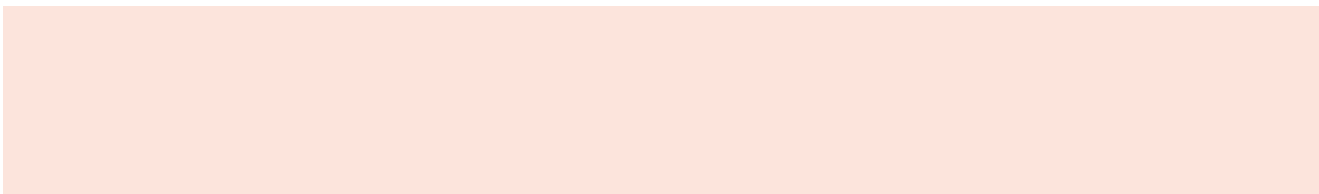


THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX
JUNE 2021



SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS WITHIN OUR UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM





BACKGROUND

1ST

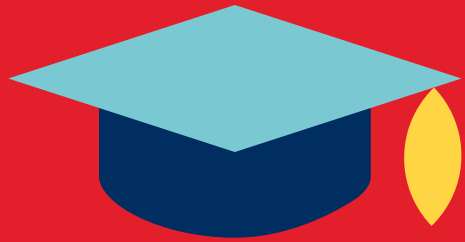
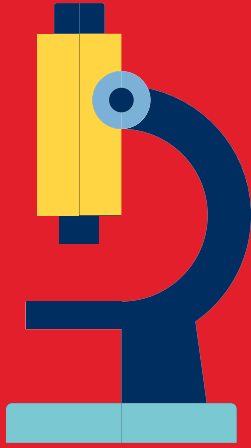
in the world for Development Studies
*QS World University Rankings
by Subject 2021*

At our University, we believe that providing education for sustainable development (ESD) is vital for empowering students to understand and engage with global environmental, social, and economic challenges.

The University of Sussex has been recognised for our excellent teaching on International Development. For five years running, we, in partnership with the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), have been ranked first in the world for development studies, in the QS World Rankings by Subject.

In April 2021, our University was ranked 41st in the world, out of around 1,200 higher-education institutions, in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking, which related to sustainability. This puts us in the top 5% of universities in the world and in the top 10 UK universities – that applied to be independently ranked by the THE – for sustainability. The metrics of this ranking are based on the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), with our score partly arising from our extensive inclusion of the SDGs in our curriculum.

We also have strong sustainability research groups, such as **Sussex Sustainability Research Programme** and the **Science Policy Research Unit**. These groups' output is embedded into our curriculum, meaning that our students learn from the cutting edge of sustainability research.



UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX BUSINESS SCHOOL

The University of Sussex Business School is a member of the **UN Global Compact**, a key goal of which is to help businesses advance education. The School is also a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), an initiative of the UN Global Compact. **Principles for Responsible Management Education** engages business and management schools in providing business students the skills and understanding to balance economic, social, and environmental goals.

Sustainability is integrated across the Business School's teaching, offering a range of sustainability focused modules and programmes as well as embedding sustainability into the broader curriculum, supporting a contextual understanding of sustainability matters e.g. sustainable supply chains.

As a result, the offer links to a broad range of the SDGs including SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.

Current sustainability related undergraduate modules in the Business School include:

- **Introduction to sustainability**
- **Non-profit management and social entrepreneurship**
- **Enterprise in the circular economy**
- **Economics of development**
- **Finance for development**
- **Environmental economics**
- **Climate change economics**
- **Social responsibility, sustainability and business ethics**

The availability of the above modules depends on your chosen course of study. Please follow the module links to see which degree courses offer this module and look at your course prospectus to see whether modules are core or optional.

CASE STUDY: ENTERPRISE IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Enterprise in the circular economy is currently an option module for students on the **BSc Business and Management** and **BSc Marketing and Management** courses. The module employs a blend of theory and practice, integrating sustainability concepts with business and their activities, and aligning the module with the majority of the SDGs.

The module focuses on ideas of the circular economy in business, for example, value creation through slowing of resource loops by using products for longer facilitated by repair and remanufacturing.

The module has received lots of traction among students. The highlight of the module is the guest speakers and practitioners, who often come from local enterprises that are integrating circular economy into their business models. Hearing directly from those that are adopting these ideas helps students to see how theoretical concepts are transformed into practical business activities.

As part of the coursework, students study a business and product of their choice and analyse the value chain of the product from resource extraction to end of life, this may be in the linear or circular economy. Students investigate the sustainability impacts of the product and business by identifying material and waste flows. This applied approach enables students to engage with how products are made, how value is added along the value chain, and what implications this has for planet, people, and profit.



SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND INFORMATICS

Sustainability is embedded in both the Engineering and Product Design departments of the school. For example, some Product Design and Engineering modules currently use live briefs from external partners in their assessment, which are sustainability focused in some cases.

Several product design modules look at the importance of circularity and the circular economy (an economic



SCHOOL OF LAW, POLITICS,

Law students involved in the Law Clinics work ►
directly with clients to provide free legal advice.



SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

A large portion of the environmental sustainability challenge comes from the basic need of humanity for energy. The underlying scientific principles that determine what form of energy we can use, how efficiently, and with what environmental impact, are deeply embedded in the early stages of our physics courses curricula.

Meanwhile, the more advanced stages of the physics degree look at the concepts that may lead to a better and more efficient use of our current energy sources, or maybe even to the discovery of new ones.

The mathematical foundations of the advanced modelling of processes like climate change and global warming are built into many mathematical modules at all stages. These modelling processes are vital for understanding and planning for the future of climate change.

These topics link to SDGs 7 Affordable and Clean Energy and 13 Climate Action.

Current sustainability related undergraduate modules in Mathematics and Physical Sciences include:

- **Properties of matter**
- **Thermal and statistical physics**
- **Condensed state physics**
- **Nuclear and particle physics**
- **Mathematics in everyday life**
- **Random processes**

The availability of the above modules depends on your chosen course of study. Please follow the module links to see which degree courses offer this module and look at your course prospectus to see whether modules are core or optional.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX MEDICAL SCHOOL (BSMS)

The undergraduate degree course, Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (BMBS), has the overall aim of promoting good health and wellbeing, in line with SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing. The current curriculum includes teaching on environmental and social sustainability topics, such as reducing health inequalities, linking to SDG 10 Reducing Inequality, and sustainable healthcare, linking to SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production. Sustainable healthcare principles include patient empowerment, disease prevention, lean healthcare, and selecting lower carbon alternatives and these are included in several modules throughout the core curriculum.

The session **Environment and Health** in module 101 examines the impact of air pollution on health and the role of active transport in improving health. Modules 201 and 402 include sessions on **Sustainable Healthcare** which highlight the environmental impacts of healthcare such as carbon emissions and plastics waste, and ways to make healthcare more sustainable and a session on '**Sustainable prescribing**' in module 308 examines ways for to reduce the carbon emissions associated with prescribing including reducing medicines wastage.

Meanwhile, module 402 includes a 'Global Health Conference' in which students learn about the global health threat of climate change, the moral and ethical responsibilities of healthcare professionals to protect health, as well as the health co-benefits of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Elective student selected components (SSCs), where students can learn about a particular area in more depth, are offered across years 1 and 2. Relevant topics include **Social determinants of health**, **Green medicine**, and **Climate change and sustainable healthcare**.

The School is also home to the **BSMS Healthcare Sustainability Group**, a research and education group exploring the environmental, social, and economic factors of sustainability in health and healthcare. One aim of the group work is to develop capacity in teaching and learning on sustainable healthcare.

A team at BSMS have developed an online self-study resource for students to learn about the environmental impacts of surgery and ways in which this can be mitigated. This will be available to all students throughout the course.

Current sustainability related undergraduate modules in Education and Social Work include:

- 101 Clinical and Community Practice 1
- 201 Clinical and Community Practice 2
- 301 Clinical and Community Practice 3
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SECTION 2: OUR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES AND THE UN SDGS



There are a range of sustainable development focused degrees at Sussex.

This section of the document showcases which of our undergraduate degrees currently have some of the most relevant content for people interested in learning about a specific SDG.

However, it should be noted that a range of our degrees contain content related to multiple SDGs and this list is not intended to be exhaustive.¹ Further, we constantly keep our courses and modules under review, so the content of the below courses may change in subsequent academic years. Please check the [online prospectus](#) for the most up to date information.

Goal 1: No Poverty

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Goal 10: Reduced Inequality

- Anthropology BA (Hons)
- Economics and International Development BA (Hons)
- International Relations and Development BA (Hons)
- Media and Communications BA (Hons)
- Sociology with Cultural Studies BA (Hons)

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- Design and Business (with a foundation year) BSc (Hons)
- English BA (Hons)
- Geography BA (Hons)
- Geography and Anthropology BA (Hons)
- History BA (Hons)
- Liberal Arts BA (Hons)
- Product Design BA (Hons)
- Sociology BA (Hons)

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- Ecology and Conservation BSc (Hons)
- Geography BA (Hons)
- Geography BSc (Hons)
- History BA (Hons)
- Product Design BA (Hons)
- Product Design BSc (Hons)

Goal 13: Climate Action

- Automotive Engineering BEng (Hons)
- Ecology and Conservation BSc (Hons)
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering BEng (Hons)
- Economics and International Development BA (Hons)
- Geography BSc (Hons)

Goal 14: Life Below Water and GOAL 15: Life on Land

- Biology BSc (Hons)
- Ecology and Conservation BSc (Hons)
- Zoology BSc (Hons)
- Product Design BSc (Hons)

Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

- Law LLB (Hons)
- Law with International Relations LLB (Hons)
- Law with Politics LLB (Hons)

Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals

- International Development BA (Hons)
- International Relations and Development BA (Hons)
- Sociology and International Development BA (Hons)
- Politics and International Relations BA (Hons)