Why Study an MSc Strategic Sustainable Business?

How to strategically manage and promote sustainable business is at the forefront of decision-making processes and projects of global investors, companies, the public sector and non-governmental organisations.

This MSc Strategic Sustainable Business provides you with the skills and knowledge for a successful career in sustainable business and corporate social responsibility. It brings together knowledge and applied skills on strategic sustainable management and its environmental, social and economic dimensions. There are three key elements covered by the course: sustainable business, strategic management, and entrepreneurship to lead sustainable change.

The MSc is a practical one: teaching is based largely on experiences in real-life contexts with inspirational practitioners. It’s delivered by the University of Stirling Management School and the Centre for Sustainable Practice and Living (CSPL), combining academic excellence and practical knowledge in supporting leaders and organisations towards a more-sustainable society.

Course Objectives

The course focuses on the challenges and opportunities of transformative and practical management for sustainability. There’s a balance of theory and practice to help you to prepare for jobs in sustainable management and corporate social responsibility. Our partnerships with sustainably managed organisations and environmental regulatory agencies provide you with the chance to see how these practices work in the real world.

Over the three semesters, you’ll:

- Acquire the latest perspectives, knowledge, skills, best practices and experience for a successful career in a variety of emerging sustainability-related jobs
- Engage with cutting-edge frameworks, best practices and tools, including the UN framework for sustainability leadership
- Develop an in-depth understanding of sustainable management and its opportunities and challenges
- Enhance your ability to lead sustainable projects and initiatives across different sectors
- Engage in real-world situations in private organisations, the public sector and NGOs
- Enhance and develop critical, analytical, interpersonal and other transferable skills for strategic sustainable business whether private or public sector organisations

Delivery and Assessment

The course consists of two semesters of taught courses and a three-month research period which could be either an academic dissertation or business consulting project. You’ll be taught through a series of lectures, tutorials, case studies, role playing, computer simulations, guest speakers and company projects.

Assessment includes reports, essays, briefings, case analyses, debates, literature reviews, marketing communication plans, poster sessions and presentations. Assessed work is often conducted in groups, which helps to develop your teamwork and communication skills.

Modules

Semester 1

- Flying Start Leadership Programme
- Evolution and Practice of Sustainable Business
- Leadership for Strategic Sustainable Futures
- Responsible Business in Society
- Entrepreneurship, Theory and Practice
- Personal and Professional Development

Semester 2

- Strategic Management
- Business Consulting Group Project

Plus two elective modules which may include:

- Project Management Fundamentals
- Managing in Emerging Economies
- Innovation Management
- Managing Change

Semester 3

- Dissertation or Consultancy Project
Top reasons to study with us

1. **Sustainability means business**
   be empowered in sustainable business, strategic management and entrepreneurship to lead sustainable change

2. **Sustainable management in practice**
   tackle environmental, social and economic sustainability issues with external partners facing real-world challenges

3. **Endorsed by sustainability leaders**
   This MSc is endorsed by leading organisations in sustainability (SEPA, Natura Co.); and members of United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

4. **Stirling’s global research rating**
   we’re among the top 25 in the UK according to REF 2014

5. **Build your sustainability network**
   be part of a vibrant community of current and future innovators for sustainability with over 120 nationalities represented on campus
Begin your new course in the best possible way, with our unique Flying Start Leadership programme.

This programme is exclusively for new students about to start one of our postgraduate courses. You’ll take part in activities, workshops and information sessions to help you prepare for the year ahead, and make the most of your time at Stirling.

Take part in the Flying Start Leadership programme and you will:

- Discover more about the exciting period of learning ahead
- Understand what is expected of you in your course
- Get to know the teaching and support staff
- Learn more about a diverse range of approaches to learning
- Work as part of a successful team

Activities range from practical skills – like effective public speaking – to developing ways to work under pressure in difficult situations and manage conflict. It's also a chance to discover all that the University and the vibrant city of Stirling have to offer, and to make new friends.

Other learning activities to prepare you for study in the UK
Prepare for Success prepareforsuccess.org.uk is an interactive web learning tool for international students who are coming to the UK to study.

COURSE LEADER

**Professor George Burt** brings practical experience and theoretical knowledge to his teaching, having designed and facilitated many private and public sector strategy, scenario and futures projects. He has worked for organisations such as World Bank, Shell, ProRail NV Holland, PETRONAS, de Beers, PayPal, Doosan Babcock, Lloyds Registry Quality Assurance, Caledonian Paper plc, the Edrington Group, Stirling Council, Dumfries & Galloway Council, and City of Glasgow Council. His research has been published in leading journals in organisational strategy and sustainable scenarios.
98% of our postgraduate leavers from the University of Stirling are in employment or further study within six months of graduating (Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2015/16). This course prepares you for a career in strategic sustainable management across a range of large global organisations, small-medium enterprises and third and public sector.

As the job market for sustainability professionals continues to boom, there will be a wide range of opportunities in the private sector, public and non-governmental sectors. For example, at the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) in December 2015, developed countries pledged to inject USD 100 billion per year by 2020 and extend this until 2025 to support greener growth. This, in turn, will generate many job opportunities in sustainable business.

The MSc will prepare students for a broad range of roles, including:

- Manager of sustainable strategy
- Sustainable management consultant
- Sustainable investments analyst
- Sustainability manager
- Sustainable supply chain analyst
- Sustainable innovation and projects manager
- Social responsibility and stakeholder relations manager
- Entrepreneur in sustainable technologies
- Policy advisor for sustainability issues
- Local or central government sustainability related jobs
- Environmental manager
- Eco-efficiency analyst
- Sustainable fund manager

There is a ‘sustainable business revolution’ underway. Investors and consumers will avoid firms with poor and non-strategic sustainable performance. The public sector and government have agreed to pursue sustainability and a lower-carbon economy and NGOs and foundations supporting sustainability have been growing in numbers and relevance. Worldwide agreements, such as the COP21, will boost sustainable growth and business. This magnificent change towards a more-sustainable society needs managers with a strategic perspective for sustainable management.
OUR GLOBAL REPUTATION

We are ranked among the best universities in the world. Stirling is listed in the top 25 institutions for Business and Management in the UK (REF 2014). We are also signatories to the United Nations Global Compact initiative for Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME).

LEADING SCHOLARS IN STRATEGIC SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

You’ll engage with academics who have conducted outstanding research in the field of sustainable management. This research has been published in first-tier journals, such as the Journal of Cleaner Production, Clean Technologies & Environmental Policy, Business & Society and Technological Forecasting & Social Change.

LEADING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE CENTRE

The partnership between the University of Stirling Management School and the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership regularly delivers the internationally recognised ‘Sustainability Leadership Executive Development Programme’ in Scotland. CSPL is an official member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN).

UNIQUE, PRACTICAL LEARNING

Students will be immersed in the practical aspects of sustainable business, acquiring skills, knowledge and expertise on sustainability management by engaging with real-world organisations. These include large companies, small and medium enterprises, the public sector and NGOs. You’ll learn from experienced sustainable managers, innovators, entrepreneurs and policy makers during the teaching modules.

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

You’ll work on consultancy-style projects with external clients and engage with influential networks, such as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scotland 2020 and 2050 Climate Groups and firms that have won the VIBES Award – Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland.

IDEAL ATMOSPHERE FOR A SUSTAINABLE EXPERIENCE

The University of Stirling has one of the most beautiful and green campuses in the world and aims to reduce its carbon emissions by 38% by 2020.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Many of our postgraduate students come from overseas. Studying at Stirling offers an excellent opportunity to establish your own global network of contacts at the outset of your career.

KEY INFORMATION

**Degree type:** MSc, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate  
**Study method:** Full time, campus based  
**Start date:** September  
**Course length:** One year  
**Course directors:** Professor George Burt
Fees, funding and scholarships

2018/19 Overseas  £15,250
2018/19 Home/EU  £7,900

These are the current course prices. We review them each year. You can pay your fees in full before the course starts, or by instalments. If you pay in full you may be eligible for a discount.

More on payment options: stir.ac.uk/1k2

Cost of living
Find out about the cost of living for students at Stirling: stir.ac.uk/1j6

Once you successfully complete your course, you’ll pay an additional charge for us to confer your degree at graduation. If you graduate in person, you’ll also have to pay for the hire of your academic clothing.

More information on graduation costs: stir.ac.uk/1j1

Stirling Management School postgraduate scholarships
Stirling Management School invests in academically talented students, helping them to further their education with one of our degree courses. There are various categories of funding available to support the cost of your studies.

More on postgraduate scholarships: stir.ac.uk/1j2

Other scholarships and funding
Information about scholarships and funding may be found at: stir.ac.uk/1j5

Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan
This course is currently approved for PTFL (Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan) funding from SAAS.

More information on SAAS: stir.ac.uk/1k1

Strategic sustainable business is vital for emerging economies that search for sustainable and inclusive growth. The MSc explores knowledge and skills towards more sustainable organisations and public agendas.

Mrs. Raquel Breda dos Santos
Director, DPCS,
Ministry of the Environment, Brazil
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

You'll need a minimum of a second class Honours degree in any subject, or an equivalent qualification. However, you can still apply if you don’t have these formal qualifications, but bring significant work experience in a relevant area.

If you don’t meet the requirements, you might be able to attend one of our English courses before your main course begins.

For details of English language requirements for this course, visit: stir.ac.uk/3f