



"Know which is your path and follow it wherever it may lead you; do not feel you have to follow in someone else's footsteps" - Eileen Caddy, Co-founder, Findhorn Community



Nature Sanctuary at Findhorn

Scotland

Human Challenge of Sustainability

Fall/Spring Semesters

Examine the skills, understanding, and practices that are vital to community living at Findhorn - an international Ecovillage of 400 people on the scenic north coast of Scotland renowned for its environmental consciousness, personal and spiritual growth, artistry, education, and global responsibility. Learn about the integration of human ecology and natural systems as you gain valuable field experience in areas including sustainable food systems, creative expression and group facilitation. Experience the successes and challenges of living and working sustainably in one of the first intentional communities in the world awarded NGO status with the United Nations and Best Practices designation by the UN Centre for Human Settlements.



Spring 2002 students relax after classes

Field Study

- ⊗ Spend a week on Erraid Island with a small farming community off Scotland's beautiful west coast
- ⊗ Discover ancient Scottish/Celtic traditions and history
- ⊗ Help regenerate the Caledonian Forest in the Scottish Highlands on a week-long Trees for Life program
- ⊗ Become a part of community life by working in well-established organic gardens, preparing community vegetarian meals with local, organic produce, or other opportunities for integrated action

Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 16 transferable credits through Pacific Lutheran University

Spring January 31 - May 8 (approximate)

Fall August 28 - December 4 (approximate)

Findhorn as "Ecovillage"

The Findhorn Foundation is a demonstration site for sustainable living. It has its own organic gardens and community supported agriculture system, wind-powered generator, "Living Machine" sewage treatment facility, and "green building" program with over 30 ecological buildings completed and a further 30-40 in planning stages. Sustainable living means more than environmental systems, however. It also includes human interactions such as conflict resolution and decision-making. The Findhorn Community is based on a spiritual philosophy that seeks to integrate personal and spiritual growth, environmental concerns, work, family, education, and global responsibility.

Application Deadlines (suggested, contact us for late availability)

Fall May 15

Spring November 30

Cost

Tuition, program costs, room and board, in-country travel \$10,750

Faculty

Malcolm Hollick, Ph.D., Water Harvesting, M.A. Engineering. Professor, author, and founder of Findhorn Foundation College

Jonathan Dawson, M.Phil., Development Economics, MA International relations. Designer, evaluator and manager of volunteer programs and small-scale, community-based projects in the UK and Africa

Ben Fuchs, M.A., Counseling Psychology, B.A. Theatre. Organizational consultant, specializing in conflict transformation, group dynamics and reconciliation

Maggie Buxton, B.A., Education and Political Studies. Counselor and group facilitator specializing in organizational change

Courses

Human Ecology (ENVT 350) 4 cr

This course explores the core nature of our species and focuses specifically on our relationship with the land, food and farming. The various ways in which we provide for our other needs - shelter, energy, clothing, transport, waste management, etc., is also covered. Students explore the theory and practice of living more lightly and joyfully through 'ecological footprint analysis' - a tool which helps us to gauge the impact of our current activities on the environment.

Psychology: Group Dynamics (PSYC 350) 4 cr

This course looks at the psychology of groups - both small and large. Students will learn observation, communication and facilitation skills as practical, effective tools and to reinforce theoretical learnings. Utilizing students' own experience and that of the Findhorn Ecovillage as examples, the course will cover:

- Stages of groups development based on the Scott Peck model
- Roles, conflict and facilitation techniques
- The relationship between personal psychology and group dynamics
- Common group dynamic issues: conformity, safety, leadership, sub-groups, scapegoating, etc.

Fine Art in Community (ARTD 350) 4 cr

This course helps students connect with the creative self through painting, drawing and sculpting. Through exercises, lectures, and projects, students study:

- An introduction to the world of color, form and line from a developmental perspective
- Painting as an expression of feeling in contrast to verbal, intellectual art forms
- Interaction and communication in groups through artistic expression
- Artistic connection with the natural world to inspire and transform the way we see and perceive

Creative Writing (ENGL 350) 4 cr

This course aims to teach and empower students to utilize creative language as a tool of autobiography, self-expression and successful communication. Students will explore different styles and techniques of writing, explore different voices and perspectives, and expand their range of subjects. Students are encouraged to 'write through their blocks', and to confront and befriend the critical voices that inhibit their writing.