



# The Future of Sustainable Business:

## Enterprise and the Environment Module Guide

In partnership with  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: Net zero, the SDGs, the world & you: Introductions

- You will be able to define key terms and concepts related to net-zero and the sustainable development goals (NZSDG);
- You will be able to engage with these concepts and confidently apply them in practice;
- You will be able to appreciate and account for conflicting objectives and tensions between interests, actors, and geographies in relation to NZSDGs; and
- You will situate and reflect on your own motivations and objectives related to NZSDGs.

Take a Check Your Understanding quiz, 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: The environment and enterprise journey

- Understand how current conceptualisations of enterprise and the environment are the product of historical events - including key “tipping points”;
- Evaluate previous corporate responses to social and environmental issues and analyse why these responses are failing to meet our current challenges;
- Account for the significance of social and environmental irresponsibility to business; and
- Assess how robust different business approaches are for achieving sustainability.

Submit your Check Your Understanding responses. Participate in a discussion with your peers and submit a Journal Entry.



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## Module 3:

### Low carbon transition

- Define net zero, understand its scientific underpinnings, and account for the interdependence between ecological, social, and economic systems;
- Understand the changes to our energy systems as part of a low-carbon transition;
- Understand the essential ideas of systems theory and thinking in systems; and
- Identify possible solutions for transitions to net zero; appreciate the interplay of policy, markets, behaviour, and technology to enact them.

Submit your Check Your Understanding responses.  
Participate in a discussion with your peers and submit a Journal Entry. This week one of your discussions will be peer reviewed.

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## Module 4:

### Resource management

- Define the concept of Planetary Boundaries and outline its key features;
- Understand interconnections between the SDGs , net-zero and enterprise; and
- Identify the SDGs important to your business or contexts of importance for you and understand possible strategies for addressing them.

Take your weekly Check Your Understanding quiz.  
Submit your first Formative Assessment.

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## Module 5:

### Sustainable finance

- Understand the role of financial markets as both a cause of - and solution to - unsustainable development and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Identify the key instruments currently in use to leverage and align financial systems and corporate finance to sustainability; and
- Consider how to translate knowledge of net zero and the SDGs into financial strategies for a sustainable future.

Submit your Check Your Understanding responses.  
Participate in a discussion with your peers and submit a Journal Entry.





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## Module 6: Business transformation

- Define the principles of regenerative and circular economy and conceptualise them as solutions to the linear economy;
- Evaluate the challenges and opportunities of business transformations inclusive of factors such as the changing nature of work, emerging technologies, and managing innovation; and
- Explore different approaches to facilitate and manage innovation and transformation in business.

Submit your [Check Your Understanding responses](#) and your next [Formative Assessment](#). This week one of your discussions will be peer reviewed.

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## Module 7: Technology, policy & law

- Understand how socio-technical interventions can accelerate the transition to NZSDGs;
- Learn strategic question to use in your evaluation of new technologies emerging to address sustainability and transform business;
- Situate the relationship between business and different scales of policy and global governance for sustainability considering how they present opportunities and risks; and
- Understand the role of the law for supporting NZSDG, particularly in relation to businesses.

Submit your [Check Your Understanding responses](#). Participate in a discussion with your peers and submit a [Journal Entry](#). This week one of your discussions will be peer reviewed.

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## Module 8: Leadership for the future

- Identify the styles of management and leadership for sustainability best suited to you and your enterprise;
- Evaluate how you plan to change your personal leadership for sustainability; and
- Identify stakeholders of different organisations, understand their intentions, and formulate a strategy for engagement.

Take your final weekly [Check Your Understanding quiz](#) and participate in your last peer review discussion. 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 pitch about how you would like to lead strategic change. You are encouraged to 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.