

Energy Systems in Transition : Economic, policy and social challenges

A European Campus of Excellence (ECE) course on energy at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) and the University of St. Gallen.

From 15th August to 3rd September 2016 a three-week summer school on the challenges of the energy transition will be held in Switzerland to which 30 excellent bachelor and master students from all over Europe are invited. The summer school will focus on the management of the energy transition, energy economics, energy policies and social challenges of the energy transition.



The energy sector is a major contributor to some of the most pressing societal challenges, such as climate change, resource depletion and local air pollution. We are presently facing huge and unprecedented challenges in replacing the current fossil fuel based energy systems with a sustainable, more secure and equitable supply. To mitigate these problems, new energy technologies need to be developed and diffused. Firms and institutions, such as public policy, as well as the energy consumer play a particularly important role in achieving these goals. The global challenge has to be addressed by an interdisciplinary approach and global as well as local strategies. Comprehension of the interconnectivity between different fields such as energy production, energy consumption, society, policy and economy is crucial for a successful transformation of the energy systems.

The summer school will enable students to share knowledge and learn from each other as well as from experts in the field. It provides a unique setting for students to work together and to build a network across Europe. Awareness for the challenge of our future energy supply will be raised, a better understanding of the energy issues will be encouraged and global solutions to meet the challenges will be discussed.

The small number of attendees offers ideal learning conditions. Participants will discuss social, economic, and industrial concerns with key note speakers on at least two evenings per week. In addition to the lectures and practical sessions, trips to a hydro power plant and nuclear power plant and further energy facilities as well as to research institutes are planned.

Admission criteria

- Demonstrate a high motivation and interest in gaining further knowledge on energy issues
- Enrolled in a bachelor (second or third year) or master programm in natural or engineering sciences or economic or social sciences
- Working proficiency in english

Applications are accepted from students performing studies at European universities (Israel, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey included) or students studying outside Europe and holding European citizenship. The European Campus of Excellence course is open to 30 students. Participants will be selected based on academic merit.

Costs

Thanks to the generous funding provided by the Stiftung Mercator Schweiz, stipends for all 30 participants can be provided. They cover travelling, boarding and lodging.

Registration

Apply online : <http://euca-excellence.eu/applications/>

Please fill out the online questionnaire and provide the supporting documents in one PDF-file (not exceeding 2 MB).

Required documents:

- Proof of registration at a your university (for non European citizens : European university, Israel, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey included)
- Personal data sheet (CV)
- Statement of motivation explaining your interest in the course (max. 250 words)
- Short description of your bachelor or master project (if applicable)
- Letters of recommendation from two of your supervisors
- Reports or grade transcripts for your current course of studies and degrees already obtained

Applications will be accepted until 21 March, 2016. Selected participants will be notified by the beginning of April 2016.

Contact

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