



Award in Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG)

In collaboration
with
The University of Malta



Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) has emerged as one of the most prevalent and ubiquitous business concepts in recent years, spurred on by public policy coupled with rising societal demands for greater corporate accountability. This study unit will delve into the most salient issues related to ESG today, together with the emerging opportunities and risks presented by such considerations. The unit will also discuss the relevant regulatory requirements and standards related to ESG that have emerged globally and particularly within the European Union in recent years, as well as ESG reporting, disclosure and ratings for businesses, with a special focus on investments and financial services operators.

Study-Unit Aims:

- To provide students with a critical appraisal of the most salient emerging ESG issues, opportunities and risks in the global business world
- To develop a critical understanding of the relevance of ESG within today's corporate environment, including regulatory and reporting requirements in this regard.

A non-exhaustive list of topics covered within this study unit includes the following:

- The evolution of ESG, sustainability and CSR
- Environmental, Social and Governance factors
- Systems Thinking and ESG
- Decarbonisation: Carbon markets and regulations
- Climate change risks
- Sustainability disclosures and reporting
- The Double Materiality Assessment
- Sustainable finance
- Strategic management of ESG issues.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Knowledge & Understanding:

- Evaluate the various business risks and opportunities associated with ESG
- Assess the various regulatory and reporting requirements associated with ESG, and their relevance for specific industries and sectors, with a special focus on financial services and investments
- Review and design appropriate ESG plans and initiatives within a financial services context.

2. Skills:

- Utilise a range of quantitative and qualitative skills to analyse ESG issues, risks and opportunities, including thematic analysis and statistical tests
- Critique the various tools and concepts covered in class and propose alternative ideas, both in written and oral form
- Deploy the concepts learned to undertake novel research within ESG and apply the tools within a practical environment as part of their future careers.

Mode of Assessment

Assignment - 30%; Examination (2 Hours) - 70%

Lecturers

Dr Jonathan Spiteri Senior Lecturer, Department of Insurance and Risk Management, University of Malta
Ms Gabriella Borda Sustainability Advisor/Lecturer, University of Malta

Guest Speakers

Prof. Simon Grima Insurance & Risk Management, Management and Accountancy, University of Malta
Prof. Holger Perltwitz Professor, Hochschule Karlsruhe, University of Applied Sciences