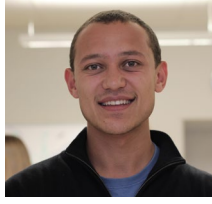
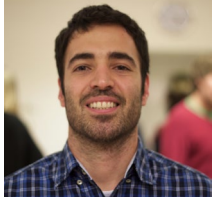
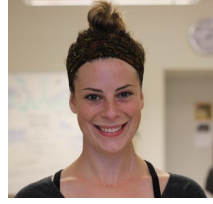
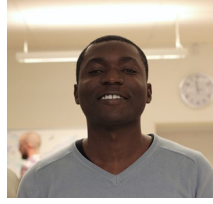
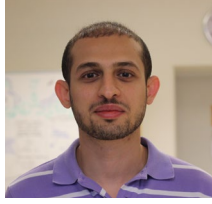
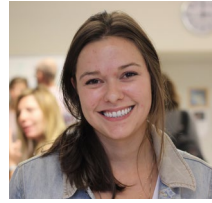


# MSLS 2016



# *54 Students*

## *32 Nations. 23 Languages*

Alex Harned

Ali Armand Zeaiter

Alina Minkova

Alisa Jannink

Anas Al-Daghestani

Anastasia Bagrianski

Angelika Amlaeva

Anmar Kamalaldin

Begum Feyzioglu

Caroline Michel

Dayna Stein

Elissa Cardoso

Emmanuel Quarmyne

Fakhri Barzandeh

Fatih Erarslan

Florentina Bajraktari

Fran Nicolo

Gabriel Voto

Hadeel ElKambergy

Isaiah Archer

Jeeda Radwan

Jenny Lemke

Jesper Revald Dorph

Johanna Hofmann

Julia Ramos

Juuso Lautiainen

Kajsa Jansson

Katarina Nordbeck

Kelly Lyons Sweet

Lea Fobbe

Lewis Muirhead

Luigi Viscardi

Lynn-Katrin Haug

Mahinour Alkassem

Marijs van Hoek

Martyna Jasinska

Max Jendruk

Md. Ismail Hossain

Méabh Carey

Milan Vonk

Natalia Ginghina

Nicholas Braun

Nicole Harvey

Omar Roquet

Paul Abela

Pieter Ploeg

Qianxin Xu

Quentin Houssin

Ralph Ferguson

Rita Aldabaldetreku

Rosamund Mosse

Sarah Forrester-Wilson

Thomas Hutle

Thomas van der Molen



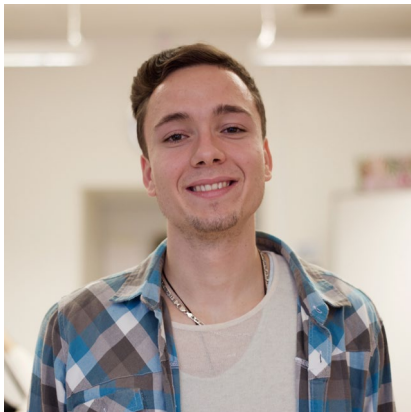
CANADA

## Alex Harned

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Alex was raised on the west coast of Canada, residing in Victoria, Vancouver Island for the last eight years. She is a feminist, a social justice activist, and a proponent of resilient local economy. She is a lover of the wild, open outdoors and ultimate frisbee. She is the creator of the Oaklands Sunset Market (OSM), a large scale community farmers market on Vancouver Island. Alex was awarded the 2015 Victoria Youth Leadership Award for her passion and work ethic in community development. The environment Alex creates at the OSM reflects her belief that food is an effective community building tool.

Alex strives to create strong, inclusive communities to make local foods accessible to economically disadvantaged demographics. Her dream is to open a social enterprise that includes a free farm school, restaurant-cafe, and community art space. She embraces MSLS as it is the opportunity to cultivate a diverse toolkit of skills and strategies to engage people across boundaries. She envisions sustainability as the ongoing co-creation and collaboration of intentional living designed for permanence. She is inspired by children and play. *“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”* – Dr. Seuss, The Lorax



LEBANON / ROMANIA

## Ali Armand Zeaiter

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Ali Armand Zeaiter was born in Bucharest, but raised in Lebanon and Sweden. Ali lived in Lebanon and Romania until the age of 17, and then travelled to Sweden with his parents. Before he became an MSLS student, Ali-Armand studied social sciences with a specialization in psychology at Blekinge Tekniska Högskola. Studying at BTH, Ali already knew a lot about MSLS from former MSLS students. He is very satisfied with the learning environment that MSLS creates, as well as the chance to meet many beautiful people from all around the world. Ali has long dreamt of being a catalyst for change in the biggest organizations of the world.

Since he was a child Ali has had a passion for football. He has spent most of his life playing and training, until he was injured – and then MSLS became a priority. Ali enjoys being around friends and, like any person on the planet, Ali loves food. Having spent time in Lebanon, he is accustomed to delicious food! It might sound crazy but Ali has three nationalities: Lebanese, Romanian and Swedish. He also speaks four languages fluently: Swedish, Romanian, Arabic and English.





**RUSSIA**

## Alina Minkova

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Alina was born in the town of Volzhskiy in the southern part of Russia. Before the age of twenty she lived a regular school-university life spending most of her time on piano classes, various handicrafts, World of Warcraft raids, and growing flowers in her grandma's garden. As her twenties approached, she experienced dissatisfaction with her education at home and felt a strong desire to explore the world. During one of her journeys to Norway, while participating in International Student Festival in Trondheim in 2013, she first learnt about the exciting ideas of social entrepreneurship, sustainability, as well as the power of working in an international team united by one meaningful purpose. This festival gave Alina inspiration to enroll in an international master programme, which combined with her longing for alternative education, brought her to MSLS. Alina hopes that this learning experience will equip her with the skills necessary to welcome and host change in the mentality of the Russian people.



**CANADA**

## Alisa Jannink

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Alisa Jannink is a Dutch-Canadian spending much of her life living in pristine areas of British Columbia, Western Canada. Her family taught her respect and appreciation for the natural environment and the world's many cultures, fostering a keen interest in diverse worldviews. Alisa completed an undergraduate degree in Anthropology at the University of British Columbia in Canada, and a graduate degree in Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology from Leiden University in the Netherlands. She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in a marginalized area of Nairobi, taught English in South Korea, volunteered with intercultural societies and non-profits, interned with an environmental organization in Mombasa, Kenya, and worked as Sustainability Advisor in academia. She is enticed by intangible cultural heritage, engaged in migration and social justice issues, practices yoga, and enjoys dancing.

A caring and vibrant disposition, training and facilitation in cross and inter-cultural settings, along with diverse cultural immersion experiences, have afforded her the ability to connect with others effectively in various contexts. Versatile and curious, she came to live in Karlskrona with her partner and young daughter and looks forward to opportunities that will take her and her family to learn throughout the world.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

## Anas Al-Daghestani

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Anas was born at a very young age in Dubai, where he started University and then worked as an ATM engineer for 3 years. He then decided to continue his studies in Electrical Engineering at BTH in Sweden. During this time his interest in sustainable development grew, especially as he came to understand how much influence electrical engineers have on sustainable initiatives. Anas believes that a large number of electrical engineers lack the leadership skills required to have an impact in the field.

Anas has chosen to join the amazing family of MSLS and hopes to implement his newly acquired knowledge back in the UAE to promote social stability and environmental sustainability in a country that lacks both. On a more serious note, Anas was chosen to be Person of the Year by Time Magazine in 2006. His hobbies are breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Finally, Anas prides himself on being a very reliable person and an early riser, even though he is easily distracte



GERMANY

## Anastasia Bagrianski

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Ana obtained a Bachelor's degree in European Management from the University of Applied Sciences in Wildau, Germany. She developed a special interest in languages and cultural diversity during this time, as she had an opportunity to deepen her Spanish language skills and also to work as an intern in Spain, on the island of Fuerteventura. During this time she contributed managing the change of a hotel towards sustainability. Hotels are complex systems and changing the old-fashioned ways of running them requires a lot of time and good leadership.

At the Blekinge Institute of Technology, Ana hopes to expand her knowledge of sustainability to bring greater awareness of its importance to society. Ana is interested in acquiring deeper skills in sustainable development to help organizations move towards sustainability. Her goal for this Master's programme is to develop her knowledge about systems leadership and to apply it in her future career.

After graduation she would like to join an organization dealing with the questions of sustainable business development and contribute with her knowledge gained during the time at MSLS. Ana enjoys travelling, music, meeting different people and experiencing new cultures.

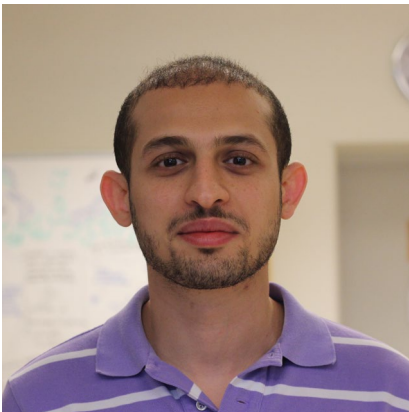


**RUSSIA**

## Angelika Amlaeva

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Angelika was born and raised in the city of Stavropol in the southern part of Russia. She completed her studies in linguistics and translation at the North Caucasus Federal University. During her studies she had been taking part in many social and academic activities. In 2012 she had opportunity to travel to Portugal to study at the New University of Lisbon as an Erasmus Mundus student. After graduation Angelika worked as an educational specialist at the Stavropol State Medical University. She also worked as a volunteer in the NGO “Public Health and Advocacy in Public Health” where she participated in implementing the World Health Organisation’s project “Healthy Cities” in Russia. One of her duties was spreading information about such serious issues as tobacco smoking, drug and alcohol addiction and HIV/AIDS; another one was promoting healthy lifestyles, social inclusion, right values to communities in the city. During her volunteering work Angelika has learnt about social problems and it motivated her to discover more and find effective solutions. That is the reason why she decided to study Masters programme in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability in Karlskrona. Angelika is fond of volleyball and spending all her free time with her family and friends.



**BAHRAIN**

## Anmar Kamalaldin

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Anmar was born in Manama, the capital of the smallest country in the Middle East, Bahrain, and he is the eldest of three siblings. Anmar has an educational background in business, as he majored in commercial studies at Secondary School, and did his Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting and Finance at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom, followed by a Master’s Degree in International Management for Middle East and North Africa at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London, UK. Anmar started his banking career in 2010 at Gulf International Bank (GIB), a major wholesale bank in Bahrain. He became manager of the Loan Agency Operations Department at the bank until 2015, when he decided to quit his job and follow his passion. Anmar’s interest in sustainable development has led him to move from Bahrain to Sweden to pursue the MSLS programme at BTH, and he aims to contribute towards a more sustainable world. Anmar enjoys reading, playing piano, horse riding and travelling.



**TURKEY**

## Begum Feyzioglu

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Begum is currently occupied as a full time sustainability learner. Recently completed her Law degree in Turkey. Sensitive to social, environmental and economic problems in the world, dedicated to find feasible solutions. Believes in the power of “acting locally” to create a global change. Volunteering at a Brazilian “favela” and writing the 1st Sustainable Campus Charter Report of her university in Turkey are among Begüm’s experiences which led her to Karlskrona where she has already started feeling at home. In her free time Begum enjoys reading, writing, trekking, playing tennis and giving free hugs.



**GERMANY**

## Caroline Michel

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Caroline grew up in Berlin, Germany. She did her Bachelor’s studies in International Business Administration in the small town of Frankfurt (Oder), close to the Polish border. She specialized her studies in Marketing and Management. The international character of the European University Viadrina and the enormous number of partner universities brought her to participate in an exchange semester in Reims, a small town in the Champagne-Ardenne region near Paris. Before she started to do her Master’s studies in Business Administration at the University of Applied Science in Brandenburg (Havel), she worked for one year as an accountant at the Helios clinical center in Berlin. During this period she got to know how big companies operate. With this practical experience she focused her Master’s studies on leadership and human resource management.

Caroline applied for the MSLS program in Karlskrona to acquire knowledge in sustainability, to broaden her horizons and to see how she can contribute to a better sustainable world. Caroline enjoys travelling a lot and meeting new people from all over the world. Caroline loves playing volleyball, snowboarding, longboarding, kitesurfing, photography and being together with her family and friends.





CANADA

## Dayna Stein

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Dayna Stein grew up in Toronto, Canada, and is best described as a perpetual student. Most recently, she completed her Bachelor of Science in Global Resource Systems where she focused on food security and sustainable food systems in North and South America and how current models impact nutrition, health and community development. In Fall 2014 she partook in a semester at CityStudio where her group co-created, designed and launched the Shareable Neighbourhood Project with the City of Vancouver and local communities to tackle issues of waste and social isolation. She then partnered with two of her team members; the co-founders of a newly formed social enterprise, called Uproot, to upcycle wood waste from the construction industry and engage in conversations around sustainability.

In early 2015, she was chosen as a RADIUS Fellow in Radical Doing and was given the opportunity to collaborate and grow with 19 other change-makers in Vancouver to sharpen both her own and Uproot's impact. At the same time she honed her food-growing skills at The Richmond Farm School. Dayna is intensely passionate about zero-waste living, especially food waste. On her spare time she can be found cooking, drawing, and making her own body and homecare products.



BRAZIL

## Elissa Cardoso

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Elissa Cardoso is a Brazilian born in the 80s from the sunny and vibrant city of Rio de Janeiro. She is a passionate and sensitive soul whose friendly and curious nature fosters her belief in a global change journey. She holds a degree in Public Relations with a wide variety of experience with Corporate Communication, Project Management, and Corporate Social Responsibility. She finds joy in her family and friends, a good book on the beach during the sunny winter, waterfalls, travelling to new places, samba, and Carnival! She appreciates everyone with a large smile and an open heart. She sees MSLS as an opportunity to discover more about herself and open her mind. She seeks to explore new boundaries to build capacity and leadership with her fellow MSLSers. For the world, she hopes for more love, more connective purpose, and shared vision rooted in sustainability. When addressing the future, her motto is: *"Let it go! It will be amazing!"*





GHANA

## Emmanuel Quarmyne

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Emmanuel was born in Accra and grew up with the dream of becoming a Lawyer. After an internship in a law firm he realized law practice was not for him. He later co-founded ABAN ([www.aban.org](http://www.aban.org)), a non-profit with the mission to end the cycle of poverty among destitute youth and to empower them toward the restoration of themselves, their communities and environment. ABAN successfully provides the opportunity to earn a fair wage by recycling plastic waste into hand-sewn products. ABAN is a recognized leader in Ghana with support from government and businesses. Emmanuel worked full time for ABAN for five years before embarking on the MSLS study in 2015 after realizing it was directly in line with his organization's mission. He intends to take the knowledge he acquires to effect social sustainability on a larger scale and influence decision-making within NGO's for developing countries.

Emmanuel is a graduate of the University of Ghana with a Sociology degree, for leisure he watches / plays football, loves 80's music and enjoys road trips. He might refer to you as "charley" because in Ghana that's synonymous to "my friend" ☺ and his favorite quote is "Break the Rules!" because he doesn't settle for the norm.



IRAN

## Fakhri Barzandeh

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Fakhri was born in the north of Iran near the Caspian Sea. She moved to Tehran when she was 18 to study Food Science engineering. She has vast experience conducting business in and between Iran, China and Dubai. Fakhri was the first woman in the sanitary building industry in Iran and introduced flexible hoses instead of old copper pipes. She also opened an Autism center with help of her family, as kids and their happiness are one of her main concerns.

Fakhri moved to Sweden in 2013 and co-founded the International Café; a monthly program that promotes cultural exchange and integration. She is also the co-founder of the Karlskrona Kite Festival. Fakhri is a poet and publishes books in Persian and English. Highlights of her life include trips to India and meditation classes. Fakhri lives by the law that everything happens in a circular fashion and will end at the 'beginning', as she sees this pattern all over the world. Fakhri's husband inspired her to join MSLS, as she had long been living in a sustainable way. She now dreams of helping to build a truly sustainable city in Iran, and she believes we are all here at MSLS because we have the same roots.

## TURKEY

### Fatih Erarslan

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Fatih's journey started in a small town in the northeastern province of Erzurum, Turkey. He always has intellectual curiosity about nature and a thirst for knowledge. His curiosity took him to the United States in late 1998 where he earned his BA in English/Writing with a minor in Computer Science at North Park University in Chicago, IL (2004). During his undergraduate years in the United States, he had the opportunity to discover the IT world. Fatih received a scholarship to attend Apple's WWDC in the heart of the Silicon Valley for three consecutive years and mingle with Apple's staff including their legendary CEO, the late Steve Jobs. As an aficionado of ancient civilizations and nature, he worked as a certified tour director in Turkey for the last decade leading tours in Turkey, Russia and South East Asia. Fatih is very enthusiastic about science, innovation and cutting edge technologies. For his zest for natural/ social sciences and liberal arts, he gravitated to the MSLS program at BTH to combine his professional skills and find answers. He enjoys reading science journals classical music, classic rock, poetry, cinema, healthy cooking and Interaction Design harnessing an Arduino micro-controller during his free time.



## BELGIUM

### Florentina Bajraktari

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Florentina Bajraktari was born in Belgium. She got her Master's in Political Science at the Free University of Brussels. She spent the last two years working in public institutions from local government in Brussels to diplomacy in Los Angeles. She was more recently in charge of the equal opportunities mission and was the executive assistant to the deputy mayor in Brussels. She is particularly interested in participatory leadership and on how to bring the individual/real-self scale to the equation of sustainability in businesses.



**AUSTRALIA**

## Fran Nicolò

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Fran has always been an advocate towards sustainable development. Throughout her professional and personal life, she had been an environmental educator, active community leader towards land management and conservation, and a sustainability engagement officer with a focus on utilizing community spaces for sustainability initiatives. Additionally, her post graduate qualification in Environmental Management and her entrepreneurial experience, has allowed her to expand her skillset within the sustainability industry. MSLS is the missing piece of the puzzle for Fran. From the skills and knowledge learnt, she will continue to pursue new adventures that will shape her journey in becoming a leader towards global sustainability.



**BRAZIL**

## Gabriel Voto

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Gabriel by Gabriel. Gabriel Neira Voto is a 29 year old Brazilian, from Rio de Janeiro. He graduated in Biology with a bachelor in Ecology and Environmental Management. He is highly motivated in everything linked to the environment, which stemmed from his life long passion for nature. For the whole of his childhood, Gabriel was lucky enough to live in the rural area of Rio de Janeiro, where he spent his time climbing trees, bathing in rivers and camping on the mountains. It was through these life experiences that he grew a deep willingness to work towards the mitigation of the negative anthropic impacts to nature. So he founded a project with a bottom-top approach in favela da Rocinha, the biggest favela of Latin America. The methodology is based on various techniques and strategies: interactive, collective, experiential, didactic, systemic, dynamic and accessible, boosting creativity and opening integrative social debates. All of these techniques seek representativeness and diversity, thus reaching all voices involved within the study area. He applied for a place on the MSLS program, because of his deep interest in the topics covered, particularly the methodology for the structuring and coordination of knowledge, concepts, methods and tools in support of planning and decision making for strategic sustainable development.





PALESTINE

## Hadeel ElKambergy

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Hadeel was born in 1978. She is Palestinian in origin, but was born and grew up in UAE. Raised in a relatively big family, Hadeel's father took her around the world because he loved traveling and exploring. Hadeel went to Ajman University and got a degree in Computer science. Hadeel chose her degree because it is imaginative, challenging and has a promising future.

After Hadeel's marriage she moved to Hungary and worked in the IT department at the Saudi embassy in Budapest. She then moved back to UAE, gave birth to three wonderful kids, and worked at Ajman University.

Hadeel moved to Sweden with her family to establish a good and sustainable quality of life, usually family decisions are made by all family members.

Hadeel loves traveling, going out, and shopping. Her kids consume most of her energy and time but she loves to see them happy.

MSLS is challenging, it requires much effort and concentration, but In shā' Allāh – which means with the grace of God in Arabic – it will be a fruitful experience that will enhance her future career. Hadeel sees herself in her favourite quote which is *“Work hard in silence, let success make the noise”*.



CANADA

## Isaiah Archer

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Isaiah is the youngest of five children. He was born in his family home on 11A Street in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Growing up he spent a lot of time outside, particularly hiking, camping and snowboarding with his family in the Rocky Mountains of southwestern Alberta. Isaiah's family provides him with love, values and rich experiences, which shape the person he is today. Before coming to the MSLS program, Isaiah received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science at the University of Victoria. He then spent some time working in the micro-brewing industry on Vancouver Island, before travelling to Indonesia and New Zealand for a ten-month surf trip.

Isaiah chose to apply for the MSLS program because, after holding various jobs in the political sector in Canada, he recognized a deep sickness in the system in which he was a part. Canada is rich in socio-ecological diversity and opportunity, but is failing as a society to live up to its potential as a world leader in sustainable development. Isaiah aims to use tools gained from his experience at MSLS to work (consult) with organizations and leaders in Canada who wish to help drive positive change towards sustainability. *“The time is now.”*



**STATELESS**

## Jeeda Radwan

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Jeeda is from the land of Jerusalem and holds a degree in Political Science. She moved to Sweden in 2012 to start a new life. At first she volunteered at a nationwide education society, ABF and then became an employee at Astar, educating, advising and translating. MSLS is an important step for her. She would like to right the mistakes society has made and improve the future for all people. After this step she aims to carry on with a PhD., so she can connect sustainability with her interests of fashion design, religion and history.

For recreation she likes to swim, walk, cycle, and perhaps climb a mountain. A favorite quote is: *"Impassable is the impassable itself."* – Napoleon Bonaparte. This means to never give up, there is always a way. The sound of the sea, reminds her of a safe place, an exit, being away. Reading music, with ears, is magic to feed the soul. Navigating internet, is a source, to use, to acknowledge the awareness of the spirit. She strongly believes that the mind is a blessing, to use, to define the way forward.



**GERMANY**

## Jenny Lemke

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Jenny was born and raised in a small village by the seaside in Germany. She likes to feel connected to nature and her surroundings. Early on, Jenny moved from her hometown to travel and explore the world. As a result of gaining new insights from many people around the world, she decided to study politics in Denmark. Throughout her travels and the first year of studying, Jenny realized that not all people have the same opportunities in the world. Hence, Jenny decided to join a student organization called AIESEC. Her experiences with the organization, the challenges she faced and the people she met changed Jenny's life permanently. She wants to work to address inequality and she knows that the only way to pursue a career that meets her expectations is to continue to dream big.

Jenny has a B.Sc. in European Studies and, due to some amazing and inspiring people, discovered the MSLS program in Karlskrona. Intuitively, Jenny knew that this Masters program would allow her to combine the knowledge from her Bachelors degree, her experience at AIESEC and her passion for change to eventually fulfil her dreams.



**DENMARK**

## Jesper Revald Dorph

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Jesper was born a citizen of Earth in Copenhagen in 1987. Despite being a city boy he feels more at home in the countryside, where he can live in tune with nature. During his twenties he has lived, worked and studied in Denmark, Austria, UK, South Africa and now Karlskrona. His curiosity has led him to work and explore a diverse variety of fields such as the military, gardening, hospitality, event-making management, and interaction design. Experiencing the “real world” left him questioning our ways of being and existing in the world. This led him to spend three years studying Enterprising Leadership at the Kaospilots from which he graduated in 2015. He sees MSLS as a unique opportunity to dive even deeper into the muddy waters of the collective leadership challenges we face on our journey towards a sustainable and regenerative human existence on earth. As Jonas Salk beautifully phrased it:

*Participating in the activity of human evolution is one of the most meaningful activities in which a person can be engaged. This is true because human beings now play an active role not only in the process of their own evolution but in the survival and evolution of all living beings.*



**GERMANY**

## Johanna Hofmann

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Raised in a German village Johanna moved to Toronto, Canada, after finishing her studies in North American Studies, Political Science and Public International Law. Her work led her into the emerging renewable energy sector in the province of Ontario and she developed a passion for enabling people to participate in the energy transition movement as well as community based innovation for sustainability. Johanna decided to pack up her life to join the MSLS program, feeling it would provide her with a holistic platform to better engage minds and hearts about the exciting opportunities that a more sustainable future holds. Johanna enjoys making things (knitting, sewing, baking) and you’ll frequently find her walking around town exploring its neighbourhoods.





**SPAIN**

## Julia Ramos

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Julia's purpose in life is to discover her life purpose. She comes from the business world, both studying Hospitality Management in Switzerland, and working in hospitality as a manager for almost 8 years. Still, she longed for something more meaningful. After doing a Master's in Communications and Public relations she decided to embark on a journey to discover her passion by traveling around the world to understand what grassroots sustainability is. This commitment came as an immense turning point in her life and since then Synchronicities have not stopped. She became a Dragon Dreaming trainer and worked as the communications coordinator for Gaia Education before taking another break in her professional life.

The Call to join MSLS came as a key stepping stone in her "Hero's Journey". She feels in service and ready for whatever needs to emerge from this year. Finally, Julia is passionate about her family and friends and enjoys music, nature, and conversations on spiritualism, love and life experiences. She has lived and travelled in more than 30 countries. Julia is a consistent learner, eager to understand and embody everything emerging in the world of sustainability & leadership.



**FINLAND**

## Juuso Lautiainen

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When Juuso was six weeks old, he had already spent half of his life in a small sailing boat in the Finnish outer archipelago. After that, when not on the boat, life continued mostly in the city of Helsinki. His family also spent a significant amount of time in beautiful Lapland, in northern Finland. Having no neighbours or running water in their place there, nature played an important part in the formation of Juuso's values and in his appreciation towards life. Since then, life has taken Juuso to travel in a van, while racing a dinghy boat in competitions around Europe. It has taken him to work in a farm in remote Western Australia, study Chinese in Taiwan and recover and tow a shipwreck from the coast of Estonia across the Gulf of Finland to Helsinki for repair. Juuso has experience in coaching, working in businesses, running a multicultural not-for-profit office, doing fundraising for poverty reduction and leading a team in a development project in Manila, The Philippines. Just before coming to Karlskrona, Juuso started to work for The Natural Step, Finland. On completion of the programme, he aims to go back to help Finnish companies in becoming more sustainable. Someday he plans to move to Asia where he will continue his work in sustainability.



CANADA

## Kajsa Jansson

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Kajsa Jansson is an ambitious 20 year old woman from the cold north of Canada. As a child she took advantage of being surrounded by beautiful nature. She swam, canoed, fished, camped, climbed trees, skied and all the other fun outdoor activities a young northern Canadian enjoys. These activities, alongside the influence of native american culture that was abundant in her northern hometown, shaped her into someone with dreams of saving the planet. She went on to study environmental technology and engineering at Mid Sweden University before coming to the MSLS program.

She choose the MSLS program to learn how to apply what she learned during her Bachelor's in the real world. All the knowledge in the world won't help you unless you know how to apply it. After MSLS she hopes to have a successful career either as an environmental engineering consultant or more generally to gain experience in the environmental field with any job with a sustainability focus.



SWEDEN

## Katarina Nordbeck

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How can we facilitate excellence both in sport, business and normal life? Why be reactive instead of proactive? If you enjoy being out in nature, how long can you be ignorant towards the destructions of habitats and biodiversity? If you know that you have the ability to contribute something, why don't you just do it? Always be the best you can be in any given situation ... These are some questions and statements that have influenced Katarina's journey from Sweden to Denmark, through Iceland, the west coast of Canada and finally back to Sweden for the MSLS program in 2015. Katarina has an interdisciplinary background in Adventure Sports Performance and Psychology, working with physical and mental preparation for athletes, as well as with injury rehabilitation. She has also spent a lot of time in the wilderness, taking people out in nature, teaching them about natural history and how to enjoy nature in a responsible and respectful way. After the MSLS program, Katarina is planning to work as a business consultant to help facilitate a smooth transition, as well as incorporate a more effective and strategic way, for businesses to work towards sustainability.



**UNITED STATES**

## Kelly Lyons Sweet

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Kelly is passionate about equal access to quality education and youth empowerment, believing that education paves the path to social sustainability. She has spent 10 years as a secondary teacher, many of those in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Kelly truly believes in the IB mission statement which “aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.”

Growing up in Detroit and spending summers at grandma’s house on Lake Michigan, Kelly has an appreciation for both urban and natural environments. She moved to Sweden in 2014 with her husband, two children, and a big lazy dog. Kelly loves to explore new stories through reading, travel, and meeting people with experiences different from her own. She enjoys trying new foods and visiting museums, though she admits her favorite hobby is finding new hobbies.



**GERMANY**

## Lea Fobbe

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Lea grew up in Berlin, a cultural diverse hub. Throughout her life, Lea learned to appreciate the value of her multifaceted Berlin neighbourhood and has used that appreciation to study and explore the systems determining our society. She started studying Romance Studies and Business Administration with a special focus on literature and how it can work to overcome cultural obstacles. It was during this time that she got her first glance at the field of sustainability, and from that moment on, everything began to make sense. For her, it was the bridge to combine the real needs of the people, their cultural heritage and the economic world. Hence she started a Master’s program in “Sustainability Economics and Management” and became more and more passionate about sustainability. In order to broaden her horizons and gather new ideas she began to study MSLS in Karlskrona. She is curious to learn how she can be a meaningful change agent in her own sphere of influence and contribute to a better world as a disseminator of sustainability perspectives.

Lea enjoys reading all good books she can find, travelling, listening and playing music and eating good food with family and friends.





CANADA

## Lewis Muirhead

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Lewis was born and raised in Vancouver, but has spent his life all throughout the Americas working and exploring. Early in life, he travelled with his parents to build trails into some of the last remaining old growth forests on Vancouver Island. This formative experience led him to pursue a BA in Resource Economics at the University of British Columbia. On his post-grad, round-the-world tour he visited relatives in Sweden and witnessed their close connection with the forests, caring for them over multiple generations. Seeing their forward thinking attitude influenced his selection of the MSLS program, where he could develop his capacities to help evolve the large institutional systems that run the world.

After MSLS Lewis plans to continue his work with small-town economic development back home in British Columbia. His passions include trekking, snowboarding, gardening, woodworking and family. Lewis enjoys the creative process and has co-produced a number of films combining his love for the mountains with sustainable thought. A favourite quote is: *“How we treat each other is how we treat the environment.”* – John Francis, Planetwalker. The human dimension can be lost when discussing environmental issues, this quote reminds of the importance of our personal relationships to much larger systemic solutions.



ITALY

## Luigi Viscardi

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Over the past 12 years Luigi’s commitment has been on humanitarian intervention in several countries of the world. The scope of his work centered on the management of community-based disaster risk management programs. Exposure to these circumstances helped him to see the unsustainability of today’s society. Furthermore, working in complex environments and with cultures different to his own have reinforced Luigi’s understanding of human relations. This has been profoundly satisfying and fulfilling to him.

Luigi has now reached a point where he needs to gain additional knowledge to move ahead with his career and personal goals; he believes in sustainability and he is convinced it is the way forward for the planet. Obtaining an in-depth sustainability expertise will enable him to increase the impact of his work.

He is grateful for the immense opportunities he has had in his life and for all future adventures destiny has reserved for him. One of his favourite motto is *“Yes, let’s do it!”*



GERMANY

## Lynn-Katrin Haug

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Lynn loves reading, dancing, cooking and eating good food with friends. She also loves walking along the seaside and in the forest. Furthermore, she is fascinated by languages, as each language offers you a new world of understanding and is a key to any society and culture. Lynn was introduced to the global challenges our world is facing from an early age. Even as a child when she pondered the issues, she thought, “we need to do something about this”. However, as she emerged into adulthood, she came to realize the complexities of the problems and the paradoxes of their root causes. She often felt, as an individual, that she was unable to create change. Yet, the thought still lingered in her mind.

When she learned of the MSLS programme, she saw an opportunity to gain empowerment in the sustainability field. Her hope was renewed that she would be able to make a difference. The encouraging words of Hermann Hesse inspired her to join the programme: “A magic dwells in each beginning, protecting us, telling us how to live.” She is excited to be part of the MSLS 2016 class.



EGYPT

## Mahinour Alkasssem

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Mahinour Alkasssem is an electrical Engineer. She was born on the 27th of October 1992 in Cairo, Egypt. She had studied energy engineering at the Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University before she was offered a scholarship to study electrical engineering based on telecommunications at Blekinge Institute of Technology. She decided to leave Cairo’s busy streets in 2013 to live in Karlskrona, a small city in Sweden, where she continued to study her Bachelor’s degree. She was always fond of energy engineering and renewable resources and she feels that the MSLS program will help her understand more about the sustainability challenge as well as methods and tools for implementing her engineering knowledge for the transition into a sustainable society.

Since her childhood, Mahinour has enjoyed art and drawing. With her pencil she translates her inner energy to drawings of nature, face portraits and cartoons.

“When I give, I give myself”, is one of her favourite quotes and also defines her perspective on life. When she is good to people, in return she will get what she has given – and more – and as people start believing in one another and helping each other, hatred, fear, ignorance and every problem can be solved.



## THE NETHERLANDS

### Marijs van Hoek

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For some years Marijs was one of the youngest employees at Plan Netherlands – an International Child Rights Organization based in Amsterdam. She was privileged to be the Youth Coordinator and involved Dutch youth in international collaboration. Through multi-media campaigns and international exchanges, young people in the Netherlands became enthusiastic in promoting equal opportunities for both girls and boys worldwide. At some point she realized how much more there was to learn and she decided to go up North (Sweden) and step into the world of leadership towards sustainability. She hopes to use the MSLS knowledge to combine the environmental and human rights aspects of sustainability in real life. In her free time she likes to dance, enjoys drinking cappuccino with friends and practices Bikram yoga. She would like to end with a quote that recently drew her attention and hopes will be useful for you as well: *“If you ever wonder if something small can make a difference, just imagine a mosquito in your room when you want to sleep.”*



## POLAND

### Martyna Jasinska

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Martyna was born in Silesia South Poland. After few years she moved with her parents to North Poland (Gdynia), near to the Baltic Sea, where the air quality is much better. In her childhood, she discovered her passion for dancing, physical health and nature. When she grew up she became more aware of the environmental problems in her country. Martyna decided to study Environmental Protection and Management in order to learn how to protect our environment. She wanted to gain more experience, so she travelled to study in Spain as an exchange student. After she graduated with a Bachelor’s degree, she continued her education on Master’s in Technologies of Environmental Protection. During the last year of education, she did her internship in the American corporation located in Gdansk in the quality control section. When she graduated, she moved to Sweden where she searched for a programme that could give her more practical skills and tools to implement sustainability into real life situations. The MSLS programme caught her attention, because of its unique educational programme and cultural diversity. Martyna is always hungry for knowledge and is keen to inspire people to contribute in changing our world for the better.



GERMANY

## Max Jendruk

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Max grew up in a small town called Senftenberg in the east of Germany. After spending the last three school years in a boarding school in Cottbus, he decided to move to Potsdam, pursuing his Bachelor's in IT-Systems Engineering. Looking back, he never would have thought he'd do anything environmentally related in the future and it was not his studies – which, besides technical knowledge, taught him to serve his own interests (and those of the economy) – that caused a change of mind. In 2014, he got the opportunity to do an exchange semester in Sweden, where he met a lot of people from all around the world, and started to read about the issues caused by intensive animal husbandry and finally realized that he didn't want to close his eyes to the overwhelming amount of problems created by modern human civilization anymore.

After he had gone back to Germany, he helped build up an NGO in Berlin, which supports teenage refugees and aims to build friendship and trust between them and teenagers who grew up in Germany. Never in his life has he been so clueless about his future plans, but then again, never before has he had a greater feeling of having a purpose in life.



BANGLADESH

## Md. Ismail Hossain

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Md. Ismail Hossain was born in Bangladesh in 1989. He enjoys reading, singing, teaching and cooking in his free time. His family consists of three members: his mother, younger brother and himself. He comes from a prosperous family. He has completed his Bachelor's and Master's degree in English Language and Literature. He chose MSLS for many reasons including its multidisciplinary nature and that it ensures one to know about leadership and strategy to sustain community, our environment, and the World. In Bangladesh there is truly a lot of potential to use the knowledge gained from MSLS to find a good job. After completing MSLS he hopes to find himself in a better position for the future while also serving the people through his leadership.

He nurtures and receives inspiration from his favourite saying: *"Let your smile change the world but do not let the world change your smile."* Traditional Bangladeshi foods like Hilsha fish (national fish) and sweetmeats always remind him of home and the freedom and leadership that he enjoyed in his childhood that continues to have relevance in his life today. Ismail aspires to lead communities towards sustainability.





**IRELAND**

## Méabh Carey

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Méabh was born and reared along the Wild Atlantic Way on the West coast of Ireland. Much of her childhood was spent exploring the countryside and investigating the sacred sites of historic eras with her archaeologist mother. Méabh was always fascinated by the resourcefulness of these past generations and their embedded alignment with the environment.

After graduating at a young age with a degree in Legal Science and Gaeilge, Méabh began to crave an existence more connected with the natural world and so became involved in growing her own food, making her own clothes, surfing cold waters and studying historic societal organisation and ideologies. Mindful of the quote from the Dhammapada text *“If this is, that is. If this arises, that arises. If this is not, that is not. If this ceases, that ceases”*, Méabh began to understand the importance of being a systems thinker. This realisation combined with her passion for sustainability inspired her to become a member of MSLS 2016. In the future Méabh hopes to use her Master’s in International Management and Global Business and her MSLS experience to help all kinds of organisations in their journey to sustainability.



**THE NETHERLANDS**

## Milan Vonk

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Sailing in storms and climbing in trees, listening to the wind and playing in the sand. As a boy he knew what his life was about. ‘He’ is Milan from the Netherlands. His mom brought him oatmeal from the windmill and his dad gifted him his old wooden sailboat. The salt was in his veins. He listened to this calling, and attended the Maritime Academy in Amsterdam. Disappointment followed. No Three-Masted Clipper races or bravery. Not the sound of the waves, the grinding of the wood, the silhouette of a man setting topsail. Instead he entered a harsh environment of people laughing at him when he started about the romance of the clouds drifting by. His enthusiasm slowly faded when he became aware of the fact that the eco-social system we know today was not going to change even by making his colleagues aware of the emerging ecological problems, nor by telling them, and showing them, that pollution at sea and fuel reduction was possible. Finding like-minded people to take on the sustainability challenge was his next goal. He succeeded. And so a new path unfolded.



ROMANIA

## Natalia Ginghina

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Natalia landed in the MSLS program by a combination of drive, curiosity and luck. She was born and raised in Romania by parents who aimed to provide a better life than what the end and fall of Communism promised but failed to deliver. When her parents moved to Italy in 2002, she continued her education in Romania, traveling abroad to participate in international youth seminars, and then worked as a manager of an entire shopping center. Taking this short but exhilarating life experience and one bag, she moved to Sweden. For the past 7 years Natalia has been getting theoretical and practical experience on integration into a new culture, labor market policies, and entrepreneurship. Apart from that she has been learning how to ride a bike, snowboard, and drive a motorcycle. One of her favorite quotes is: *"Courage is grace under pressure."* She looks forward to fully understanding its meaning and sees this quest as supporting the study of leadership and sustainability. After this year she will either return to the Swedish Public Employment Service to share her new knowledge, move back and support positive changes in Romania, or maybe even take on greater challenges.



UNITED STATES

## Nicholas Braun

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Born and raised in the mountains of Colorado, Nick was surrounded by the natural world. Throughout his life, he continually found himself exploring new wilderness environments and traveling to many developing nations around the globe. These experiences developed a passion for environmental awareness, community development and education.

After pursuing a Bachelor's degree in German Literary Studies, he re-focused his attention on international and outdoor education. He was a volunteer teacher in rural Guatemala, he instructed international education courses for 'Where There Be Dragons' in Guatemala and he has taught leadership and environmental studies through wilderness expeditioning around the globe with the 'National Outdoor Leadership School'. The MSLS program is the next step for Nick to broaden his horizons on sustainability thinking and to open new doors down the road.



CANADA

## Nicole Harvey

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Nicole graduated in 2013 with a dual degree in Business, from the Richard Ivey School of Business, and Biology, from Western University in London, Ontario. This educational background sparked a passion for environmental sustainability within the corporate world. Through this passion, Nicole co-founded and led the first Ivey Sustainability Club. This organization has remained a popular organization on campus as well as a satisfying outlet for Ivey students who possess a keen interest in learning how business can be apart of the solution towards a sustainable society. Prior to arriving in beautiful Karlskrona, Nicole worked in the Sales Department at General Mills in Toronto. She is a confident communicator and has learnt what it takes to work more effectively and efficiently when presented with a conflict and a tight deadline. Additionally Nicole obtained a unique understanding of what sustainability challenges consumer packaged goods (CPG) companies face and feels well equipped to enact change from within a similar organization upon graduation from the MSLS program.

In her free time, Nicole enjoys spending time with her friends and family – particularly over a delicious meal! Additionally Nicole enjoys traveling and has an ever-growing list of places she plans to visit one day.



MEXICO

## Omar Roquet

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As he joined the pioneering group of green marketing practitioners in Latin America, Omar realised the role that marketing could have in a sustainable society. Since then he has harnessed his knowledge, skills and experience to poke and provoke a shift in the accountability of brands as cultural artefacts. He acknowledges the transformative potential of business and has taken part in several business initiatives with small and medium companies committed to embracing environmental respect and social justice as their ultimate business goals.

Omar co-founded VíaVerde (a green marketing firm) and GreenSquids (a social entrepreneurship hub), founded TeOt (a business development advisory), served as the Business Development Director at GreenTeam México (a purpose branding firm), and mentored with several entrepreneurship platforms (StartBlueUp, Innovación Posible, and Business Guru). He holds an MBA from IPADE Business School and a BA in Marketing from Universidad Panamericana (Mexico City). As he is keen on learning by teaching, he is frequently seen teaching yoga+meditation and peaceful feeding as well as speaking at business schools.



ENGLAND

## Paul Abela

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*“We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children”,* this ancient Indian proverb is a succinct and beautiful metaphor for why Paul Abela, from London, England, cannot accept the present path humans find ourselves on. He feels honoured to have found the MSLS and views it as a tiny jewel, which on closer examination opens up new paths of discovery. His long voyage has just begun, his sail has been set. He expects this voyage to be arduous, but revitalising and inspiring, and in embracing the coming year, his path to ensuring that our children inherit the beautiful planet that he and countless others treasure has just begun.



THE NETHERLANDS

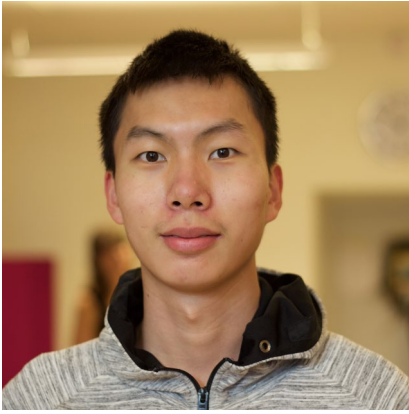
## Pieter Ploeg

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Pieter Ploeg, 29, grew up in Haarlem, Netherlands and has a Bachelor degree in Lighting Design for Theatre. He volunteered as a staff member for an International Youth Camp for five years, during which he became passionate about engaging youth in international projects. In 2010 he attended the International Youth Initiative Program (YIP) in Sweden, which helped him increase his capacities for leadership and social sustainability. For several years thereafter he worked at YIP as a program coordinator. During this time he developed sustainability consulting projects as well as the Mission U project in Berlin and was part of launching the International Partnership for Transformative Learning.

Concerned about climate change and interested in organic food, Pieter became passionate about soil, land restoration and regenerative agriculture. In 2013 he co-founded Summer of Soil, an educational initiative on soil restoration and was invited to speak at several conferences on raising soil awareness and the role of youth in soil restoration. In 2015 he completed a farm-scale and professional permaculture design training after which he joined MSLS to strengthen his knowledge of sustainability and further practice his leadership capacities. Afterwards he is planning to launch Common Soil; an international land restoration and learning centre using regenerative agriculture.





CHINA

## Qianxin Xu

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Qianxin Xu was born in Shanghai, which is the economic center of China. The rapid development also led to a lot of pollution. Qianxin's family lives not far away from the Shanghai Chemical Industry Zone, chemical factories which produce a lot of pollution and affect the quality of life of inhabitants. After several interviews with them, he realized that the only thing these factories worry about is profit, and so he became interested in environmental protection. Qianxin wants to find the balance between monetary profit and the environment and change the current reality. He applied for this MSLS program in order to learn skills and acquire knowledge about sustainability so that he can put those skills to use when back in China. Furthermore, he likes to take on challenges and he hopes to make new friends from all over the world during this program. Qianxin believes that sustainability is the emerging trend of social development and expects to be able to inspire more people to contribute to a sustainable society.

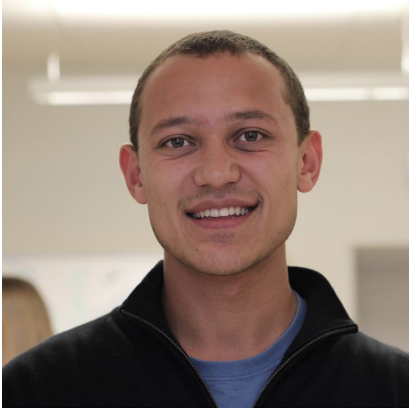


FRANCE

## Quentin Houssin

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Quentin is a 21-year-old man from the west coast of France. Ever since he was a child, he has been curious about the world. The older he got, the more interested he became in the complexity of the world and the interconnectivity between the environment, the economy and society. This curiosity also taught him that, though the world is amazing, it is also in danger. So when he was a teenager, he (naturally) decided to be a part of the global answer! He chose to follow through with another passion – technical creation – and so started a degree in engineering. As his classes didn't focus on sustainability, Quentin undertook internships and projects in based on the principles of sustainability. For example, he went to Kenya to support an ecotourism centre, designed an irrigation system for a Senegalese association and participated in various other social and environmental projects. Quentin is here as an Erasmus exchange student to continue learning about how he, as an engineer and a leader, can help to develop sustainable solutions to global crises.



**SOUTH AFRICA**

## Ralph Ferguson

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Ralph is from South Africa, but has been raised in both South Africa and Sweden. Having been born towards the end of apartheid in South Africa, Ralph has felt a strong sense of indignation towards injustice and discrimination of any kind, especially when it concerns minorities, racism and those who are disenfranchised. He attended a high school in Swaziland called Waterford Kamhlaba United World College, and the experience of having spent seven years in such a multicultural and forward-thinking environment influenced him greatly in issues concerning sustainable development, classism and multiculturalism. This experience also evoked a passion relating to development in Africa, as serving the community was a large part of the experience at Waterford.

For his Bachelor's degree Ralph studied Audio-visual Production at Dalarna University and did his final internship at an organisation called Global Human Rights Defence in The Hague.

His desire for contributing in a real way to society ultimately led him to the MSLS program, as the program seemed to deal with a holistic view of society and the environment. Ralph is fascinated by the potential and resilience that humans have, and aspires to bring the best out in those who he meets and looks to constantly learn and grow from his surroundings and new experiences.



**BASQUE COUNTRY (SPAIN)**

## Rita Aldabaldetrekue

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Rita Aldabaldetrekue Gonzalez de Txabarri, from the Basque Country, has recently finished her Bachelor's degree in law with a minor in economics. Her decision to study law spurred from a curiosity to understand the rules by which society is organized and have the knowledge and competence to question and maybe change them. She managed to answer some "why?" questions, but she still did not know how to make the changes she dreamed of, so she started looking for Master's degrees that would answer the "how?" question.

The MSLS is an excellent programme for her to develop her personal leadership skills and learn more about the current sustainability issues. It is not a conventional Master's programme, but that is what she loves about it. As her favourite quote states, *"kites fly highest against the wind, not with it"*. Non-formal education and music are her other passions. She works as an instructor in summer camps, teaching values to children and teenagers through games. She also plays the guitar and sings whenever she has the chance. She is looking forward to the MSLS programme and a magical year in Karlskrona!



CANADA

## Rosamund Mosse

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Rosamund has spent the last few years working in community development in New Brunswick Canada, and Salado Barra, Honduras. During that time, she worked on projects such as microenterprise development, youth engagement, transformative learning initiatives and global citizenship. Bearing witness to many of the complex challenges in working towards sustainability, Rosamund looks forward to finding a space where she can contribute to the solutions. Having always worked towards amplifying unheard voices, lending time to listen, cultivating compassion and inciting action, she now settles into the MSLS programme and beautiful Karlskrona.

Rosamund has a degree in International Development and Spanish from Dalhousie University, and has had the good fortune and opportunity to learn from many other – formal and informal – educational experiences. She was drawn to MSLS to connect flighty ideas with practical tools, to learn how to be a genuine, vulnerable and powerful agent for change and to practice and learn alongside an incredible global community.

Rosamund brings a unique voice to MSLS, provides an anchor for all those flighty ideas (and the people who chase them!), and has a devout appreciation for strong cheese, warm socks and the tea cosy.



ENGLAND

## Sarah Forrester- Wilson

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*“The same stream of life that runs through my veins night and day runs through the world.”*

Sarah grew up in Devon in the South West of England. All of her life Sarah has been a part of Forest School Camps, an educational community aimed at providing a holistic, outdoor education for children. During her Bachelor Degree, Sarah focused on how language plays a pivotal role in how we connect with the natural world. In 2012 Sarah was part of the core team who set up the Bristol Pound, a complimentary currency aimed at connecting people, place and product. She became fascinated by transitional economics, where the Economy becomes a river running through society, both enriching & serving its community.

She joined the MSLS to learn how to bridge the gap between the needs for large systemic change and deep personal reconnection. She is mad about snowboarding, climbing and any sport that takes her to wild, quiet places. Singing is her therapy and the smell of wood-smoke takes her home. She believes tea is one of the most important things in life, that poetry should be shared daily and that we should all get to know at least one plant, as if it were a close friend.



AUSTRIA

## Thomas Hutle

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Thomas joined the MSLS program to learn how to pose the right questions for a better future. He holds a B.Sc. from University of Innsbruck in Management and Economics and has worked for international companies in the fields of HR, marketing and general management. His entrepreneurial experience includes co-founding and managing a NGO that offers scholarships for participation at the European Forum Alpbach. Additionally, Thomas worked as a freelance sports journalist for four years.

Raised in a small city on the Austrian side of the quadrangle between Switzerland, Germany, Liechtenstein and Austria, Thomas always enjoyed the great outdoors. Active in many sports including football, tennis, badminton and hockey he developed team skills from an early age.

His friends would describe him as a freethinker with a strong commitment to work, great flexibility and a high sense of responsibility. You'll often find Thomas joking, laughing, taking photos or watching documentaries. He is happiest when listening to some epic pieces of rock music of the 1960s or 70s.

Adhering to one of his favorite quotes, "Have a good time - all the time" by Viv Savage, Thomas firmly believes that a good laugh and not taking yourself too seriously are a key part in dealing with the serious sustainability challenges we are facing.



THE NETHERLANDS

## Thomas van der Molen

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Thomas his name,  
van der Molen  
From the windmill and  
then a ship was born

To travel light would be the key  
unlocking  
The arrival, the arriving  
in this planet

Tumult throughout  
many years  
Strengthening his vessel, his  
higher purpose

His aim, always higher than  
Anything else - causing desperation

For some time, all-in-all  
Being relative  
Nuanced  
Reflected  
Upon

Within  
Healed  
In  
Consent  
Outside  
Fear  
Now  
More  
Balanced  
With  
Much  
Much  
More  
To learn

Molino his name, nowadays  
No more  
Busy-ness as usual  
Wingspan spread  
Forever  
And  
Us all