

# MINOR - SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

Call for Work field Assignments – February to July 2024.

## Introduction

The B.Sc. course Coastal and Marine Management (CMM) at University of Applied Sciences VHL is happy to introduce a new minor-program in February 2024 - **Sustainable Blue Economy** (SBE). The minor will be focused on the many challenges society, entrepreneurs, governments, and the natural system face to sustainably develop the Blue Economy. Students will dive into all subjects related to SBE, work on a work field assignment, and present their findings in a symposium. Given the international context of SBE the language used in the minor will be English.

## SBE context

After the term Blue Economy was first coined in 2012 (UNCDS, 2014), and further elaborated on by the United Nations and the World Bank in 2017 (World Bank and United Nations DESA, 2017), the European council and parliament approved the European Climate Law in 2021 as part of the European Green Deal. (European Council, 2022). In doing so a legal framework exists for developing a 'Sustainable Blue Economy' (European Commission, 2021). Incorporated in this, the European Commission considers fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, marine transport, harbor logistics, shipbuilding sectors as well as energy production and alternative food sourcing to be part of a SBE. The European Commission describes the following agenda for a SBE (European Commission, 2021):

- ✓ Achieve the objectives of climate neutrality and zero pollution;
- ✓ switch to a circular economy and reduce pollution;
- ✓ preserve biodiversity and invest in nature;
- ✓ support climate adaptation and coastal resilience;
- ✓ ensure sustainable food production, and;
- ✓ improve management of space at sea.

## Call for work field assignments

Considering the context above, the future will need professionals who are able to bring this all together. This forms the basis for our minor program. To fully immerse the students in the challenges of SBE, students will have to find a solution to an issue/problem/challenge/question the work field is currently facing.

**Therefore, we want to ask you and your organization to collaborate with us by becoming a client for our students and provide them with a relevant work field assignment.**

If you wish to collaborate with us, the assignment can take on any desired form if students can realistically find a solution within the given time and a holistic approach can be used to find it. The client is expected to provide the following:

- ✓ A question / issue / problem or challenge
- ✓ Some context (max 500 words)
- ✓ Time to meet with students (at least twice)
- ✓ Time to attend the symposium in July 2024.

A brief overview of the activities during the minor is given in Table 1. Preferred or necessary attendance (either physically or online) is presented as a green row in the table.

**TABLE 1, OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE MINOR SBE (COHORT 2023-2024)**

Week	Activity	Description	Client present
6	Kick-off minor	The first 7 to 8 weeks are focused on gaining knowledge of SBE sectors, legislation, conceptual models, as well as gaining the necessary skills and attitude to cope with SBE challenges	
11	Introduction work field assignment	After the first couple weeks the students will have a grasp on basic knowledge. Now the work field assignments will be introduced. Students will be organized in groups of four and select a work field assignment. Only one group per assignment is allowed. The students will now read up on their assignment and will write a draft proposal.	Preferred
14	Exam	Students will have to show their grasp of their knowledge on SBE during a written exam	
15	First meet-up with client	When the proposal is finished, the students meet the client to verify its contents and to specify/elaborate on their problem statement and research questions. Here, the students will also decide their final product (end goal).	Necessary
17	Second meet-up with client	After about three or four weeks a second meeting with the client will ensure the group is still on track. Changes to the form of the final product can still be made if necessary.	Necessary
24	Hand-in assignment	Students hand in their supporting documentation to their final product to be assessed by the teacher	
24/25	Presentation at symposium	In a symposium students will present their final products. This can be done in a multitude of ways: a presentation, organizing a workshop, facilitating a panel discussion, etc.	Necessary

## Contact details

Please contact the minor coordinator, André Dijkstra, for more information about the minor and ways to collaborate.

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