability



[bth.se/msls](http://bth.se/msls)

# About MSLS

The MSLS programme is founded on the basic premise that to achieve a sustainable society within such a complex system as is society in the biosphere, we must first understand the basic functioning of the system and the principles for sustaining our life on Earth. Our chances of achieving what we want in the future are enhanced if we have a clear definition of where we are going and have a systematic and structured approach to planning and decision-making.

The MSLS programme revolves around two integrated themes: strategic sustainable development (SSD) - a science-based, strategic approach for planning towards sustainability; and organisational learning and leadership (OLL) - practising leadership to effectively create change towards sustainability.

# Biographies

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Sebastiaan van Zaanen

Selene Kfoury

Seyedeh Nafiseh Mousavi Rad

Sijme Geurts

Solveig Zophoniasdottir

Stuart Filshie

Tahereh Hassani

Taryn Tate

Thaela Stolz

Van Nguyen

## Adrià Garcia i Mateu Catalonia, Spain



Born on the outskirts of Barcelona, Adrià grew up facing the line etched on the horizon by the Mediterranean sea. He completed his studies in Product Design as the best student of his year. His main interests lie in the early stages of the design process, how to identify needs from wants, and searching for balanced interactions between elements in order to achieve harmonious results. In the last year of his studies while he was in Italy on an exchange programme, he took part in the LeNS Project, an EU funded pilot programme promoting the education of System Design for Sustainability. Since then he has immersed himself in exploring this new horizon which embodies all of his passions. His aim is to design human ecosystems that contribute to shaping sustainable interactions in both society and nature. Adrià loves pedestrianised streets, municipal markets and sport, in particular rugby.

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## Adrienne McCurdy Canada



Adrienne was raised in the suburbs of Toronto, Canada where multi-culturalism is in full bloom. Experiencing the highlights and pitfalls of merging cultures led her to study the psychology of cross-culturalism, group dynamics, attitude and behaviour change. Adrienne has worked, volunteered and traveled in over twenty countries seeking what makes a system exist in balance. Her diverse experience includes working for an environmental consulting firm in Australia, co-creating community art projects in Hawai'i, and co-producing the documentary Tahī – The Human Journey. Believing that beauty can inspire change, she loves to explore creativity through painting, photography and writing. Adrienne sees MSLS as the perfect platform to apply innovation, psychology, communications, systems thinking and strategic sustainable development to explore the co-creation of resilient communities. Her present focus is on the utilization of media to energize large-scale movements of connection, love and hope.

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## A. Eren Öztürk Turkey



As an Environmental Engineer by education, Eren specialised in waste treatment. However, he knew that this was not the way to save the planet! He decided to pursue Environmental Management and Environmental Education. After graduation, he was hired by an international environmental organization, Regional Environmental Center. It was a great experience to work for an organization which bridges the different environmental stakeholders in Turkey, mainly in terms of capacity building activities as well as education for sustainable development. The main reason for choosing MSLS as a life path is his never-ending internal will to find the real. Being an ex-competitor in sports, it seems he will never give up! He is an ex-rower, team captain, coach, drum player, traveller, coffee and rain lover, deep reader, thermodynamics and science fancier, and keeps trying to be better.

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## Alexander Craig Northern Ireland



Alexander grew up on the cliffs surrounding Ballycastle on Northern Ireland's north-east coast. As a social entrepreneur and dialogue facilitator, he has spent much of his professional life working with organisations such as Corrymeela Peace & Reconciliation Centre and TIDES Training & Consultancy to facilitate and empower communities involved in the Northern Ireland conflict to co-create new peaceful paths forward together. In 2008, inspired by the interconnection and balance of healthy socio-ecological systems, Alexander expanded the focus of his work to encompass sustainable development. This shift has swept him from co-founding the 7th Generation Project to facilitating 'Xpeditions' in China, to designing Interfaith Leadership programs in the USA. Alexander sees this year's MSLS program as an opportunity to hone the skills needed and cultivate relationships to build a platform to create a society in which we all can flourish. You'll often find Alexander laughing, cooking, taking photos, making rhythms with his body or playing football!

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## Amy Mireault Canada



Amy grew up outside Edmonton where she developed an appreciation for the beauty of nature while living amongst squirrels, moose and pine trees. She has worked with an environmental consulting company conducting energy and light audits in schools throughout Canada and Germany and assisted in researching for a book on home energy savings. She participated in Canada World Youth in Russia and PEI and most recently worked as an Energy/Environmental Analyst within the Alberta Government. This involved implementing environmental management systems into government buildings and as a departmental lead for the Greening Government Strategy. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta. She knows there is a way to have pine trees along with prosperity and her goal is to come closer to finding out how to achieve this balance.

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## Aniko Bunta Romania



Aniko is a Hungarian currently living in the western part of Romania. Her home is surrounded by mountains and rivers in a peaceful area. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography of Tourism from the University of Oradea. Later she completed her Master's programme in Educational Management. Since 2008 she has been working in a lower secondary school as a geography teacher. She is interested in nature, knowing people from different cultures, teaching children, classical music and helping people. Her dream is to make a physical and spiritual impact in this world. The world can be a better place if we put in practice all we say. She believes that actions speak louder than words.

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## Anthony Guido United States



Anthony is a design educator and industrial designer focused on sustainability. As an Associate Professor and Department Chairman in the Industrial Design Department at The University of the Arts Philadelphia, Anthony works in the development of creative human-centered design tools and methods for learning how to learn in a rapidly changing world. Anthony began his hybrid career in design education and industrial design practice working in Europe, the US, and Japan for several large companies, start-up ventures, and universities. Anthony has created and led industrial design studios on the east and west coasts of the US and his design work has been published in design journals worldwide as the recipient of national and international awards for design excellence. Reflecting on a career of helping others to learn and grow, Anthony has realized that strategic sustainable development is a core value for the next phase of his career and life.

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## Anton Valkov Bulgaria



Born into an international family, Anton has been exposed to the influence of diverse ideas, cultures and languages from an early age. His love for numbers and logic led him to study Accounting, but his interests were also in politics, societal development and international relations. During his first year as a student, Anton joined AIESEC, the world's largest student-run organization. He spent four amazing years traveling to more than fifteen countries on four continents, which challenged his worldview. Later, he was elected President of AIESEC in Bulgaria where he led a team of seven and managed the operations of an organization with over 450 members. These experiences made Anton reflect on his role in building a more sustainable world. His curiosity took him to Colombia, where he was International Cooperation Coordinator for a foundation focused on educational projects. Anton enjoys debates, acting, cycling, Spanish language and Latin dances.

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## Ashley Carine Courtney Canada



As an infant Ashley grew up in France and Africa, yet ended up in Toronto for schooling. Graduating from McGill in 2008, with a major in International Development and a double minor in Environment and Anthropology she went on to instigate and establish a continuously free and popular socio-political film local in Whistler, BC. In 2009, she led a local women's white water kayak initiative in Nepal, and went on to WOOF up the east coast of Australia. It was there that she explored various sustainable design initiatives, and completed a Permaculture Design Course. The following year she went to Taos, New Mexico where she learnt how to build off-the-grid homes called 'Earthships'. She now finds herself in Karlskrona with a strong interest in urban permaculture and is excited about learning all the leadership skills necessary to enable her to join the Swedish MSLS Mafia!

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## **Benoît Guyot** France



After studying Philosophy and International Business, Benoît worked in a raw material trading company where his role was sourcing and supporting new suppliers to apply organic and fair trade standards. He worked on adapting a well-established importer of aromatics and spices, to the best practices of the Food sector. After a two-year experience in supply chain functions, he was recruited to set up and manage a French-owned start-up company in the clean technology sector (industrial cleaning/degreasing Bio Tech products for the mechanical industry) in Sweden and lead the HQE system certification process of the company. Besides acquiring expertise in organisational change, Benoît discovered the innovative Nordic clean technology industry and created a consulting company called Abondance by Design (ABD) in order to promote and accelerate the diffusion of creative solutions for fulfilling basic human needs and mobilising communities whilst contributing to environmental conservation. Benoît is a young entrepreneur, convinced that FSSD is a invaluable resource for designing the successful businesses of tomorrow.

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## **Brendan McShane** Canada



Believing in a world of equality and peace, Brendan has always strove to harbour harmonious spaces for those around him. Fuelled by a desire to foster change within our socio-ecological fabric and a passion for reducing global suffering, Brendan completed a degree in International Development from the University of Guelph in 2009. While facilitating a community development project focused on environmental integrity, cultural equality, and personal empowerment in Costa Rica he found his bliss, as the project encompassed all of his passions. For Brendan, this experience sparked a deeper hunger for sustainability leadership. Having operated his own construction business for many years, Brendan now wants to combine the elements of his eclectic background into a career focused on sustainable practices. With an interest in capacity development, sustainable agricultural techniques, and allowing everyone a chance to have a voice, Brendan is excited to discover how the MSLS program will allow him to flourish as a leader towards global sustainability.

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## **Cassandra Caroline Carswell** Calgary, Canada



Interested in the ways people work towards a common vision, Cassandra wonders how communities develop commitments that maintain social integrity and a healthy environment. Her goal in MSLS is to continue fostering dialogue and self-reflection skills, because she understands that social cohesiveness and personal development are important aspects of sustainability. She has experience with facilitative group processes including being mentored in the “Way of Council”, and co-developing an internship program on Socially Sustainable Community Building at OUR ECOVILLAGE in Canada. She believes that humanity is truly capable of acting as an ecological steward, and she is conspiring a role to help humanity wake-up to their inherent capacity to live in ways more aligned with principles of sustainability. After MSLS, she will be collaborating with others from the emerging social-matrix of an inspired humanity to mix ecological and social sustainability with personal and spiritual development in a synergistic symbiosis.

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## Charlotte Gurr Canada



Charlotte grew up a nomad. Moving house every two years with her family opened her eyes to the world and all the adventures it has to offer. She spent time in Ghana working with rural capacity building initiatives in communities affected by mining, furthering her interest in resource management. She comes to the MSLS programme after working with Canada's largest food distributor on their sustainable seafood initiative and questioning the role businesses can play in empowering sustainability. Charlotte holds an Honours BA in Global Development Studies from the University of Western Ontario. Charlotte prefers to be called Carly, is happiest outdoors surrounded by friends and family, and considers home to be wherever her dog is. She loves life by the water, exploring new places, and the eccentricities you discover by opening your eyes to the world around you.

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## Charlotte Schou United States



Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Charlotte felt connected to the natural world at a young age growing up in a metropolitan area nestled between two national parks. She became frustrated with her community's detachment from the beauty of its natural surroundings. This disconnect, illustrated at home, inspired her to pursue studies in environmental resources. She earned degrees in International Affairs, Geography, and Geographic Information Systems at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. During her studies, she worked in the cartography division of The National Geographic Society. Also, she interned as a policy analyst at The Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary in Honolulu, Hawai'i. As an avid swimmer and water polo player, water is an important place for Charlotte. She loves to be near water whether that is an ocean, sea, lake, river, or swamp and enjoys exploring most of these options by scuba diving.

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## Christina Boldero United Kingdom / The Netherlands



Christina grew up in various countries in South East Asia before moving to the United Kingdom to earn a Master's degree in language and linguistics from the University of Cambridge. She also completed the Foundation Year Programme at the University of King's College in Nova Scotia, Canada. Christina has worked with a range of organisations focused on environmental conservation, including an international non-profit in California, a public research aquarium in the Caribbean and a grassroots wildlife coalition in Costa Rica. Her professional experience includes multi-stakeholder strategic planning for endangered species and threatened landscapes, primary and secondary education curriculum design, human-wildlife conflict resolution and community-based project management. Christina is interested in tools that combine inter-generational and intra-community dialogue and knowledge-sharing to address societal imbalance linked to environmental degradation, socio-economic inequality and biodiversity loss.

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## Christina Sieber Germany



Christina is equally fascinated by nature and technology. Driven by the desire to understand how things work, she studied biology, which led her deep into the trenches and drill holes of science. She emerged with a PhD in Biochemistry and the revelation that true insight requires an appreciation of 'the whole'. Christina joined the MSLS programme in order to complement her science background with the systems thinking and leadership skills required to help society return to its sustainable roots under modern terms. Christina grew up in a family that loves to travel. Exploring the world has nurtured her passion for nature and the urge to capture its beauty in photographs. During her studies she developed advanced computer skills and started writing about technology. She eventually became a professional blogger, granting her the freedom to travel while working. Before coming to Sweden, Christina lived in Vancouver, Canada and traveled across North America.

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## Edwin Janssen The Netherlands



Traveling, watching documentaries and attending seminars made Edwin increasingly concerned with the environment and the fact that our current way of living cannot be sustained. Edwin feels the need to contribute to a better world and is convinced that combining his experience, skills and character with the content and format of the MSLS programme will empower him, and others, to make it happen. Edwin's initial education in the tourism and hospitality sector took him to Spain and Aruba. Subsequently he earned a double Bachelor's degree in International Business Administration in The Netherlands and Finland before completing a management traineeship with Ballast Nedam International, which brought him to Saudi Arabia. Edwin worked at (Logica) CMG Consultancy for seven years where he gained extensive experience with Project, Process and Test Management primarily for the financial sector. In 2007, Edwin founded ConsultEd from which he fulfilled various assignments on the edge of business and Information Technology.

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## Elias Kindle Liechtenstein



Elias' hometown (Triesen) is a modest village in a small but multifarious country. His upbringing and diverse interest in sports is reflected in how he approaches people. Elias always has an open ear, an open mind and an open heart for everyone who treats him with respect. As an environmental engineer (BA), Elias has a solid understanding of nature and its cycles, and has decided to put this knowledge to use by focusing his energy and effort towards sustainable development with its emphasis on the collaboration of nature, society and the economy. His primary motivation in applying for the MSLS programme was to understand how to combine these components and have them work together for a sustainable way of life. In the future he wants to live in a world where people who choose to can enjoy the sun and nature the way we do today.

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## **Ella Wiles** United Kingdom



Ella has had a life-long interest in the interaction between man/woman and his/her environment, and has explored this passion through geopolitics and anthropology. In need of a physical challenge after graduating in Socio-Political Geography from Sussex University, she climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for the charity Childreach International. This experience focused her attention on the power of education and empowerment to develop sustainably cohesive communities. Ella returned to London to work with the Helen Bamber Foundation, a human rights foundation for the victims of war, torture, rape and trafficking. She then moved to Cambodia and joined the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights, organising community training and forums in Cambodia's provinces. This led her to collaborate with KAMWORKs, aiding in the project management of Cambodia's largest rural photovoltaic project. As a participant in the MSLS programme, Ella's goal is to develop her skills as an agent of change.

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## **Emma Fancett** United Kingdom



Whilst studying European Languages and Culture, Emma discovered an unexpected love of teaching English. Often gearing her classes towards sustainability-related topics, MSLS presented her with the perfect opportunity to unite her inter- and trans-disciplinary passions. Furthermore, she particularly values the cross-pollination of ideas that the cultural diversity of the programme provides. Emma currently has a strong interest in pedagogy and is seeking the tools to enable her to work on integrating sustainability into education, as she sees this as the most important step to steer society toward a better future. Born and raised in central London, she was lucky to have the opportunity to spend extended periods of time in rural Tuscany. This allowed her to take on many new and exciting challenges such as project managing the reconstruction of a farmhouse and learning hands-on about Mediterranean flora and fauna. All washed down with a glass of local organic wine, of course.

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## **Giancarlo Pucci** Costa Rica



In 2010, Giancarlo combined his entrepreneurial spirit with his passion for trees and founded the Magical Trees Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes tree conservation using an innovative approach. The foundation recently published the book *Magical Trees of Costa Rica*, a national best-seller in that country. Giancarlo also holds a degree in business. His background includes ten years of experience in management positions across a different variety of industries. He has served actively on the boards of several NGOs in Costa Rica, including the Chorotega Model Forest Network, the Unesco World Heritage Guanacaste Conservation Area and the Guanacaste Tourism Chamber, this last one after being its executive director. Inspired by a vision of a balanced planet, he enrolled in MSLS in order to learn more about sustainability and help turn ideas into actions. Giancarlo is a keen nature photographer, surfer, and wholly passionate about life.

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## Guo Jingjing China



Guo Jingjing was born and raised in the middle of China. She graduated from Henan University of Economics and Law, then studied Human Resource Management at Sheffield University in the UK. Jingjing wants to work with others towards a sustainable future. She realizes the serious situation of Chinese sustainable development and wants to be able to contribute through her knowledge. By attending MSLS, Jingjing is looking forward to improving her ability of expression, communication, discussion and decision-making. Her hope is to introduce 'sustainability' to more Chinese people. In her spare time, Jingjing loves to explore new places and meet as many diverse people as she can. She is happy when she's in nature, and when she can share her experience with others.

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## Hamideh Farzaneh Iran



Hamideh's family cultivated a strong interest in her for nature and sports, while her academic studies led her towards sociology and political/gender issues. She completed a Bachelor's degree in social sciences and a Master's degree in cultural studies at Allameh Tabatabaee University. This led her to teaching, researching, and writing about sports, women's issues, body culture, and gender identity at the university level. Hamideh deeply believes that at the roots of humanity there is an underlying shared culture. Her dream is to live and spread diversity, cultural tolerance, non-violence and mutual respect, not only throughout her own life, but throughout her country and the world as well. Hamideh chose to take part in the MSLS programme to learn how to turn this dream into a reality.

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## Irena Efremovska Macedonia



Irena is a reliable, energetic and an optimistic person, who is very passionate about lifelong learning, discovery and action in the fields of innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainability. She was born in Macedonia, where she graduated from Faculty of Economics - Skopje with a BSc in eBusiness in 2010. Irena is committed to engaging people around co-creation towards sustainability, innovation and creativity particularly in organisational, community and individual practice. In all her initiatives she combines her passion for open innovation and co-creation with her solid foundation in Internet, Business and Social Media Marketing. Her diverse background includes Internet Marketing staff assistant at Faculty of Economics, creative media production executive, video trainer and youth worker, Personal Branding startup cofounder, neuromarketing and behavioral change explorer, wilderness voyager and adventurer. Irena has a positive personality and is a great team player who believes in the power of progressive ideas and more importantly in taking action.

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## Irene Chikumbo Zimbabwe



Irene is an enthusiastic and open-minded extrovert, who grew up in Harare, Zimbabwe. Growing up she nurtured her love for nature and wildlife. She acquired a BSci from the University of Cape Town specializing in Labour Relations and Organizational Psychology and worked in the retail sector. Additionally, she did some self-initiated advocacy work on the MDGs campaign. Driven by her love for community development, sustainability and entrepreneurship she decided to pursue a double Master's, one focused on innovation and entrepreneurship and the other on sustainability. She was a representative at the World Student Environmental Summit this year and will participate at the Oikos Winter School in Berlin on Sustainable Entrepreneurship. Having come to Europe to spread her wings, she hopes to help create and inspire future leaders and entrepreneurs by using Sustainable Development, Entrepreneurship and Global Partnership as the foundation for a better future in African communities.

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## Kareisa Hidy United States



Kareisa is a recent graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Energy, Business, and Finance. Her interest for sustainability started in high school when she took an environmental explorations class focusing on introductory scientific and environmental concepts. Her interest in the subject continued into college where she took additional energy and environmental classes to further her knowledge. During this time, Kareisa also became the president of the Penn State Energy Club where she organized a successful clean energy conference. This conference was supported by Focus the Nation, a non-profit organization centred on the transformation to a clean energy future. In addition to her studies, Kareisa has acted as an intern for the Clean Cities Coalition, a program sponsored by the US Department of Energy whose primary goal is to reduce the US dependency on foreign oil by promoting alternative and renewable fuels and alternative vehicles.

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## Katarina M. Wikström Sweden



Katarina has lived, worked and studied in the US and several countries across Europe. These experiences have given her an appreciation for international collaboration. As a former national team athlete, Katarina knows how team synergy can be used to successfully reach goals. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington in Seattle and later received Global Markets and Management Training with J.P. Morgan Bank in New York. Katarina's most recent work experience includes sustainability and change management with IKEA. She strongly believes sustainability represents true asset management, and a chance to sharpen our minds in order to detect new opportunities for successful leadership and good business. Her past volunteer activities include Meals on Wheels in New York and planting trees in her neighborhood. The forests, lakes and long white beaches of southern Sweden instilled in Katarina her love for nature. In her free time she can be found outdoors, skiing, sailing or trying to master a new watersport.

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## **Katja Macura** Canada



In her work, Katja's specialty is bringing creative ideas, business focus, and technology together to create unique business and marketing solutions. She is an experienced strategist, information and business analyst, and facilitator. Her strategy and consulting roles have focused on digital business and brand strategy, user experience, application design, and business management for both global brands and local businesses. Born and raised in Vancouver, Canada, Katja deeply values the unique opportunities she has had to access and connect with nature throughout her life. As a child she wanted to live in a completely solar powered house, and has not yet given up on her dream. An idealist with a practical side, Katja chose the MSLS program because of its focus on sustainability frameworks, real world application, and global orientation. She hopes to inspire herself and others to think in new ways, and looks forward to the opportunity to re-imagine the world's systems to support the future.

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## **Khaled Abdul-Ghani** Canada



Growing up in Ottawa, Canada and raised by Lebanese parents who fled to Canada during the civil wars of the 1980's, Khaled had the unique opportunity to live the best of both worlds. He graduated from the University of Ottawa with an Honours degree in economics and business while also pursuing a post-graduate certificate in International Development at Humber College in Toronto. Khaled was selected to represent the MSLS 2012 class as part of an International Delta Task Force to take part in the 2011 World Delta Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia. He also worked as a marketing advisor for Causeway Work Centre, a well-respected Ottawa-based NGO, and found his passion spearheading an Earth Day committee promoting green initiatives in the local bank where he currently works. Previously, as an interim District Leader in the Greater Toronto Area, Khaled was responsible for providing coaching to 14 branches on how to raise as many funds as possible for environmental development work right across Canada. In his spare time Khaled enjoys hiking and playing soccer.

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## **Li Zhe** China



Li Zhe grew up in a beautiful city, Kunming, which has the mildest climates in China. As a man with adventure spirit, he has a passion of mountain-biking, hiking and football and is also a holder of blackbelt of Taekwondo. Li Zhe holds Bachelor's and Master's degree in Business Administration. He worked for the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited (ICBC) for five years. To understand the balance between human needs and nature is critical, and sustainable development is more essential for present fast-developing China; he hopes to contribute to the significant job, meanwhile it's also a opportunity to challenge himself.

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## Melinda Varfi Hungary



Melinda was born in Hungary, where she was exposed to a wide range of arts from early childhood. With a Master's in English and Communication, Melinda went on to study International Affairs. Her firm belief in innovation led her to a start-up telecom company, and she went on to help innovative biotechnology companies abroad as a life science representative of the national Investment and Trade Development Agency. Melinda's world travels highlighted the contrast between the third world and developed countries, and made her realize that her way in this world would be to help people build bridges and cooperate sustainably with an open heart, for a vision shared by all. Melinda sees the MSLS programme at BTH as an exciting possibility to gain further knowledge and insight into sustainable development. She is planning to use her life science experience to ensure the same opportunities are provided to those in need as to those who can afford them.

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## Michael Wzdulski Sweden



Michael grew up in the outskirts of Stockholm where he developed a strong connection to nature and outdoor activities. After pursuing a career as an electrical engineer he decided to change paths and study international relations and political science at Stockholm University. To get further knowledge of environment and sustainability issues he chose to spend one year at Stockholm Resilience Centre where he got in touch with representatives from BTH and the MSLS program. Michael is committed to contributing to a sustainable society to the best of his ability, so future generations can have what many of us have taken for granted; clean air, clean oceans and the beauty of nature and biodiversity. In his free time Michael enjoys fly-fishing, photography, trekking, mountain biking, downhill, guitars and spending time with friends and family.

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## Michaela Hogenboom The Netherlands



Michaela's mission is to contribute to a more sustainable society. She has been the Dutch Youth Representative on Sustainable Development to the United Nations and worked as a Process Coordinator for Sustainable Development at HAN University of Applied Science. Prior to that, she studied Human Resource & Quality Management and did her graduation research at Enviu-Innovators in Sustainability. Recently she co-founded Rio+Twenties, which aims to build capacity and empower young people to actively participate in the preparatory processes towards Rio+20, (the High Level Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012). She is driven by admiration of the beauty of our planet and she is motivated to do her utmost to change the way we treat it. She strongly believes that we humans are able to live in balance with each other and our natural surroundings, raising the quality of life for all. This calls for a societal change and a shift of paradigms. In her opinion an entrepreneurial spirit, passion and personal leadership play a crucial role in this transition.

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## Mischa Altmann Austria



Following a year in Paraguay teaching in a public school, Mischa earned an MEng in Electronic and Electrical Engineering from Leeds University, UK. He enjoyed the integrated multi-disciplinary work as an Engineering Consultant at Arup and later worked as Production Manager in a zero-carbon building start-up. It became increasingly clear that though many people worked towards sustainability few shared a common vision of what this actually meant in real terms. Mischa is convinced that technology plays a key role in meeting the sustainability challenge. However, in the end it is the everyday person, the parent, farmer, banker and artist, who plays the greatest role. Through the MSLS programme, Mischa hopes to develop effective leadership skills to affect behaviour of society on a significant scale to bridge the current gap and push towards a shared vision of a sustainable future.

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## Nathalie Nathe United Kingdom



Nathalie's interest in the interconnectedness of global sustainability issues and system approaches is rooted in her upbringing and has expanded through her BSc Geography degree from University College London (UCL). Following an internship with a community-environmental NGO in Peru and a Climate Change Research placement in Finland, she worked for several sustainability charities and as Environment Secretary for the NHS in London. Most recently, she worked for Forum for the Future on several projects, gaining diverse stakeholder engagement and research experience. Nathalie's ambition is to use her strategic planning, facilitation and leadership capabilities to help shift current unsustainable societal mind-sets, behaviours and models to ensure decisions and organisational strategies yield greater long-term financial and socio-ecological benefits. She wishes to expand her capacity building skills and facilitate cross-sector collaborations to address challenges. Nathalie is a certified PRINCE2 (project management) practitioner and speaks several languages. She draws inspiration from challenges, creativity and enjoys seeing the world.

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## Olivier Mazimpaka Rwanda



Olivier Mazimpaka "Camarade" was born in Kigali, Rwanda. He worked for the National University of Rwanda (NUR) on a project as an IT specialist in partnership with USAID which supported coffee cooperatives in Rwanda focusing on rural coffee growers to be in touch with the coffee consumers in both the US and the UK. Olivier also became a Cisco Networking Academy Certified Instructor and taught a networking course in the NUR in addition to becoming a network administrator before joining MSLS.

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## Petronella Tyson United Kingdom



Petronella is interested in designing sustainable systems and socially responsible businesses that work in open and creative partnerships. She is a keen problem solver and an avid networker, using her position as a Fellow of the RSA to bring people and ideas together. She is wary of too much talk and promise in this field, and is eager to set things in motion. Thoughtful and committed, Petronella takes her friendships seriously, enjoys a good sense of humour and discovering new places and people. In a way, her skills align well to those required for both leadership and sustainability. Her thought process tends to bring a holistic and inclusive approach. Her background is in politics, social enterprise and small businesses, having managed a business that supported community engagement and local businesses. With her MSc, Petronella is keen to foster a clear understanding of the current global situation, and using best practice, engineer businesses to reach a sustainable vision.

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## Rachael Gould United Kingdom



Educated in mathematics and physics, Rachael joined an international engineering company and moved into the systems architecture area where she was a technical project manager in the future systems directorate. Rachael has also developed her leadership skills as a volunteer officer in the Sea Cadet Corps, where she led teams working towards helping local teenagers with good young citizenship. A trained innovation facilitator, Rachael is experienced in facilitating creative problem solving for both engineering and business issues. Rachael aims to use the MSLS programme as a platform to build on her experience and develop her role in working towards a sustainable future.

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## Rutger Verkouw The Netherlands



After receiving a double Bachelor's degree in International Business Administration in the Netherlands and Finland in 2000, Rutger kicked off his career working for various organizations in marketing and sales. Although the experiences were valuable, he increasingly pondered companies' impacts on society and the environment, and what a more positive contribution might look like. Wanting a deeper understanding he read books such as Paul Hawken's *The Ecology of Commerce* and watched many documentaries about sustainability. Later, Rutger joined the Global Reporting Initiative where he was responsible for the development, coordination and project management of capacity building projects. The projects involved working with suppliers of multinationals, to implement sustainability management and reporting capabilities. Rutger grew up in the Netherlands, Germany and the UK. He currently lives below sea level in Amsterdam, and thus has a vested interest in sustainability. He enjoys music, art, photography, travel, friends and family in any combination.

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## Sara Regio Candeias Portugal / Australia



Sara is an Environmental Engineer with a twist. After graduating from an Environmental Engineering degree in Portugal, Sara felt something was “missing” on how to truly tackle environmental problems. With the desire to focus on preventive rather than end-of-pipe solutions, Sara went to Australia to pursue further knowledge. It was through a Master’s degree in Waste Management that she became passionate about sustainability. Sara’s mission became to integrate sustainable development concepts and tools into projects. She worked for an international mining company and a City Council where she was actively involved in environmental, waste management, sustainable development and climate change projects. While based at a corporate level, she worked closely with operations, academia and community, building strong networks. Sara contributed to positive change within the organizations she has worked for and her commitment to continue this journey led her to the MSLS programme. Sara loves travelling and has a real appreciation for cultural diversity.

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## Sarah Rose Robert Canada



Sarah Rose is motivated by the potential for sustainable development to bring joy, connections, and enrichment into life. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology from McGill University. Her passion for learning through games has cast her into diverse roles, from a low ropes course facilitator at summer camp, to an intern in child psychiatry, and to an environmental educator in Madagascar with an NGO called “SADABE”. Here she used creative teaching methods to engage the local children in reforestation efforts, sustainable food production, and biodiversity research. During the MSLS program she is looking forward to learning more about sustainable community solutions while developing her facilitation and personal leadership skills. Sarah Rose takes pleasure in channeling her abundant energy into yoga, cooking local organic food, acrobatics, and outdoor activities of all sorts.

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## Scott Perret United States



Scott, a dual citizen of the United States and France, is deeply interested in the question of large-scale paradigm shift, as well as how to foster productive systems, social structures (including businesses) and behaviours that increase well-being for all. He is passionate about assembling and fitting together the puzzle pieces of a sustainable society, and, beyond that, a restorative one. Most recently, Scott consulted with the Center for Community Involvement and the Earth Ethics Institute at Miami Dade College in Florida, where he developed and presented a lecture on fostering sustainable behaviors. He also worked with Miami Dade County on its Energy Master Plan and its Sustainable Building Guidelines. Scott’s diverse background includes a history in theatre, 10 years of volunteer work with abused and neglected children, and a successful 13-year real estate practice in Seattle, USA. He loves communication, fitness, cities, good design and spending time in nature.

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## Sebastiaan van Zaanen The Netherlands



Sebastiaan passionately integrates joy into all that he does. His background in Martial Arts, communications and Neurolinguistic Programming helped shape his holistic perspective on life. After completing his Master's in Communication Sciences, he focused his attention on assisting socially and economically marginalized people to reintegrate into society. Sebastiaan's fresh approach to sustainability is grounded on creating a healthy inner-balance between body, mind and spirit. Playing with the understanding that our societies reflect the individuals that compose them, his main focus is on developing the inner capacities of individuals to find their own personal balance. After all, if everyone treats themselves with dignity and respect, their actions automatically are of benefit to the greater whole.

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## Selene Kfoury Brazil



Selene is passionate about environmental studies and cultural diversity. She believes in balanced partnerships among business, communities and governments as a path for a sustainable society; consequently for a better world. She holds a BSc in Engineering with specializations in Food Technology and in Environmental Management. Her professional background includes cleaner production, environmental and quality management systems in food companies, energy insurance underwriting and education in communities. She enjoys cooking, music and arts.

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## Seyedeh Nafiseh Mousavi Rad Iran



Nafiseh grew up in Shiraz, which is located in the south of Iran. She is passionate about the arts and traditional music, painting, khayam and moulavi divine love poems, as well as economics. She completed her MSc in Economics, where she investigated the impacts of GDP on outbound tourism in Iran. She discovered that tourism has positive impacts on the economic growth of her country in the short term and the long term. Nafiseh is very interested in learning about the potential for a sustainable economy, she hopes to combine sustainability with her scientific background. She strongly believes that a sustainable economy is one which takes into account that natural resources are more valuable than one that only pays attention to an increase in GDP.

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## Sijme Geurts The Netherlands



Sijme is an enthusiastic Master's graduate in Industrial Design (TU/e, Eindhoven, The Netherlands). His interest lies in the conceptual phase of design and he aims to truly innovate instead of enhancing existing products. This is done in an iterative and reflective design process in which both future users and new technologies are thoroughly involved. His work includes personal communicators for the elderly and interactive floor installations for creative workshops. It is Sijme's vision that true innovation stems from connecting different specialties. Therefore, he broadened his experience on a wide horizon, such as on internship at the National University of Singapore (Singapore) and the Interaction Design Lab (Milan, Italy). Fascinated with what he considers to be the biggest upcoming innovation he decided to extend his field to sustainability. Currently, he aims to truly innovate products and systems for sustainability for which he sees great possibilities for us, and our future generations.

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## Solveig Zophoniasdottir Iceland



Solveig was raised in Akureyri, a small town in the north of Iceland. She has always been drawn to traveling and experiencing new cultures and contexts. So far she has undertaken projects in 4 different continents in collaboration with people from 30 different nationalities. This has broadened her perspective and led to increased curiosity towards leading in culturally diverse and complex situations. Before coming to Karlskrona she studied Creative Business Design and Leadership at The KaosPilots. Solveig has also been working independently in the broad field of education, through facilitation, curriculum development, leadership workshops, process leadership and coaching. By attending the MSLS program Solveig wants to explore the relationship between social and environmental sustainability and deepen her understanding of Leadership and Strategy towards a better future. Solveig is committed to being a life long learner towards how to activate learning, responsibility and love; her mission is to unfold potential within herself and others.

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## Stuart Filshie United Kingdom / Sweden



Originally from Scotland, Stuart was brought to Sweden by coincidence and has stayed for the last 20 years. During that time he worked mostly in the IT-industry where, among other things, he co-founded a consultancy that turned out to be a great success, despite his best efforts. Stuart's inquisitive nature led him down the path of professional and personal development, resulting in a series of shifts in his thinking. Most recently, the desire to find and integrate a sense of community with a connection to nature ignited an interest in the area of sustainability, and resulted in his joining the MSLS programme. Although Stuart doesn't know what fate has in store, he does feel better equipped than ever to deal with whatever comes his way. In any case, he will not settle for less than a fulfilling private life and meaningful work achieved through contributing in some way to our society.

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## Tahereh Hassani Iran



Tahereh was born in Tehran, Iran and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in English translation from the Azad branch of the Varamin University. Post-university, Tahereh worked for Alvin Paint Company, one of Iran's main paint companies exporting paint and importing chemical materials, as a Translator and Sales Manager. She then moved on to one of Tehran's international leasing companies as office manager and financial manager. Tahereh has passed the LELST exam in Tehran in two general and academic forms, and holds an academic score of 5.5. Currently she is enjoying her time in Sweden and BTH studying for her Master's in Strategic Leadership for Sustainability.

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## Taryn Tate Canada



Upon graduating with an Honours Sociology Degree from the University of Western Ontario in Canada, having decided there had to be more to education than the theory she had learned in the classroom, Taryn embarked on the first of many journeys overseas. Working as a volunteer in a Cambodian orphanage, Taryn observed the everyday hardships people endured in order to survive, and felt passionately that she must do something to try and help resolve this glaring inequity. She returned to Canada to seek higher training in order to better position herself in the NGO world. After completing a post-graduate diploma in International Project Management, she was offered a position with a prominent NGO working on good governance initiatives in Vietnam. This led to a role supporting female entrepreneurs in Bangladesh in their quest to start local businesses. Taryn found this work so rewarding she wanted to make it her career. She discovered BTH's MSLS program and concluded it would provide her with the edge she needed in competing for a successful career.

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## Thaela Stolz Germany



Born in Germany, Thaela knew early on that she wanted to study International Business Administration to deepen her knowledge of business and its global interconnectedness. She now holds a Bachelor's with specialization in languages (English and Spanish) and Business with Economic Psychology. After her studies she journeyed to Mexico to work on an organic farm where she learned about the importance of nature to a sustainable society. After further travels to South-East Asia and an internship within the energy sector of a multinational in Singapore she realized that our planet is in need of help and society requires a change in the current way of thinking. To integrate her passion and knowledge in terms of business-related activities, her aim is to incorporate sustainability within organizations around the world and to open the eyes of societies and business leaders regarding environmental and social issues.

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## Van Nguyen Vietnam



Van Nguyen was born in Hanoi, Vietnam. She received a Bachelor's degree in International Trade from the Vietnam University of Commerce, Hanoi, Vietnam in 2008 and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Karlstad University, Karlstad, Sweden in 2010. She had been working as a business administrator for several trading companies in Vietnam as well as a project assistant for EDC, an electronics manufacturing company in Sweden. Since autumn 2010, she has been a student at the Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), Karlskrona, Sweden, where she is currently working towards the Master's degree in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability. Her research interests are project management, out-sourcing and off-shoring.

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“ The question of reaching sustainability is not about if we will have enough energy, enough food, or other tangible resources - those we have.

The question is: will there be **enough leaders** in time? ”

– Dr. Göran Broman and Dr. Karl-Henrik Robèrt, programme founders

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