Master in Corporate sustainable management (Environmental, health and safety management)

Introduction/presentation

The private sector plays a crucial role in shaping our sustainable society. We can see this in the way that products and services have been developed, produced, and distributed. This places a great deal of pressure on the world's natural resources. The private sector therefore holds the key to solving structural resource scarcity and environmental problems. Accordingly, both Corporate Sustainability and Environmental Management are increasingly important for a wide range of organisations, and Corporate Social Responsibility has never been more relevant to our organisations, ensuring businesses have a positive impact on the world and enables society to reach its goals.

In this direction, in the last years there have been growing calls for clear and practical guidance tools to support the integration of cost-efficient and effective sustainability practices in businesses and organizations. Given the complex world of interconnected challenges and the necessity to satisfy all three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), there has been a considerable effort to integrate sustainability into the processes and practices of an organization. As a result, many tools, frameworks and standards have been developed to support business in their path to sustainability.

The Master's Programme aims to train experts in corporate sustainability with an environmental focus. It offers an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to environmental issues preparing to tackle these complex issues in business life, promoting environmental sustainability in business; and innovating new business solutions and sustainable business models. It will provide skills to evaluate existing frameworks, inquire into environmental issues in organisations and industries, and develop sensitive business practices. It provides excellent preparation for any corporate-focused environmental career. Main examined topics will include: theory, evidence and practice in Corporate Sustainability and Environmental Management as well as the governance, assessment and practical resolution of environmental problems; combining the study of scientific, legal, policy and risks associated with sustainability with accounting, ethical and organisation aspects of business.

Reference target

This Master is designed for ambitious graduates with a keen interest in the social, environmental and economic impact that organisations have on the world and early career professionals who wish to transition into a sustainability-focused role. It is suitable for students who aspire to embed sustainability into their future management career across a varied range of private, public and not-for-profit organisations, sectors and roles. Specific targets concern Top management involved in the environmental and energy aspects of a company; Environmental management supervisors; Supervisors for the quality of the production processes; working in companies located in the Guangdong Province, China.

Expected professional profiles

Graduates from the Master's Degree Programme can work either in the private sector in companies, or in the public sector in public administration, municipalities, towns or environment centers. In addition, national and international non-governmental and other organisations are potential employers. Job titles can be for example: sustainability expert/specialist/analyst, environmental manager/expert, sustainability project manager, sales and sustainability specialist, corporate responsibility reporting specialist, project coordinator. The graduates can also work in the field of environmental-related marketing, accounting, entrepreneurship, reporting and communications based on their own interests.

Feedbacks from the employment market for the identification of the training need underlying the course

During the last 20 years, a growing number of companies have voluntarily integrated social and environmental issues in their business models and daily operations (i.e. their strategy) through the adoption of related corporate policies. This has multiple feedbacks, including improved management of environmental performance, opportunities to reduce raw materials, waste, emissions, thereby reducing total costs, new business markets, ability to attract shareholders and investors, good public/community relationships, improved relationships with regulatory bodies and government, wider transparency and higher credibility. Reaching this point requires organizational, social, and institutional innovation. Next to the role of businesses, consumers also play an important role as they are claiming for sustainable product and services.

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Therefore, there is a strong expectation to improve knowledge and skills about behavioural economics, organisational studies and innovation management as well as different environmentally-sustainable models.

Training objectives

To look at the globalisation of business and the transnational nature of the environmental problems faced by business, regulators and policy makers.

To introduced to the major challenges faced by decision makers when implementing corporate sustainability policies in the real world and to examine the consultancies helping organisations achieve their corporate sustainability objectives.

To train in suitable research methods and relevant ethical and legal issues while practising research skills with independent projects.

To develop the essential skills associated with business management and managing sustainable organisations, as well as experience in environmental assessment and maximising sustainable governance in organisations.

Programme outline

1° course: Sustainability and Environmental Risk Assessment
The course aims at defining principles and applications of environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development. It will provide the students with conceptual frameworks, methodologies and techniques for the implementation of environmental risk assessment and environmental sustainability in assessing and managing environmental resources, industrial products and technologies, and supporting the definition of environmental quality criteria for water and soil.

2° course*: Environmental Management Systems*
The course will describe the firm's system and its relations with environmental compartments, which should not be perceived only as duties but as opportunities for development and inclusion in new markets, so that firms can be considered as actors for sustainability. This will be achieved by presenting some tools relevant for improving environmental performance of firms such as: waste management, environmental labelling, environmental management systems, implementation of the REACH regulation.

3° course: New tools and standards to advance and measure corporate/business sustainability
This course introduces new tools and standards (e.g. Life Cycle Assessment, carbon and water foot print) that enable a better management and monitoring of the different dimensions of sustainability (economic, social, environmental) and of new paradigms such as Circular Economy, and explains how their application can drive innovation, collaboration, and transformation within companies and organizations.

4° course*: Occupational Health and Safety Management System*
This course introduces the history, current development and future trends of safety system engineering. It explains the international commonly used safety and occupational health management system and evaluation system. Meanwhile, it introduces the current laws and regulations and future development trend of China.

5° course: Risk Management of Occupational Health and Safety
With pictures, videos and real case studies, this course introduces the common risks related to occupation health and safety in the general manufacturing industries (for example, fire, electricity, machinery, high risk operations, hazardous chemicals, noise, dust, etc) as well as common control methods (engineering, management, personal protective equipment, etc. etc.).

6° course: Best Practice of Occupational Health and Safety Management in Enterprises
Combining the experience of multinational companies which have already established a well-functioning HS management system, from aspects of management commitment, HS target setting, management personnel and institutions, qualification and training, HS inspection and emergency, etc, this course aims at explaining see how multinational companies manage to control occupation health and safety risk.

7° course: Environmental management: strategy and measurement
The course will discuss how environmental and sustainability issues shape companies' strategy and its ability to create value in the long term. It will also cover the measurement of Environmntal Social Governance (ESG) impacts on stakeholders. Case studies will exemplify the topics covered.

8° course*: Environmental management: internal and external disclosure*
The course will discuss the external and internal disclosure of Environmental Social Governance (ESG) performance and information. In particular, it will cover the most relevant disclosure frameworks (Integrated Reporting and GRI G4 Guidelines) for external disclosure and the best practices for internal communication to foster better decision making. Case studies will exemplify the topics covered.

9° course: Marketing and communication
The aim of the course is to present and discuss the use of marketing and communication tools and processes for the promotion of the company's environmental sustainability choices, as a key factor to increase the perceived value of the

company's offer to the market and of as a source of competitive advantage.

10° course: Tools for Stakeholders Analysis and Participation

The course will train on how to identify and characterize stakeholders and how to design and implement stakeholders' engagement processes. Tools introduced during the course will be tested by students on real life case studies.