One of the most pressing concerns in our present world is the environmental crisis. The threat of major climate change has made us aware that we live in a connected world: we need to rethink our ways of relating to the environment. This principle of interconnectedness is the focal point of the Environmental Humanities theme in the Humanities Research Master. Environmental Humanities brings disciplinary interests into conversation with each other to create new connections both within and outside the humanities.

WHY STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES AT VU?
Relations between humans and their environment have long been central to various disciplines and research projects within the Faculty of Humanities at the VU, especially in the departments of History, Art and Culture, and Literature. Also the Vrije Universiteit has just founded an Environmental Humanities Center. Research master students are encouraged to take active part in this vibrant research environment.

HOW TO BECOME AN ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANIST?
The program aims to train a generation of students aware of the value of the humanities in addressing pressing environmental concerns. Students who choose Environmental Humanities as a theme in their specialization are encouraged to think outside of the box and outside the lines of their discipline. Building on the knowledge of the field’s key concepts, debates and methodologies acquired in an introductory course, you specialize further through courses, tutorials, and internships. Students in Environmental Humanities will be schooled to develop innovative research to probe pressing environmental concerns.

Bringing together students, scholars, and the public interested in humanities perspectives on the environment, the new Environmental Humanities Center at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam aims to foster an exchange of ideas.

Grounded in the realization that today’s environmental crisis calls for an interdisciplinary approach, we wish to stimulate conversations among the humanities and the natural and social sciences.

HUMANITIES RESEARCH MASTER
DURATION: 2 YEARS FULLTIME
DEADLINE: APRIL 1 (NON-EU STUDENTS)
1 JUNE FOR DUTCH AND EU STUDENTS

SCHOLARSHIPS
The Graduate School of Humanities is proud to offer support for highly motivated and excellent students: In 2017 CLUE+, the Research Institute of Culture, History and Heritage of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers an Environmental Humanities Scholarship for an excellent and highly motivated student.
Application date: before February 1, 2017
Through intensive training and supervision you will learn to write a research proposal for (inter)national science foundations, and learn to design and position an innovative humanities research project.

**Environmental Humanities** is a cross-cutting theme of the Humanities Research Master. For more details on the programme, admission, application and scholarships: Department Language, Literature and Communication. Faculty of Humanities

**Dr. K. Steenbergh**

**EMAIL:** k.steenbergh@vu.nl

**LEGEND:**
- Obligatory for all students of the VU Humanities Research Master
- Obligatory for all students of the Environmental Humanities theme
- MA courses / Environmental courses
- Optional courses: summer / winter school at a National Research School, international research period, tutorial

**YEAR 1**

**PERIOD 1**

**PLACE & PLANET IN THE ANTHROPOCENE** (6 EC)

In this course you explore how novels respond to our changing sense of planet, the current climate crisis and the Anthropocene. We will analyze how fictional texts deal with this increasing awareness of human impact on the planet.

**MA COURSE**

(6 EC)

Choose an MA course in your discipline.

**YEAR 2**

**PERIOD 1**

**STUDY ABROAD / INTERNSHIP** (15 EC)

We strongly encourage an intensive research period at a university or research institute abroad. The VU Graduate School of Humanities offers financial and practical support. You can also opt for a stay at a university or research institute in the Netherlands, for an internship, or specific skill trainings.

**PERIOD 2 & 3**

**HUMANITIES RESEARCH CAREER PREPARATION** (6 EC)

Through intensive training and supervision you will learn to write a research proposal for (inter)national science foundations, and learn to design and position an innovative humanities research project.

**ECOLOGIES AND EMOTIONS** (9 EC)

In this core course you explore the role of emotions in past and present relations between humans and the environment. How do hope, shame, fear and guilt play a role in our cultural perceptions of climate change? How were perceptions of nature harnessed to understand emotional behavior in the past?

**PERIOD 2 & 3**

**HISTORY OF NATURAL DISASTERS** (9 EC)

The course focuses on “nature-induced” disasters in the past. How do we explain such disasters in terms of human and natural agency? How did societies cope with such disasters and what can we learn to improve our resilience?

**PERIOD 4**

**HUMANITIES IN SOCIETY** (6 EC)

This is the first Humanities research design course: you will train to position yourself in the international research field and learn to design and present innovative Humanities research. You will also take active part in the lectures of the Graduate School of Humanities.

**MA COURSE**

(6 EC)

Choose an MA course in your discipline, or one of the Environmental electives.

**PERIOD 4**

**THESIS** (30 EC)

**PERIOD 5 & 6**

**NATIONAL RESEARCH SCHOOL** (12 EC)

All students enrol with a Humanities National Research School at the start of their study. You may choose a selection of courses, masterclasses, summer or winter schools for at least 10 EC - over 2 years.

**TUTORIAL**

(9 EC)

Together with your mentor or with one of the lecturers of this theme, you design a tutorial (reading list, case study, term paper) on the cross-roads of your specialisation and environmental humanities.

**MORE INFORMATION**

**Environmental Humanities**

is a cross-cutting theme of the Humanities Research Master.

For more details on the programme, admission, application and scholarships: Department Language, Literature and Communication. Faculty of Humanities