

Nordic Studies in Soil Sciences and the SoilSoc Programme

SoilSoc (Soils and Society) is a thematic network under NOVA University Network that coordinates a collaborative education programme between six Nordic life science universities. In this programme the student can take an interdisciplinary Nordic minor or specialisation in soil sciences. The Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry (University of Helsinki) offers a Nordic Minor in Soil Sciences, 25 ECTS, coordinated by the Department of Applied Chemistry and Microbiology. In addition to the courses taught by the faculty, this minor programme includes also international courses and study modules taken in other Nordic countries. The composition of the minor entity is tailored for each student so that it supports the major studies and strengthens interdisciplinary skills.

If the student completes the minor package by writing his MSc thesis on a topic related to soil sciences (recommendation: in English), he can acquire a separate certificate on participating in the SoilSoc Programme, allocated by the SoilSoc network. Participating in the programme gives the student strong know-how to tackle interdisciplinary soil-related problems (e.g. erosion and soil degradation, constructed and contaminated soils, climate change) in Nordic, European and developing countries. Students who have completed the SoilSoc Programme will have a wide contact network of Nordic soil experts as well as language and cultural skills. More information on the SoilSoc Programme and courses can be found on the network website <http://www.helsinki.fi/soilsoc>.

Professor in charge

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Student counselling

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Registration of the study entity

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Study entity - Nordic Minor in Soil Sciences, 25 ECTS

The Nordic Minor in Soil Sciences is comprised of study modules related to soil sciences (e.g. soil chemistry, soil physics, soil biology, pedology, hydrology) and tools used in soil studies (e.g. laboratory techniques, statistics). The entity will include national and international study modules as follows:

- One SoilSoc Summer School, 3-6 ECTS. The SoilSoc network organises problem-based graduate-level intensive courses annually with different themes and host institutions
- International study modules, minimum 15 ECTS. These comprise international courses organised in Finland as well as courses taken in other NOVA member universities.
- Other related studies agreed on in the personal study plan. A minimum 4-week practical training period in a foreign or Finnish research group or company (2-9 ECTS) is recommended.

In addition to the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, also other Nordic SoilSoc member universities offer courses that can be included in the minor programme. These are: University of Copenhagen (LIFE), University of Joensuu (JU-F), Agricultural University of Iceland (AUI), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB), and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). The SoilSoc network organises MSc and PhD level courses with changing topics and locations. A list of courses that suit the Nordic Minor in Soil Sciences is maintained at <http://www.helsinki.fi/soilsoc/courses/>, but for example other graduate courses can be included. The selection of study modules comprising the Nordic Minor in Soil Sciences is tailored for each student separately and is agreed on in the personal study plan. Study counselling is given by the SoilSoc network secretary Anu Mikkonen together with the student advisors of the related subjects.