BSc in SUSTAINABLE and GREEN FINANCE

Investing in a Sustainable Future
What is Sustainable and Green Finance

Sustainable and Green Finance

- Financial activities that support the transition to a low-carbon, sustainable economy while addressing global challenges (climate change, sustainability risks)
- Aims to drive positive change by mobilizing capital towards activities that promote sustainability and reduce negative environmental impacts

Sustainability

- Create a world that is equitable, resilient, and thriving for all
- Involves using resources wisely, reduce waste and pollution, protecting natural ecosystems, promoting social justice and equality, and fostering economic growth

Source: Chartered Banker Institute
Why Should We Care About Sustainability

Tragedy on the Horizon

- A speech by then Bank of England Governor Mark Carney in 2015
- Climate change is posing a significant threat to the global economy and financial stability
- Taking a long-term perspective and considering the potential future costs of inaction is important
- Call to action for governments, businesses, and individuals to take steps to prevent a future tragedy of horizons
What Are The Risks We Face

Most severe risks on a global scale over the next 10 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic</th>
<th>Environmental</th>
<th>Societal</th>
<th>Geopolitical</th>
<th>Technological</th>
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</thead>
</table>
How Environmental Risk Impacts the Economy

Physical Damage
- Natural disasters (hurricanes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes) destroy infrastructure, homes, businesses, leading to severe human and economic losses

Increased Costs
- Infrastructure upgrades for adaptation and resilience, higher insurance premiums, higher energy costs

Health Impacts
- Heat/cold wave and air pollution impact human health leading to loss of productivity

Regulatory Changes
- Governments’ new regulations to address environmental risks (carbon taxes, emissions restriction) impact the value of companies’ assets, thus affect the value of companies
Governments

- United Nations’ 2030 Agenda – achieving SDGs
- Paris Agreement – legally binding international treaty on climate change (to hold the increase in global avg. temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial level, pursue efforts of limit to 1.5°C)
- National Carbon Neutrality Target (HK by 2050, China by 2060)

Businesses

- Company Carbon Neutrality Target
- Embed SDGs into corporate strategies
- ESG: Environment, Social, and Governance
Hong Kong Government’s Goals

“Achieving carbon neutrality in less than 30 years is a tremendous challenge, but it will also open up new opportunities for Hong Kong. The many green initiatives put forward by the Government will create business prospects, nurture local talents and provide employment opportunities.”

“...capitalise on the opportunities to develop the city into a leading green financial centre and a new hub for smart and green technology.”
Requirement to achieve the targets

- **Climate Budget:**
  Long term budget plan for mitigation and adaptation

- **Education and Training:**
  Incorporate climate change, low carbon technologies and green finance

- **Steering Coordination:**
  Strategies and forward-looking policies formulation at highest level

- **Public Engagement:**
  Encourage different sectors in the community to participate in climate action
New Markets Opportunities

- **Sustainable Financial Products**
  - green bond, sustainability-linked debt, sustainability investment fund, sustainability insurance, green project/business financing

- **Carbon Market**
  - Carbon pricing and carbon trading

- **ESG Management**
  - ESG reporting, ESG consulting, sustainable business strategy development

- **Infrastructure Digitization**
  - Technology development for emissions tracking

- **New Energy Technologies**
  - R&D of high efficiency and clean energy and storage of energy

- **Life Cycle Assessment and Circular Economy**
  - Assess products life cycle for businesses to understand the emissions
The Talent Gap

Markets are there, but lack of talents

Sustainable finance ‘talent war’ erupts in Hong Kong amid rise in regulatory demands, green products

- It is already very competitive in Hong Kong, says Asia-Pacific CEO of French bank Societe Generale
- A government working group on attracting foreign talent and nurturing it locally hopes to announce something later this year
The Talents Required

What talents are required?

- Knowledge in business and finance
- Understanding in environment and sustainability
- Acumen in social development
- Ability to engage people

INTERDISCIPLINARY skills and knowledge!
Our Response
BSc in Sustainable and Green Finance

• The first UG program in Hong Kong specialized in Sustainable and Green Finance
• Jointly offered by Business School and Division of Environment and Sustainability
• Overlays business and finance topics with sustainability significance
• An interdisciplinary curriculum – Finance, Business, Environment, Science, Technology, Public Policy
• Global perspective with local relevance
• Nurture local young talents to be effective leaders Sustainable and Green Finance
Program Co-Directorship

Prof. Arthur Lau
Associate Dean
Academy of Interdisciplinary Studies (UG)
Associate Dean of Students
Dean of Students’ Office
Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Education
Institute for the Environment
TPG Programs Coordinator
Division of Environment and Sustainability

Prof. Veronique Lafon-Vinais
Associate Professor of Business Education
Department of Finance
Associate Director of Undergraduate Programs
School of Business and Management
Associate Director
World Bachelor in Business Program
Executive Director
(Career Development and Corporate Outreach)
School of Business and Management
Program Advisory Committee

Chaired by
Prof. Kar Yan Tam
Dean of HKUST Business School

Prof. Alexis Lau
Head
Division of Environment and Sustainability, HKUST

Prof. Allen Huang
Associate Dean
HKUST Business School

Prof. Arthur Lau
Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Education, ENVR
Associate Dean (UG), AIS

Prof. Veronique Lafon-Vinais
Associate Professor of Business Education, Finance
Associate Director of UG Programs
HKUST Business School

Mr. Kevin Agenlini
Head of Strategy and M&A, APAC
Zurich Insurance Company Ltd

Mr. Wai-Shin Chan
Managing Director, Head, Climate Change Centre of Excellence
Global Head of ESG Research
HSBC

Mr. Mervyn Tang
Head of Sustainability Strategy, APAC
Schroders

Ms. Carmen Tsang
Head of Sustainable Investment Banking, Greater China
Credit Agricole CIB

Ms. Esther Tsang
Director, APAC ESG Corporate Strategy
UBS
**Program Learning Outcomes**

**Inter-disciplinary Knowledge and Critical Thinking**
Understand and think critically about economic development, financial markets, and sustainability to identify and implement strategies and actions to support sustainable, inclusive growth and the net zero economy.

**Communication and Engagement**
Communicate and Engage with appropriate stakeholder groups to influence and empower them towards the cause of sustainable development.

**Creativity and Innovation**
Think creatively and drive innovation to enhance how financial tools and markets can better serve the cause of sustainable development globally, nationally, and within organizations.

**Professional, Social Responsibility, Ethics**
Uphold professional and ethical responsibility, and empower others to do the same, in support of sustainable development and inclusive growth.
## Curriculum

### Business & Finance
- Bloomberg Market Concepts Certification
- Derivative Securities
- ESG Investing
- Fixed Income Securities
- Green Finance Analysis Cases
- Intermediate Investments
- Risk Management
- Sustainable Supply Chain Management

### Environment & Sustainability
- Circular Economy and Life Cycle Assessment
- Environmental Sustainability Risks and Challenges
- ESG Management and Reporting
- Governing Green Finance: National and International Perspectives & Approaches
- Green Business Strategy
- LCA for Sustainable Development
- Social Sustainability Risks and Challenges

### Foundations
- Business Ethics and Social Responsibility
- Business Statistics
- Calculus
- Coding for Business
- Financial Management
- Introduction to Business Analytics
- Operations Management
- Principles of Accounting I
- Professional Writing for the Workplace
- Professional Speaking for the Workplace
- Science, Environment and Society - From Big Bang to Big Data
- Sustainability Fundamentals

### Major Electives & Free Electives
- University Common Core
- University Legal Education Requirement
### Credits Requirement: ≥ 120 credits

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<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Credits</td>
<td>University Common Core Courses</td>
<td>Major Required Courses</td>
<td>Major Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-74 Credits</td>
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<td>6 Credits</td>
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<td>10-11 Credits</td>
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<td>Free Electives</td>
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Career Prospect

Graduates will be able to work in various sectors, including but not limited to:

- Asset Management
- Consultancy
- Government
- Investment / Retail Banking
- Research
- Risk Management
SGFN Life

Industry Event

Career Workshop

Company Visit

Dinner w/ Co-Directors

Meeting Dean & External Advisors

Leadership Training

Student-staff activity
SGFN MSE Application

Application Window
- SGFN will be open for MSE application in *SPRING only*

Eligibility
- Completion of at least 29 credits, including transferred credits upon admission
- CGA 3.0 or above
- B- or above in Math course: MATH 1003/1012/1013/1020/1023
- C+ or above in LANG 1401/1402; B- or above in LANG 1403/1404

Assessment
- Holistic assessment based on CGA, selected courses performance, CV profile, personal statement, and interview performance

Timeline
- To be announced in Spring term

Point to Note
- SGFN curriculum is not exactly the same as Business School’s pathway 1 or 2
- If possible, complete ISOM 2700, ENVR 1170, and SUST 1000 before joining SGFN
Reference Materials

Take the Lead to Transform HK with a BSc in Sustainable & Green Finance
by Christopher HUI Ching-yu, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9ZAHzgJhBo

BSc in Sustainable & Green Finance Helps You Become a “Green Finance Talent”
by Arthur YUEN, Deputy Chief Executive, Hong Kong Monetary Authority
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMdOU7ntDe8

Take One Step towards Carbon Neutrality, Join BSc in Sustainable & Green Finance Now
by Kam-sing WONG, Former Secretary for the Environment
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXDaspzFmmw

The First BSc in Sustainable & Green Finance in Hong Kong
by HKUST Business through South China Morning Post

[Futurepreneur is HERE] HKUST Business School – BSc in Sustainable and Green Finance
by HKUST Business School
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsM9ZJPlqCs

BizInsight@HKUST – Green Finance
QFIN and SGFN Speaker Series

- Sep 26 (Tue), 6:30pm
  Kevin Angelini, Head of Strategy and M&A, APAC, Zurich

- Oct 31 (Tue), 6:30pm
  Yasmine Djeddai, Head of Sustainable and Positive Impact Finance, APAC, Société Générale

- Nov 6 (Mon), 6:30pm
  Cyrus Cheung, Partner, PwC

Registration: Pay attention to Business School Events Email
SGFN Contact & Social Media

sgfn@ust.hk

https://sgfn.hkust.edu.hk

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