Law and Sustainability:
Tackling Global Environmental Challenges
Module Guide
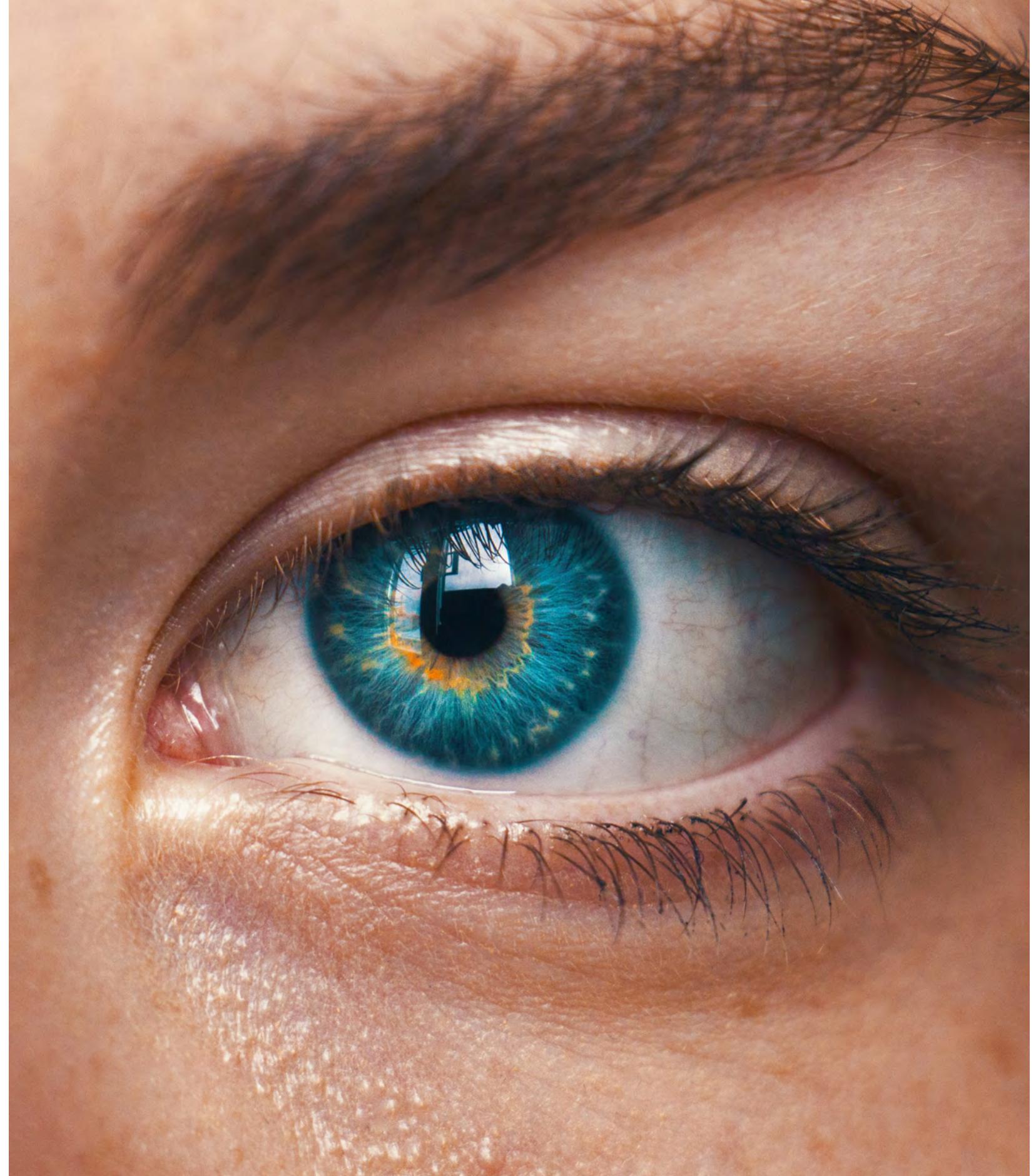
In partnership with **P Pearson**

What to Expect

The contents of each module will be available weekly. We expect students to participate in the course for 3-5 hours per week. Tasks and content vary per week but that is the guideline.

The course is deliberately designed to be flexible around your schedule. There are no live elements to the course – videos are pre-recorded and tasks are pre-set so can be picked up whenever you want during the seven days each module is live. You will have the opportunity to interact with the course facilitator via email and within the learning platform and there are discussion forums to engage with peers.

Module 0:
Getting started

Introduce yourself to your fellow cohort and meet the Facilitator, who will be providing support to you throughout the duration of the course. Learn more about what the course offers and how to navigate through it. Tell us more about yourself by answering the questions and posting to the discussion board.

Module 1:
Introduction to Sustainability and the Law

- Identify major sustainability challenges;

- Understand what is unique about sustainability challenges;

- Understand the interactions between science, law, and public policy as they play out in key sustainability challenges.

Take a Glossary Quiz and your first set of Knowledge Check questions, which you'll perform weekly throughout the course to ensure you're on track with your learning targets. Join discussions specific to your interests with peers and the Facilitator and submit your first Journal Entry.

Module 2:
Legal Frameworks, Regulatory Guidance, and Soft Law

- Identify some of the key legal tools available to address sustainability challenges;

- Understand dynamics within and between jurisdictions;

- Become familiar with key international treaties governing global sustainability.

Take a Glossary Quiz and submit your Knowledge Check responses. Participate in a discussion with your peers and submit a Journal Entry.

Module 3:
Science and the Law

- Become familiar with key scientific concepts pertinent to sustainability;

- Become familiar with leading research relevant to sustainability, including attribution science;

- Understand ways that science informs law and legal claims, including use of scientific evidence and expert witnesses in litigation.

Take a Glossary Quiz and submit your Knowledge Check responses. Participate in a discussion with your peers and submit a Journal Entry. Also submit your first formative assessment.

Module 4:
Systemic lawyering

- Understand the impact of legal intervention and the application of a legal heatmap;

- Understand the use of law as a tool for prevention and as a tool for remedy in the context of sustainability;

- Identify the range of parties involved in law and sustainability including NGOs, think tanks, civil society organisations.

Take your weekly Knowledge Check and Glossary Quiz as well as submitting a Journal Entry. Continue in-depth discussions with your peers and the Facilitator, including your first Peer Review discussion.

Module 5:
Sustainability challenges in corporate and securities law

- Understand key sustainability challenges for corporations and investors, including climate risk, disclosure, and supply chain issues;

- Identify key parties involved in corporate and securities law as it deals with sustainability;

- Analyse different opportunities for legal involvement with corporate sustainability.

Participate in your weekly Knowledge Check, Glossary Quiz and discussion with peers. Submit a Formative Assessment and Journal Entry.

Module 6:
Sustainability challenges in health and food law

- Understand the relationship between sustainability and public health;

- Understand the relationship between sustainability and food systems;

- Identify legal strategies for sustainability in the context of health and food law.

Take your weekly Knowledge Check and Glossary Quiz as well as submitting a Journal Entry. Continue in-depth discussions with your peers and the Facilitator, including your second Peer Review discussion.

Module 7:
Sustainability challenges in the global south

- Distinguish key challenges faced by jurisdictions in the global north versus the global south;

- Understand the priorities and perspectives of the global south.

Participate in your weekly Knowledge Check, Glossary Quiz and discussion with peers. Submit a Journal Entry.

Module 8:
Law and sustainability: The case of climate change

- Understand the relationships between climate change, corporate governance, and directors' duties;

- Understand the aims of net zero and the tools available to achieve it;

- Understand the notion of climate risk governance in light of climate risk management.

Take your final weekly Knowledge Check and Glossary Quiz. Submit your Summative Assessment. In your final assignment you will demonstrate your understanding of the various concepts that have been considered during this course and use them to develop a memorandum and video pitch to introduce sustainability challenges in relation to the law. Choose how you present your pitch. You can submit it as a written document or you can choose to record yourself presenting and submit it as an audio or video file.

How to earn a certificate & succeed in this course
To succeed in this course, you are expected to:

- Watch all videos;

- Respond to all activities;

- Reflect on what you're learning;

- Share your ideas with your peers in the discussion forum; and

- Apply what you learnt to complete the final assignment.

In order to pass the course and qualify for a certificate of completion, you must receive an overall grade of 75% or higher. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Discussion = 20%

Peer Review Activities = 20%

Formative Assignments = 20%

Final Assignment [Summative Assessment] = 40%

Note that certificates do not indicate your score, only whether you have passed. Your certificate will be issued by the platform.

Thank you again for choosing to study with The Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford in partnership with Pearson.