

Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	MSc Global Business and Sustainability
Name of interim award(s):	PG Cert/ PG Dip
Duration of study / period of registration:	12 months
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PMSF-QMBUSM1-PSGBU
QAA Benchmark Group:	Business and Management
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	7 Aug 2024
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Business & Management

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

Programme outline

The programme is designed for intellectually curious students interested in becoming critical agents of sustainability change across diverse business contexts. Drawing on our expertise in the global North and Latin America, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East, the programme takes a holistic approach to understanding sustainability challenges and emerging solutions. It examines sustainability as the most significant business challenge today. The degree introduces students to an evolving array of sustainability-related concepts and innovative practices to provide them with theoretical, methodological, and practical tools to critically engage with these practices in the business world.

This distinctive programme distinguishes itself from traditional sustainability debates in Global Business by going beyond a narrow corporate social responsibility focus to explore myriad emerging strategies, technologies, and collaborative arrangements linking business activity with social and ecological sustainability. Students study changes and practices to engender knowledge ranging from understanding the circular economy and its ramifications for business activity, to examining sustainability challenges in foundational industries, to exploring sustainable finance strategies that address infrastructure gaps and climate change resilience across the globe, to thinking through the role of business collaboration with governments, civil society, and international organisations shaping ecological transitions to the new economy.

Rather than simply addressing and critiquing traditional business strategies, the programme enables students to study business

Programme Title: Global Business and Sustainability

and sustainability within a changing global context. That is, by drawing from the global nature of the social, economic and ecological crises, a “global” perspective explores business dynamics in relation to South-North, South-South, and intra- and inter-regional relations, and considers how various development trajectories and inequalities create and shape different capacities to transition to a sustainable economy.

Queen Mary’s School of Business and Management is a unique knowledge community where such a distinctive learning environment can take place. The School’s distinguished interdisciplinary approach and knowledge of global and regional business practices cut across management, political economy and political ecology knowledges to examine, in an interdisciplinary manner, issues of ecological, social, and human sustainability. The School’s expertise in the political economy of development and merging economies, alongside expertise in industries such as sustainable finance, energy, water, agribusiness, digital technologies, and textiles, among others, are deployed to ensure the programme has as global reach as possible.

The programme has several distinct features designed to augment student learning experience and professional development. It runs two linked modules (Foundations 1 and 2) over two semesters covering conceptual issues, critical thinking skills, mixed methods training, and group work that aims to (1) provide students with a core skill set for engaging with sustainability in the real world, and (2) develop a strong sense of community and shared purpose with fellow students, thus fostering communities of practice and helping with the development of sustainability-oriented professional networks that students can draw on in their future careers.

The year-long Foundation modules also serve as preparation for a practice-oriented dissertation, whilst also enabling students wishing to develop theory dissertations using secondary data, etc. to do so. Given students will be strongly encouraged to do empirical work in organisations and/or sophisticated theory work, dissertation students will need to work closely with individual supervisors.

These Foundation modules run alongside our Global Governance and Sustainability Transitions, Eco-Business Strategy and Global Supply Chains, and World Economy and Development modules in semester one, and our Sustainable Finance, Business of Climate Risk and an elective in semester two, with semester three being devoted to the submission of an end of programme dissertation.

Aims of the programme

The programme aims to produce students with the capacity to address sustainability as an urgent local, regional and global need.

It develops independent research skills to enhance employment and career capacity.

It develops skills that enable students to become agents of sustainability change in diverse contexts.

It enhances student conceptual capacities to understand evolving sustainability issues and solutions in a global context.

It generates responsible leadership attributes.

It strengthens and/or develops life long learning capacities.

What will you be expected to achieve?

The programme provides students with an understanding of sustainability in its broadest sense, encompassing human, social, and ecological dimensions, as well as the interrelationships among them. Following QAA business and management benchmarks, the programme builds on student UG education, fosters responsible leadership, enables students to understand the organizational, social and economic influences on environmental change, develops students as global and inclusive citizens, engenders lifelong learning and independent research capacity.

Programme Title: Global Business and Sustainability

Students will emerge from the degree with a critical and situated understanding of the multiple and intersecting relations to sustainability and be capable of connecting these to environmental, labour, social and economic development. They will develop this as a key business and management knowledge for both the immediate and more distant future.

The programme provides a set of skills that prepares upcoming leaders in all organizations to respond, but more importantly to anticipate and engage meaningfully with, questions of diversity, equity, and inclusion that are at the basis of sustainability.

Academic Content:

A 1	Develop key critical learning skills
A 2	Develop meta-cognitive skills to assess and generate knowledge
A 3	Develop key data analytical skills with which to evidence and support methodological positions.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Develop an understanding of the key conceptual and theoretical frameworks of sustainable organization.
B 2	Understand the situated nature of sustainable organization and management within regulatory, economic, and social worlds
B 3	Develop data analytical skills with which to understand organizational impacts on sustainability

Attributes:

C 1	Develop responsible leadership skills.
C 2	Assemble critical skills to work with a global perspective
C 3	Assemble and enhance their communication skills in terms of presenting, listening, engaging, and respecting others, .

How will you learn?

Students learn through a mixture of lectures, workshops, small group tutorials, peer-to-peer learning, and dissertation supervision.

They engage in independent research aimed at providing knowledge and understanding of key concepts of sustainability and global business and they learn by developing a range of skills necessary to further careers in this field e.g., presentation skills, fieldwork, literature searches and reviews, independent research, use of data, team building, analytical capacity, critical engagement.

This knowledge and skills will be developed through active participation in a range of class based modules, through peer evaluation, group work and presentations, independent study for their dissertation and active participation in data gathering,

information use and conceptual development.

How will you be assessed?

To enhance fairness amongst a diverse students body, the programme makes use of a variety of assessment tools e.g., group presentations, exam and pre-seen exam, posters, podcasts, visual essays, written essays, critical reviews, leading class discussion, briefing document, dissertation, etc. and it adheres to best practice and university guidelines to ensure accessibility for all so that they can achieve their maximum capacity.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The programme is made up of eight modules and a dissertation - seven core modules and one elective chosen from a suite of modules provided by SBM on its Masters degrees. Each module is worth 15 credits. Four modules are taken in Semester 1 and 2. Finally, a dissertation worth 60 credits is submitted in Semester 3.

The Module titles are:

Semester 1

Foundations 1: Conceptual Models for Global Business and Sustainability (New Module)

Global Governance and Sustainability Transitions (New Module)

Eco-Business Strategy and Global Supply Chains (New Module)

World Economy and Development

Semester 2

Foundations 2: Methodologies for Global Business and Sustainability (New Module)

Sustainable Finance

The Business of Climate Risk (New Module)

One Elective - electives will be one of Corporate Social Responsibility and Business Ethics (BUSM175), Global Supply Chain Management ((BUSM091), or Social Entrepreneurship ((BUSM220), but going forward as the programme grows we hope to open it up to others.

Semester C

Dissertation

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
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Programme Title: Global Business and Sustainability

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Foundations 1: Conceptual Models for Global Business and Sustainability	BUSM260	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Global Governance and Sustainability Transitions	BUSM257	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
World Economy and Development	BUSM090	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Eco-Business Strategy	BUSM258	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Foundations 2: Methodologies for Global Business and Sustainability	BUSM261	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Business of Climate Risk	BUSM256	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Financing Sustainability	BUSM266	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Corporate Social Responsibility and Business Ethics	BUSM175	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Dissertation for Global Business and Sustainability	BUSM259	60	7	Core	1	Semesters 1-3
Social Entrepreneurship	BUSM220	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Supply Chain Management	BUSM091	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

What are the entry requirements?

A 1st or 2.1 or equivalent undergraduate degree Social Science and/or Humanities.

Band 4: IELTS (Academic) minimum score 6.5 overall with 6.0 in each of Writing, Listening, Reading and Speaking

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

To develop communication between staff and students and other interested parties (e.g., external examiners), the programme will avail of SBM's system of monitoring student feedback e.g., appointing PGT student representatives to the PGT Student Voice Committees and module evaluation forms.

Our one to one dissertation supervision will enhance communications between staff and student.

Teachers on the module will meet annually to assess its overall coherence, weaknesses, achievements, etc.

External examiners reports, teaching peer review, School and College best practice, etc. will also be deployed to ensure teaching is regularly reviewed and discussed within the programme.

The programme will follow undergo the new Continuous Improvement process at Queen Mary level and will also go through the

Programme Title: Global Business and Sustainability

Education Committee reviewing all feedback provided on the programme and using these platforms to enhance the programme through learning outcome developments and module development.

What academic support is available?

The programme will have a first week student induction wherein students will meet teaching staff, students will be appointed a staff advisor, the dissertation will be supervised via one to one supervision, and students will be represented on staff-student liaison committees.

Students will also be made aware of all the School level and Queen Mary level resources available to them e.g., writing tutors, language support, mental health support, etc.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Given the programme aims it will avail of one to one dissertation supervision in contrast to the School supervision policy.

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

The programme will be inclusive and adhere to QMUL inclusion criteria and this is reflected in our teaching and assessment processes (as described on page 3).

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

With SBM's organizational outreach team we will support students to identify suitable organizations in business, third sector, public sector, etc. to carry out dissertation fieldwork.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Professor Gerard Hanlon

Person responsible for management of programme:

Professor Gerard Hanlon

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:

Programme Title: Global Business and Sustainability

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:

7 Aug 2024