

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Richmond Business School
Programme:	Master of Business Administration
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Corporate Sustainability Reporting
Course Code:	MGT 7106
Total Hours:	200 (standard 4 credit MA course)
Timetabled Hours:	39
Guided Learning Hours:	21
Independent Learning Hours:	140
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

The course provides students with an understanding of the concepts and key issues of corporate sustainability and its reporting. The course identifies the impacts that corporates have on its stakeholders, the economy and the environment as reflected on their corporate's mission and objectives. The course takes a functional approach to sustainability issues. The course takes both a general and selected sector approach where students will gain the practical skills to embed sustainability and report it in a rigorous manner being abreast of the ongoing global consolidation of standards together with new and emerging regulatory frameworks. The course takes a practical approach and numerous case studies, and on-hand projects will be developed.

Prerequisites:

N/A

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to develop an understanding of the practical importance of sustainability for managers and decision-makers. The objective is to promote ethical and professional standards and allow a focus on the role of sustainability in the management of a business.

Programme Outcomes:

MBA:

A1, A2

B1, B3, B4

C2, C3

D1, D3

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Demonstrate the ability to understand the senior management decisions regarding sustainability.
- Demonstrate possession of the required sustainability tools and frameworks for decision-making and data analysis.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply the sustainability frameworks to the different corporate functions.

Cognitive Skills

- The ability to master a complex corporate situation and apply specialised sustainability solutions.
- The ability to reflect on practical business sustainability problems and offer solutions to specific problems.

Practical and Professional Skills

- Have a systematic understanding of the practical sustainability problems faced by managers in a range of organisational functions.
- Be familiar with the sustainability reporting frameworks to be applied to different corporate contexts.

Key Skills

- Have the ability to analyse, present and communicate information effectively.
- Have the capacity to work effectively and efficiently as a group member or leader towards the achievement of SMART objectives.
- Have the personal and social skills gained from studying in a multicultural environment.

Indicative Content:

- The concept of sustainability and its application to the corporate world
- Principled and prescriptive nature of sustainability reporting - a comparative study.
- EU, US, UK and Japan sustainability regulation
- Key sustainability concepts: impact, materiality, stakeholders.
- Corporate sustainability in the supply chain, marketing and human resources functions.
- Sustainability and governance
- Sustainability and the SDGs
- Main sustainability reporting frameworks: GRI, SASB (IFRS), TCFD
- Sustainability and assurance ISOs, BCorp, auditing

- Other players in the sustainability ecosystem: sustainability indices, aggregators, sustainability ratings.
- Future development on corporate sustainability

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course is taught as a mixture of lectures and seminars. Students are required to do the required reading outside the classroom and undertake independent research and present a group presentation.

Indicative Text(s):

Gbangbola, K. and Lawler, N. (2020) *Gold Standard Sustainability Reporting: A step by step guide to producing a sustainability reports*. London and New York: Routledge.

Pagitsas, C. (2022) *Chief sustainability officers at work: how CSOs build successful sustainability and ESG Strategies*. New York: Apress.

Ramanan, R. (2018) *Introduction to sustainability analytics*. Florida: CRC Press.

Thompson, S. (2023) *Green and Sustainable Finance: Principles and practice in banking, investment and insurance*. 2nd edn. London: Kogan Page.

Journals

Journal of International Business Studies

Web Sites

www.europa.eu

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/sustainability_en

www.epa.gov

www.gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-sustainability-disclosure-standards>

<https://unqlobalcompact.org/>

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Annual updates	June 2023	
Student engagement hours updated	February 2024	
Total Hours Updated	May 2024	

