

Advanced Training Course 2026

Cross-Disciplinary Approaches to Global Environmental Challenges

UK–Brazil Training Programme for Postgraduate Students

Deadline for institutional nominations to be sent to UoB: **15 June 2026**

Location

UNICAMP – Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil

Including activities with partner institutes across São Paulo state
(INPE, CNPEM/LNBR, CBioClima–UNESP, USP, UFSCar)

Duration:

- **September–October 2026:** Four-week Virtual Seminar Programme (exact timings tbc)
- **Week commencing 19th October 2026:-** In-Person Immersion Week at UNICAMP
- **Oct 2026 – Jan 2027:** Post-residential supervision & collaborative paper writing

Programme Overview

The *Advanced Training Course* is a flagship initiative of the **UK–Brazil Climate & Sustainability Hub**, co-led by the **University of Birmingham** and **UNICAMP**. It brings together **PhD research students** from across the UK and Brazil to explore global sustainability challenges through **interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and intercultural collaboration**.

Delivered through:

- live virtual seminars,
- collaborative team-based research,
- in-person applied activities,
- and supervision from UK and Brazilian academics,

...the course equips students to engage with today's most pressing environmental and socio-environmental issues in ways that integrate diverse knowledge systems — scientific, technical, social, policy, and community-based.

The course directly supports the aims of the UK–Brazil Climate & Sustainability Hub to develop the next generation of climate-literate, globally connected researchers capable of shaping sustainable futures.

Programme Themes & Learning Activities

The curriculum combines **virtual teaching**, **collaborative workshops**, **policy and research engagement**, and **field-based learning**.

Indicative themes include:

1. Climate, Environment & Biodiversity

- Climate science and global environmental change
- Amazonian and Atlantic Forest ecosystems
- Biodiversity loss, conservation science, and ecosystem resilience

2. Policy, Governance & Adaptation

- Climate adaptation strategies and governance
- Science-policy interfaces in Brazil and the UK
- Environmental justice and inequality

3. Interdisciplinary & Transdisciplinary Methods

- Systems thinking and tackling “wicked problems”
- Participatory and decolonial methodologies
- Integrating scientific, social, cultural, and Indigenous knowledge

4. Sustainability & Societal Transitions

- Sustainable futures and transitions to low-carbon societies
- Social dimensions of climate action, community resilience, and well-being
- Climate emotions, hope-based pedagogy, and storytelling for transformation

5. Applied Research & Communication Skills

- Academic writing (including scientific and policy formats)
- Intercultural teamwork and communication
- Collaborative research design and synthesis

Students will work in **mixed UK–Brazil teams** on a collaborative output coached by academic supervisors.

Included Academic, Cultural & Practical Activities (Indicative)

During the four-week Virtual Phase:

- Live seminars from leading UK and Brazilian academics
- Skills workshops: systems thinking, writing, communication, research design
- Team-based meetings to develop project ideas

During the 5-day Immersion Week (UNICAMP, Brazil):

- Applied workshops on interdisciplinary & intercultural collaboration
- Policy-facing sessions with government and civil society actors
- Visits to partner research centres (subject to scheduling)
- Campus-based field exercises and lab activities
- Group project development and presentations
- Cultural activities highlighting the social and ecological diversity of São Paulo State

Programme Output

Students will work on a short, co-authored inter/trans-disciplinary paper, produced in mixed teams of UK and Brazilian students and co-supervised by academics from both countries. Papers may take the form of:

- A comparative case study
- A policy analysis or recommendation brief
- A cross-disciplinary synthesis of an environmental or socio-environmental challenge
- A conceptual or methodological framework integrating diverse knowledge systems
- A reflective or creative-practice output (e.g., storytelling, narrative analysis), where appropriate

Eligibility

Open to **PhD students** from any discipline, including:

- Environmental science, biology, ecology, geography
- Engineering, computing, data science
- Sociology, anthropology, development, social policy
- International relations, political science, public policy
- Humanities, arts, education, sustainability studies
- Interdisciplinary Global Challenges programmes

Essential:

- Interest in global environmental challenges
- Commitment to interdisciplinary & intercultural collaboration
- Ability to attend both virtual & in-person components

No Portuguese required.

No prior fieldwork experience required.

Funding & Costs

Funding Available:

- **Two funded postgraduate places per partner institution**

Funding includes:

- Travel to UNICAMP
- Accommodation during immersion week
- Subsistence (breakfast and lunch on teaching days)
- All teaching, supervision & programme materials

Additional students may be able to join through local **institutional funding or self-funding**, where permitted.

Accommodation

Students will stay in the university guesthouse accommodation at UNICAMP, with shared facilities typical of academic residential programmes.

How to Apply

Add local application process.

To express interest, contact your local coordinator:

[Insert contact email]

Why Apply?

- Become part of a growing UK–Brazil research and education network
- Build skills for global climate leadership
- Work across cultures, disciplines, and knowledge systems
- Develop a collaborative publication-ready output
- Gain international experience funded through the British Council
- Join a new community committed to sustainability and global justice