

(Thailand International Postgraduate Programme : TIPP)

Master of Arts Program in Science for Sustainable Local Development

- 1. Course Title:** Master of Arts Program in Science for Sustainable Local Development
- 2. Master Degree:** Master of Arts (Science for Sustainable Local Development)
- 3. Academic Institution:** Graduate School, Chiang Mai Rajabhat University
- 4. Duration:** June 2026 – May 2028 (2-year course).

The program will run continuously, with annual international admissions from 2026 to 2029.

5. Background and Rational:

The Master of Arts in Science for Sustainable Local Development, offered by the Graduate School of Chiang Mai Rajabhat University, is strategically aligned with Thailand's 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023–2027) and the 20-Year National Strategy (2017–2036). It also supports international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to quality education, sustainable communities, and capacity building.

This program addresses a critical challenge in modern education—the marginalization of traditional knowledge and local wisdom. While scientific advancement is essential, overreliance on external technologies often leads to development models that lack cultural relevance and community resilience. The program seeks to restore balance by integrating modern science with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and the Principles of His Majesty's Development Works, emphasizing holistic human development—body, mind, society, and wisdom—alongside environmental sustainability.

Since its inception, the program has achieved tangible outcomes. It has welcomed international students through TICA sponsorship from countries such as Benin and Bhutan, as well as self-funded students from Myanmar, China, and others. All students engage in practical fieldwork and conduct research aligned with development priorities in their home countries. These experiences empower graduates to apply the knowledge and principles acquired in Thailand to generate real impact in their own national contexts. Alumni have gone on to implement sustainable development initiatives grounded in SEP, particularly in agriculture, education, and community empowerment.

The program is led by a distinguished team of scholars, including a professor who is a member of the Royal Society of Thailand. This academic leadership ensures both national relevance and international credibility. The Graduate School brings broad experience in interdisciplinary education and maintains strong partnerships with communities, government agencies, and international organizations.

Moreover, Chiang Mai Rajabhat University possesses strong institutional capacity to deliver this program effectively. The university has a proven track record in international development education and collaboration, with extensive experience in hosting and supporting scholars from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds. Its faculty includes experts with practical experience applying SEP in Bhutan and Myanmar, demonstrating the university's ability to translate theory into action across different socio-economic contexts.

The university offers qualified academic staff, field-based learning infrastructure, and deep-rooted community partnerships, ensuring that students receive both conceptual and practical learning. Its growing international alumni network continues to apply sustainable development approaches globally, contributing to South–South cooperation and long-term impact.

With these institutional strengths, proven outcomes, and expert leadership, the Graduate School of Chiang Mai Rajabhat University is exceptionally well-positioned to implement this program under the Thailand International Postgraduate Programme (TIPP) and contribute meaningfully to human resource development in partner countries.

6. Objectives:

The program aims to produce qualified graduates with the standard qualification as follows:

1. The graduates can understand and apply Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and the Principles of His Majesty's Development Works to benefit oneself, society, and nation with the creativity and sustainability.
2. The graduates are able to conduct research based on the fundamental knowledge of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and the Principles of His Majesty's Development Works, combine with local wisdom and modern technology, to benefit their careers with the sufficiency basis, and leads to the sustainable local development.

7. Course Synopsis and Methodology:

Program Details:

Plan A1: Thesis (36 credits)

Plan A2: Coursework (24 credits) and Thesis (12 credits)

Plan B: Coursework (30 credits) and Independent Study (6 Credits)

Curriculum structure: The curriculum structure is divided into course groups in accordance with the curriculum standards of the Ministry of Education.

7.1 Study plan

No.	Courses	Programs		
		Plan A Type A1	Plan A Type A2	Plan B
		Credits	Credits	Credits
1	Thesis	36	12	
2	Independent study			6
3	Coursework no less than		24	30
	1.1) Basic Course		6	6
	1.2) Specialization Course no less than	-	18	24
	1.2.1) Required Course		12	12
	1.2.2) Elective Course no less than		6	12
4	Additional course	Non-credit	Non-credit	Non-credit
Total Credits		36	36	36

Study Plans:

1) Plan A Type A

Year 1/ Semester 1: Plan A type A1		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6102	The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and The New Theory* (Additional course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6104	Principles of Local Development Based on The King's Philosophy* (Additional course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6901	Research Methodology in Social Sciences* (Additional course)	3	3	0	6
ENG 6101	English for Graduate Studies* (Additional course)	3	3	0	6
Total Credits		12	12	0	24

* Non-credit Courses

hours/week = 36

Year 1/ Semester 2: Plan A type A1		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6902	Thesis	12	0	540 (36)	0
KP 6801	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 1* (Additional course)	1	0	2	2
COM 6101	Computer for graduate studies* (Additional course)	3	3	0	6
Total Credits		16	3	38	8

* Non-credit Courses

hours/week = 49

Year 2/ Semester 1: Plan A type A1		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6902	Thesis	12	0	540 (36)	0
KP 6802	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 2*	1	0	2	2
Total Credits		13	0	38	2

* Non-credit Courses

hours/week = 40

Year 2/ Semester 2: Plan A type A1		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6902	Thesis	12	0	540 (36)	0
Total Credits		12	0	36	0

hours/week = 36

2) Plan A type A 2

Year 1/ Semester 1: Plan A type A 2		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6102	The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and The New Theory (Basic Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6104	Principles of Local Development Based on The King's Philosophy (Basic Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6301	The King's Philosophy for Natural Resource and Environmental Development (Required Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6901	Research Methodology in Social Sciences (Required Course)	3	3	0	6
ENG 6101	English for Graduate Studies* (Additional course)	3	3	0	6
Total Credits		15	15	0	30

* Non-credit Courses

hours/week = 45

Year 1/ Semester 2: Plan A type A 2		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6101	Sustainable Local Development with Thai Social Context (Required Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6201	The King's Philosophy for Agriculture (Required Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6XXX	..... (Elective Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6801	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 1* (Additional course)	1	0	2	2
COM 6101	Computer for graduate studies* (Additional course)	3	3	0	6
Total Credits		13	12	2	26

* Non-credit Courses

hours/week = 40

Year 2/ Semester 1: Plan A type A 2		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6XXX	..... (Elective Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6802	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 2* (Additional course)	1	0	2	2
Total Credits		4	3	2	8

* Non-credit Courses

hours/week = 13

Year 2/ Semester 2: Plan A type A 2		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6902	Thesis	12	0	540 (36)	0
Total Credits		12	0	36	0

hours/week = 36

3) Plan B

Year 1/ Semester 1: Plan B		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6102	The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and The New Theory (Basic Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6104	Principles of Local Development Based on The King's Philosophy (Basic Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6201	The King's Philosophy for Agriculture (Required Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6901	Research Methodology in Social Sciences (Required Course)	3	3	0	6
ENG 6101	English for Graduate Studies* (Additional course)	3	3	0	6
Total Credits		15	15	0	30

* Non-credit Courses

hours/week = 45

Year 1/ Semester 2: Plan B		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6101	Sustainable Local Development with Thai Social Context (Required Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6301	The King's Philosophy for Natural Resource and Environmental Development (Required Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6XXX	..... (Elective Course)				
KP 6801	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 1 (Additional course)*	1	0	2	2
COM 6101	Computer for graduate studies* (Additional course)	3	3	0	6
Total Credits		13	12	2	26

* Non-credit Courses

hours/week = 40

Year 2/ Semester 1: Plan B		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6XXX	..... (Elective Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6XXX	..... (Elective Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6XXX	..... (Elective Course)	3	3	0	6
KP 6802	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 2* (Additional course)	1	0	2	2
Total Credits		10	9	2	20

* Non-credit Courses

hours/week = 31

Year 2/ Semester 2: Plan B		Credits	Theory	Action	Self-Study
KP 6903	Independent study	6	0	270 (18)	0
Total Credits		6	0	18	0

hours/week = 18

Plan A: (Type 1)

1. Thesis

36 credits

KP 6902	Thesis	36(1620)
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2. Non-credit Courses

KP 6102	The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and The New Theory	3(3-0-6)
KP 6104	Principles of Local Development Based on The King's Philosophy	3(3-0-6)
KP 6801	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 1	1(0-2-2)
KP 6802	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 2	1(0-2-2)
KP 6901	Research Methodology in Social Sciences	3(3-0-6)
ENG 6101	English for Graduate Studies	3(3-0-6)
COM 6101	Computer for graduate studies	3(3-0-6)

Plan A: (Type 2)

1. Foundation Courses

6 credits

KP 6102	The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and The New Theory	3(3-0-6)
KP 6104	Principles of Local Development Based on The King's Philosophy	3(3-0-6)

2. Field of Specialization (not less than) 18 credits

2.1 Core courses 12 credits

KP 6101	Sustainable Local Development with Thai Social Context	3(3-0-6)
KP 6201	The King's Philosophy for Agriculture	3(3-0-6)
KP 6301	The King's Philosophy for Natural Resource and Environmental Development	3(3-0-6)
KP 6901	Research Methodology in Social Sciences	3(3-0-6)

2.2 Elective courses not less than 6 credits

KP 6103	Sustainable Development	3(3-0-6)
KP 6105	The King's Philosophy Relating to Raising Consciousness on Repaying the Country	3(3-0-6)
KP 6202	Agricultural Extension and Development for Locality	3(3-0-6)
KP 6305	The King's Philosophy for Innovation and Alternative Energy	3(3-0-6)
KP 6402	Tourism in View of Sufficiency Economy	3(3-0-6)
KP 6403	GIS for Understanding and Accessing Spatial Development	3(3-0-6)
KP 6601	The King's Philosophy for Education	3(3-0-6)
KP 6803	Selected Topics on Sciences for Sustainable Local Development	3(3-0-6)

3. Thesis 12 credits

KP 6902	Thesis	12(540)
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4. Non-credit Courses

KP 6801	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 1	1(0-2-2)
KP 6802	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 2	1(0-2-2)
ENG 6101	English for Graduate Studies	3(3-0-6)
COM 6101	Computer for graduate studies	3(3-0-6)

Plan B: Type 2

1. Foundation Courses 6 credits

KP 6102	The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and The New Theory	3(3-0-6)
KP 6104	Principles of Local Development Based on The King's Philosophy	3(3-0-6)

2. Field of Specialization (not less than) 24 credits

2.1 Core courses 12 credits

KP 6101	Sustainable Local Development with Thai Social Context	3(3-0-6)
KP 6201	The King's Philosophy for Agriculture	3(3-0-6)
KP 6301	The King's Philosophy for Natural Resource and Environmental Development	3(3-0-6)
KP 6901	Research Methodology in Social Sciences	3(3-0-6)

2.2 Elective courses (not less than) 12 credits

KP 6103	Sustainable Development	3(3-0-6)
KP 6105	The King's Philosophy Relating to Raising Consciousness on Repaying the Country	3(3-0-6)
KP 6202	Agricultural Extension and Development for Locality	3(3-0-6)
KP 6305	The King's Philosophy for Innovation and Alternative Energy	3(3-0-6)
KP 6402	Tourism in View of Sufficiency Economy	3(3-0-6)
KP 6403	GIS for Understanding and Accessing Spatial Development	3(3-0-6)
KP 6601	The King's Philosophy for Education	3(3-0-6)
KP 6803	Selected Topics on Sciences for Sustainable Local Development	3(3-0-6)

3. Independent Study 6 credits

KP 6903	Independent Study	6(270)
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4. Non-credit Courses

KP 6801	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 1	1(0-2-2)
KP 6802	Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 2	1(0-2-2)
ENG 6101	English for Graduate Studies	3(3-0-6)
COM 6101	Computer for graduate studies	3(3-0-6)

Thesis topic submission:	June 2026
Thesis Proposal Examination:	November 2026
Date for collecting data:	December 2026
Thesis defense exam:	March 2027.

7.2 Course Content

KP 6102 The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and The New Theory 3(3-0-6)

Analysis of the origin and principles of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP); application of SEP in daily life and business operations through economic theories such as price mechanisms, production systems, and marketing. Examination of the significance of SEP and its application through the three levels of the “New Theory” (Basic New Theory, Intermediate, and Advanced stages). Emphasis on analysis and synthesis of SEP application in Thai society; development of proposals and innovations for value creation in local communities.

Core Competency: Ability to analyze the principles, rationale, significance, and appropriate application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for sustainable local development.

KP 6104 Principles of Local Development Based on The King’s Philosophy 3(3-0-6)

Definitions and concepts of “locality”; theories of local development from Thai and international scholars; principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and lesson learned from the King’s Philosophy — including the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), principles of royal duties (Thawikan), and other royal initiatives. Exploration of royal contributions to sustainable local development across all regions of Thailand.

Core Competency: Ability to synthesize and apply local development principles based on the King’s Philosophy to promote sustainable development in an appropriate and context-sensitive manner.

KP 6101 Sustainable Local Development with Thai Social Context 3(3-0-6)

Applying historical methods to analyze Thai social contexts in relation to politics, governance, economy, society, culture, and technology through the lens of sustainable development. Emphasis on the application of the King’s Science (His Majesty’s Philosophy) for sustainable development in Thai society.

Core Competency: Ability to present and synthesize the application of sustainable local development in alignment with the Thai social context.

KP 6201 The King’s Philosophy for Agriculture 3(3-0-6)

Concepts and theories related to the application of the King’s Philosophy in agriculture; land and resource management for agricultural purposes; the New Theory Agriculture; ecological restoration of degraded agricultural land through natural methods; case studies such as the “Artificial Soil Acidification” Project and the Vetiver Grass Project. Emphasis on applying royal initiatives in agriculture to achieve sustainable development, with examples drawn from the Royal Development Study Centers and Royal Projects.

Core Competency: Ability to present concepts, theories, and case studies on the application of the King’s Philosophy in agriculture.

KP 6301 The King’s Philosophy for Natural Resource and Environmental Development**3(3-0-6)**

Definitions, types, values, and principles of natural resource and environmental conservation and development; the King’s Philosophy related to the conservation and rehabilitation of soil, water, forests, and ecosystems; innovation for environmental conservation and development, including renewable energy, wastewater prevention, artificial rain, irrigation systems, vetiver grass application, reforestation principles, and success stories from royal initiative projects and Royal Development Study Centers.

Core Competency: Ability to present the definitions, types, values, principles, and innovations for the conservation and development of natural resources and the environment.

KP 6901 Research Methodology in Social Sciences**3(3-0-6)**

The importance of research in the social sciences; theoretical foundations and research procedures; writing research proposals and project outlines; conducting research; application of statistical principles and software programs for data analysis; interpretation and conclusion of research findings; and applying research results to address social science issues.

Core Competency: Ability to design social science research appropriately in accordance with the local socio-cultural and environmental context.

KP 6103 Sustainable Development**3(3-0-6)**

History and evolution of sustainable development; key concepts in three dimensions: ecology, society, and economy; core principles of sustainable development; global and national goals, indicators, and strategies. Analysis of strengths and limitations of sustainable development concepts; assessment of local potential; and application of sustainable development principles to local development in alignment with the Thai socio-cultural context.

Core Competency: Ability to present the history, concepts, principles, and application of sustainable development for local development appropriate to the socio-geographical context.

KP 6105 The King’s Philosophy Relating to Raising Consciousness on Repaying the Country**3(3-0-6)**

Trends of neo-colonialism; the enduring significance of the monarchy as a fundamental pillar sustaining the Thai nation; understanding the meaning of “Rajabhat” as the King’s people; and the application of the King’s Philosophy to cultivate civic consciousness and a sense of gratitude among Thai citizens toward the nation.

Core Competency: Ability to analyze the causes and implications of global power dynamics with critical reasoning; awareness of geopolitical influence; and ability to present ways of applying the King’s Philosophy to shift societal values toward sufficiency and integrate these values into sustainable local development.

KP 6202 Agricultural Extension and Development for Locality**3(3-0-6)**

Concepts and evolution of agricultural promotion and development at the local level; the context of agricultural systems and rural agricultural society in Thailand; diagnosis of local agricultural and social systems; management approaches and evaluation of agricultural extension projects for local development; analysis of socio-cultural, economic, political, and environmental impacts on agricultural development.

Core Competency: Ability to analyze and evaluate agricultural development outcomes appropriately.

KP 6305 The King's Philosophy for Innovation and Alternative Energy**3(3-0-6)**

Royal inventions recognized as world-first innovations; innovations in products, production processes, operations, and business models; types of alternative energy; development of alternative and renewable energy sources; energy management and strategies for achieving energy security through local resources, based on royal initiatives that promote the use of agricultural products for renewable energy production.

Core Competency: Ability to present and analyze information related to innovations and alternative energy appropriately.

KP 6402 Tourism in View of Sufficiency Economy**3(3-0-6)**

Principles of sustainable tourism; the relationship between agrarian society and tourism; agrotourism activities in areas practicing the New Theory Agriculture; application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) as a framework for business management and way of life; integration of marketing principles into business operations based on sufficiency and sustainability; creation of innovations and tourism activities aligned with SEP dimensions.

Core Competency: Ability to present and appropriately apply the principles of tourism within the framework of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

KP 6403 GIS for Understanding and Accessing Spatial Development**3(2-2-5)**

Application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and related mapping tools for area development based on the Royal Initiatives; identifying local problems and needs; problem analysis and area development through participatory community integration; practical spatial modeling for analyzing potentials and constraints to support sustainable development.

Core Competency: Ability to appropriately apply Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for area development in accordance with the local socio-geographical context.

KP 6601 The King's Philosophy for Education 3(3-0-6)

Principles and purposes of education; educational management; formal and non-formal education systems; principles of royal initiatives (Thawikan principles); the educational philosophy of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great; analysis of educational issues; royal speeches and addresses on education; royal initiative projects related to education; application of royal wisdom in education for sustainable development; case studies from royal development study centers, royal project schools, and other learning resources initiated by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great.

Core Competency: Ability to present and synthesize the appropriate application of the King's Philosophy in the field of education.

KP 6803 Selected Topics on Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 3(3-0-6)

Study, exploration, and discussion of specific issues related to the King's Philosophy and sustainable development; development of conceptual frameworks and theoretical foundations for research; critical analysis and academic dialogue to identify research problems and formulate research questions; preparation for thesis topics or independent studies.

Core Competency: Ability to critically engage in academic discussions, formulate research problems and questions, and develop appropriate research frameworks that integrate the King's Philosophy and principles of sustainable development in preparation for thesis or independent study.

KP 6902 Thesis 12(540)

In-depth research on the King's Philosophy and various forms of innovation; application of appropriate research methodologies; emphasis on creativity, original thinking, and the generation of new knowledge; application of research outcomes to promote sustainable local development.

KP 6903 Independent Study 6(270)

Research or research on the science of the King, focus on using appropriate educational processes, able to apply the results of the study to be applied and creatively

KP 6801 Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 1 1(0-2-2)

Presentation and critical discussion of major issues, debates, and challenges in local development in Thailand. Exploration of the diversity of disciplines and approaches for local development through case studies, research findings, and academic readings. Emphasis is placed on identifying pathways to integrate local knowledge systems (folk wisdom), academic disciplines, and global perspectives to advance Thailand toward a sustainable society.

Core Competency: Ability to identify research issues, develop conceptual papers, engage in critical seminars and reflective dialogues, and translate insights into appropriate thesis or independent study topics in line with academic research processes.

KP 6802 Seminar in Sciences for Sustainable Local Development 2**1(0-2-2)**

Analysis, synthesis, and critique of key topics and issues to support the integration of diverse bodies of knowledge including local wisdom and international academic disciplines for the advancement of sustainable local development in Thailand. Emphasis is placed on conceptual exploration that promotes interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to address complex local development challenges.

Core Competency: Ability to formulate research topics or issues, develop background papers, conduct literature reviews, and design appropriate research methodologies for thesis or independent study in alignment with academic research standards.

COM 6101 Computer for Graduate Studies**3(3-0-6)**

Fundamental knowledge of computer usage with a focus on applied skills in software programs necessary for thesis writing and academic research. Emphasis is placed on the use of word processing, data analysis, and other relevant applications to support study, exploration, and research. The course also covers basic concepts of information technology, computer networks, and internet tools essential for graduate-level academic work.

Core Competency: Ability to effectively use computers and relevant software applications to support research activities in the context of thesis or independent study.

ENG 6101 English for Graduate Studies**3(3-0-6)**

Development of essential English skills for research, focusing on techniques for reading to extract specific information, identifying main ideas, analyzing academic texts, summarizing content, writing abstracts, and presenting research findings. Emphasis is placed on improving listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills necessary for academic research and scholarly communication.

Core Competency: Ability to read and synthesize research literature relevant to the field of study.

8. Graduation Conditions:**8.1 Plan A type A1**

- 1) Students must pass a written and/or oral Comprehensive Examination in the subject of study.
- 2) Students must submit a thesis and pass a final oral examination given by a university committee. There should also be a method that allows interested parties to listen in.
- 3) According to the Higher Education Commission, the thesis work or a portion of the thesis must be published or accepted for publication in at least one national or international journal of high quality.

8.2 Plan A type A2

1) Students must finish the curriculum according to the program's requirements. From a possible score of 4, you must have a grade point average of at least 3.00.

2) Students must pass a written and/or oral Comprehensive Examination in the subject of study.

3) Students must submit a thesis and pass a final oral examination given by a university committee. There should also be a method that allows interested parties to listen in.

4) According to the Higher Education Commission's Notification, the thesis work or a portion of the thesis must be published or at least accepted for publishing in at least one national or international journal of high quality or the whole work presented (Full Paper) has been published in the report following the proceedings stated at least one copy at international academic conferences.

9. Applicant Qualifications

1. Completion of a bachelor's degree or equivalent in any field.

2. The required qualification is according to the Chiang Mai Rajabhat University Rules and Regulations for Graduate Studies 2018.

10. Document Required

- APPLICATION FORM and Medical Report
- Transcript
- Recommendation Letter
- English test result

11. Contact:

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