

Module code: MOD011054	Version: 1 Date Amended: 11/Apr/2025
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1. Module Title
Sustainability in Context

2a. Module Leader
Swetketu Patnaik

2b. School
School of Economics, Finance and Law

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Business and Law

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

In this module, you will learn how to critically evaluate the complex interplay between environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability in modern organisations and society. Through an exploration of key frameworks like the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Triple Bottom Line, you will gain an understanding of how global challenges such as climate change, inequality, and resource depletion can be addressed through innovative business practices. You will engage with concepts like the circular economy, systems thinking, and sustainable innovation, equipping you to rethink conventional business models and propose actionable solutions for real-world sustainability issues.

You will also develop specialised knowledge in social entrepreneurship and sustainability reporting. By examining how social enterprises create impactful solutions to pressing societal challenges, you will design your own business models that balance purpose with profit. You will explore key sustainability reporting frameworks such as the GRI and SASB, learning to critically assess corporate responsibility practices and evaluate the effectiveness of sustainability metrics. These skills will prepare you to lead or advise organisations in implementing sustainable practices, measuring impact, and driving change in increasingly complex and dynamic environments.

6b. Outline Content

- Introduction to sustainability context: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), UN Sustainable Development Goals, Triple Bottom Line;
- Systems thinking and the circular economy
- Stakeholder engagement and corporate responsibility in practice
- Sustainability and innovation
- Social entrepreneurship and sustainability
- Sustainability reporting and standards
- Measuring impact and ESG performance
- Policy and regulations for sustainability
- Challenges and opportunities in sustainability
- Future of sustainability

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

N/A

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically evaluate key sustainability frameworks, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Triple Bottom Line, and ESG principles, and their application in addressing global challenges.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of social entrepreneurship and its role in creating sustainable solutions to societal and environmental challenges.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse and interpret sustainability reporting frameworks, such as GRI and SASB, to assess the effectiveness of organisational sustainability practices.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply systems thinking and innovative approaches to design sustainable business models, integrating circular economy principles and stakeholder engagement strategies.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critique organisational sustainability strategies and effectively communicate actionable recommendations to diverse stakeholders, fostering collaboration and impact.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	24	1-5	2 hour Tutor-led Workshop (2hr x 11 weeks) Screencast or equivalent (20 minute maximum) x 10 weeks minimum
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-5	2 hour Student led Workshop (2 hr x 12 weeks)
Student managed learning	252	1-5	Learning activities provided and explained on Canvas and assessment preparations
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1,2,4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)

Presentation 15 minutes 1000 words equivalent

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1,2,3,4,5	50 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)

Report 2000 words

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]