

DIGITAL AND INNOVATION

LEVEL **7**

Professional Certificate in

# Responsible and Sustainable Finance

2021—2022



A recognised  
college of UCD

# Who we are

## IOB

IOB is a professional community of 33,600 members who work in banking, investment funds and international financial services on the island of Ireland. Professional development of our members through education is at the heart of what we do. IOB provides university level programmes to enable our members achieve and sustain their professional qualifications and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - essential in meeting customer and regulatory expectations. More than 9,800 individuals studied with us last year and over 23,800 members are registered for CPD schemes administered by IOB.

## Excellence in education – a recognised college of UCD

As a recognised college of University College Dublin (UCD) and the standout financial services educator, we offer qualifications of the highest standard. We currently have more than 40 programmes ranging from Professional Certificates (level 7) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) to Masters Degrees (level 9). We design our programmes to be practical and relevant, and grounded in academic rigour.



# A new era

In 2021 IOB launched 3 innovations that set a new benchmark.

## IOB Learn

Our new learning experience platform, IOB Learn, is a digitally enabled, intuitive, personalised, lifelong learning and career ecosystem. For everyone working in financial services, including investment funds and international financial services.

## The IOB App

From discovering curated content, following your learning pathways, to logging CPD on-the-go, IOB App opens a new world of possibility in staying connected and up to date with IOB.

## EdQ by IOB

A new dynamic education credentialling ecosystem that tracks and certifies qualifications, continuing professional development and lifelong learning, supporting career profile recognition across a wide reach of financial services.



# Introduction

## Who is this programme for?

Sustainable Finance is an area that requires decisive leadership, flexibility, and responsiveness from the financial services sector, and society as a collective. This programme is for all financial services professionals who wish to understand more about the evolving nature of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors within financial services.

It seeks to give an introduction to, and an understanding of themes such as: response to climate change; the catalyst for sustainable finance and EU regulatory initiatives. The programme also examines non-financial disclosures, climate and sustainability reporting including climate related risks, opportunities and financial impacts.

The programme also examines green, social, and sustainable bonds. The programme concludes by discussing how to embed a culture of sustainability within an organisation, and an assessment of the future of the ESG agenda.



# Curriculum

You study one module as follows:

## 1. Responsible and Sustainable Finance

This module carries 10 ECTS (academic credits).

### Topic 1

#### Introduction to Sustainable Finance

- Function of the Finance System
- What we will cover in the remaining Chapters
- Summary

### Topic 2

#### Response to the Planetary Change

- The scale of the challenge
- The Sustainable Development Goals
- Climate Change
- Overall summary

### Topic 3

#### Catalyst for Change and EU regulatory Initiatives

- Leadership and the United Nations
- National Initiatives
- Central Banks and Other Related Organisations
- NGOs and other organisations
- Sustainability Standards Setters
- Credit Rating Agencies and ESG Rating Agencies
- Academic Centres and Research Institutes
- EU Green Deal
- EU Action Plan for Sustainable Finance
- Summary

### Topic 4

#### Principles of Responsible Banking

- The Framework
- Principle 1: Alignment
- Principle 2: Impact and Target Setting
- Principle 3: Clients and Customers
- Principle 4: Stakeholders
- Principle 5: Governance and Culture
- Principle 6: Transparency and Accountability
- Time Frame for Implementation
- Conclusion and Learning Objectives

### Topic 5

#### Principles of Responsible Investment

- Introduction of the UN EP FI Principles of Responsible Investment
- Signing up to the Principles
- EU Action Plan and Responsible Investments
- Integrating ESG into Investment Decisions
- Active Ownership
- Managing Climate Risk as a Responsible Investor
- The Changing Course Pilot

### Topic 6

#### Sustainable Banking

- What a sustainable Finance Bank Looks Like
- The Sustainable Banker
- Developments in Sustainable Banking Products
- Conclusion and Learning Objectives

## Topic 7

### Sustainable Funds

- The European Securities and Market Authority's Sustainable Finance Plan
- ESMA's Recommendations on Incorporating ESG
- Fiduciary Duty in 21st Century
- EU Eco-labelling and Investment Products
- The Sustainable Fund Manager
- Sustainable Funds

## Topic 8

### Non-Financial Disclosures, Climate and Sustainability Reporting

- The Non-Financial Requirements under EU law
- Global Reporting Initiative
- Sustainability Standards Accounting Board
- CDP – (formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project)
- Climate Disclosures Standards Board (CDSB)
- Corporate Reporting Dialogue
- Conclusion
- Learning Objectives of Topic 8

## Topic 9

### Risk Management

- Impact of Sustainable Finance on Risk Management
- Global Risk Report – Top Risks 2019
- ERM and integration of ESG factors
- Bridging Sustainability and Finance
- Integration of ESG into Credit Decisions and impact on other risk types
- Standard & Poor's (S&P) approach to ESG and Credit Ratings
- Risk Management and Climate Change
- Managing Transition Risk
- Project Finance, Lending and Natural Capital
- Chapter Summary

## Topic 10

### Green Social and Sustainable Bonds

- Green Bonds

## Topic 11

### Implementing a Culture of Sustainability

- Culture and Sustainability within Financial Sectors

## Topic 12

### The Future Path

- Transitioning to Sustainable Finance
- The Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
- The Inevitable Policy Response
- Reporting of Sustainable Value Creation
- The Green Swan
- FinTech and Sustainable Finance
- Blockchain and sustainability linked bonds
- Short termism in the Investment Markets



# Faculty Bios



**Laura Heuston**  
**Co-founder of SustainabilityWorks**

Laura is a Co-Founder of SustainabilityWorks, a boutique sustainability consulting firm that offers a unique blend of skills and experience across sustainable finance and sustainability strategy, policy, innovation and communications. A Chartered Accountant and Tax Adviser with over 20 years professional experience in KPMG and Airtricity, mainly working with renewable energy groups and funds, she now focuses on the broader topic of sustainable finance and advises and speaks on a broad range of sustainable finance topics, with a particular specialism in responsible investment, impact investment, renewable energy finance and energy efficiency finance. She has authored a number of submissions to the Department of Finance that led to the inclusion of sustainable finance as a key pillar of Ireland’s international financial services strategy; co-authored a report Fiduciary Roadmap for 21st Century Roadmap for Ireland as a key tool to inform and engage Irish policymakers, regulators and the investment community on responsible investment; and lectures on Sustainable Finance in the UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business.



**Ann Shiels**  
**finlexsus**

Ann is a qualified solicitor with over 20 years’ experience in the asset management and investment funds sector both in-house and in private practice and in Ireland and then Channels Islands; working mainly in the regulated investment fund sector in Ireland and in the unregulated fund space. Ann holds a sustainable finance qualification from the University of Cambridge’s Institute for Sustainability Leadership. Ann has advised asset management firms, investment funds and insurance firms on the implications and application of the EU Taxonomy Regulation, SFDR and other legislative and regulatory outputs from the EU Action Plan on Sustainable Finance. Ann writes and speaks on sustainable finance topics and has participated in roundtable discussions for regulated financial services firms.

# Further Information

**Commencement Date**

Sep/Oct 2021

**Programme length**

One trimester

**Fees**

€680

**Delivery**

Online

**Assessment**

Continuous Assessment

**Awarding body**

UCD

**How to register**

For further information on this programme visit [iob.ie/programme/sustainable-finance](https://iob.ie/programme/sustainable-finance)

# Key Dates 2021–2022



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Autumn Trimester September 2021 – January 2022	Blended Level 7 and Level 8
Closing date for applications*	13/09/2021
Closing date for module registrations	01/10/2021
Trimester start date**	04/10/2021
Re-registration closing date	12/11/2021
Module withdrawal date	12/11/2021
Exam period	03/01/2022 – 23/01/2022
Exam results release date	04/03/2022

Spring Trimester January 2022 – May 2022	Blended Level 7 and Level 8
Closing date for applications*	28/01/2022
Closing date for module registrations	04/02/2022
Trimester start date**	07/02/2022
Re-registration closing date	18/03/2022
Module withdrawal date	18/03/2022
Exam period	02/05/2022 – 21/05/2022
Exam results release date	01/07/2022

Summer Trimester June 2022 – September 2022	Blended Level 7 and Level 8
Closing date for applications*	27/05/2022
Closing date for module registrations	03/06/2022
Trimester start date**	06/06/2022
Re-registration closing date	15/07/2022
Module withdrawal date	15/07/2022
Exam period	05/09/2022 – 25/09/2022
Exam results release date	28/10/2022

\* Places may be available after this date depending on availability  
\*\* Member Resources in IOB Learn

Dates may change – check IOB Learn and [iob.ie](#) for up-to-date information





# IOB membership

Learn more about the value and benefits of becoming a member of IOB.



**Your standout educator**

IOB is a recognised college of UCD, which is Ireland’s largest university and ranked within the top 1% of higher education institutions in the world. A leading provider of applied education in financial services, we offer more than 40 university accredited qualifications, taught by academics and leading industry experts.

- Access to IOB’s full suite of accredited learning, taught by academics and leading industry experts.
- Access via IOB to Government Funding for education programmes, e.g. Springboard, IFS Skillnet.
- Graduation Ceremony for level 8 and 9 graduands.



**We get you qualified**

We offer 14 professional designations, including all the essential regulatory required designations to qualify you for roles in financial services. Free accreditation of your training for CPD hours on IOB CPD schemes.



**We keep you qualified**

Lifelong learning is essential to sustain a career and your professional designation(s). As Ireland’s largest provider of continuing professional development (CPD), we keep you qualified. Included in your membership subscription at no additional cost is access to a minimum of four continuing professional development events in addition to our suite of eCPD modules.



**IOB Learn**

An exciting new learning experience platform, and an IOB app personalised to your professional development needs. IOB Learn will give you access to a new suite of micro learning and curated learning content across a number of channels.



**Your essential career partner**

Through IOB Learn we empower you to explore your talent and potential. We fuel your personal growth and career trajectory.



**Your professional community**

Membership of your industry’s professional body, the largest professional membership community in Ireland, brings you into a community of like-minded people. Professionals from across financial services working in a similar specialism as you, dealing with similar challenges to those that you face. Through in-person events, digital events and forums you can hear key note speakers and share experiences, exchange knowledge, network, expanding your contacts and personal profile.

- Invitations to in-person and virtual events and networking opportunities.
- Access to breakfast briefings / lunch and learns.
- Access to the latest insights, thought leadership, emerging issues and trends.

# Corporate membership

Learn more about the value and benefits of becoming a corporate member of IOB.



### Strategy and Governance

IOB Council (board of directors) and Council committees are responsible for the effective, prudent and ethical oversight of IOB, setting its strategic aims and direction. Corporate members are entitled to either appoint or elect persons to Council.

Active engagement, participation and leadership in IOB Council and Council Committees is a commitment to setting and maintaining high professional and ethical standards, and enhancing the technical expertise of the financial services industry.



### Talent development

An organisation’s greatest resource is its people. IOB’s wide range of applied education and lifelong learning programmes develop your talented staff.



### Future skills

Financial services continues to change rapidly. IOB helps build transferable skills for the individual and a more flexible workforce for your organisation.



### Regulatory compliance

Where relevant, our education qualifications, professional designations and CPD schemes meet the Central Bank of Ireland’s Minimum Competency Code and Fitness and Probity requirements. Our new EdQ credentialing platform supports you in meeting your regulatory responsibilities.



### Professional standing

IOB offers a range of professional designations which are a recognition of educational achievement and professional standing. They are a badge of excellence and an endorsement of academic qualifications, professional knowledge and experience. Several of the designations are recognised worldwide.



### Independent assurance

IOB is an independent stamp of assurance that supports organisations in engaging, motivating and empowering their employees to learn and perform.



### Corporate community

Build your network with a community of peers – learn from other leading organisations, share your knowledge and expertise.

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