

# CERTIFICATE IN SUSTAINABILITY

## PURPOSE

The Certificate prepares students to create, lead and grow brands and organizations that:

- a) Commit to the implementation of the UN Global Compact's 10 principles of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption; and/or
- b) Champion the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by adopting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change.

## WHY A SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE?

The Certificate provides students with a coordinated set of courses and experiences that position them as responsible, forward-looking leaders. Students will network with morally exemplary CEOs, sample best-for-the-world sustainability reporting and consulting practices in different types of organizations and sectors, master storytelling for positive change, and hone your ability to evaluate, communicate, design, and deliver sustainability-focused innovations.

This certificate will appeal to students:

- Committed to starting their personal social or sustainable ventures.
- Interested in sustainability consulting.
- Having a personal calling to make a difference, wanting to blend this calling with a successful career in traditional organizations.
- Interested in pursuing sustainable opportunities after gaining insights through traditional job placements.

## REQUIREMENTS

### Academic Requirements

**0.5 required courses:** To complete the Certificate, you must successfully complete HBA1 and one 0.5 credit required HBA2 course.

**1.0 elective credits:** In addition to the required course, you must complete 1.0 credits from a list of pre-approved electives. These 1.0 credits must be **unique** from your required course.

For a full list of required and elective courses, [visit the Certificate website](#) under the "Certificate Requirements" section. *Please note that course listings may reflect the previous academic year until updates are confirmed by the HBA Program Office. We appreciate your patience during this process.*

### Engagement Requirements

Sustainability certificate students are expected to engage in 4 exclusive, events in September and March. Events are **mandatory** for all students with the exception of students with class conflicts (*conflicts must be reported prior to each event – a conflict form will be provided*). Additional Benefit: Certificate students receive the first invitations to exclusive events (*not currently listed*), including conferences, dinners, guest speakers, other networking events and career opportunities. These events are not required but are excellent opportunities to learn and network.

- **Live case:** rapid response to real-time dilemmas presented by the executive team of a large company (*September*)
- **Field Trip:** on-site hands-on activities hosted by multiple leaders & organizations (*September*)
- **Worldchangers:** a showcase of "Sustainability by Ivey" featuring Ivey alumni who have started sustainable start-ups or are leading sustainability strategies (*March*)
- **Journey to Purpose (Graduation):** a keynote presentation, the unveiling of the purpose statements for the graduating cohort, and networking with Ivey faculty, alumni and the incoming certificate cohort (*March*)

### Reflection Requirements – Purpose Statements

Students will be asked to write and submit a brief (200 words maximum) purpose statement and an mp4 video recording of their declaration of purpose on LEARN by **March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. A short documentary feature combining all statements that will be released at our final event, Journey to Purpose. Preparation steps, including templates and worksheets are available on LEARN.

## ADMISSION

Students apply into the Certificate program during March of their first HBA year (or for combined degree students at the end of your first or second HBA year). The application for admission consists of a standard 'fill-in-the-blanks' form with three written-answer questions, plus a biography, photo, and resume. For more information, please contact the Sustainability Certificate Program.

The application deadline for 2025-2026 is: **April 29, 2025**

## EXCHANGE

Students going on exchange in the second term must complete all core courses at Ivey but can substitute **0.5 electives** with sustainability-related courses offered by your host institution. **Students must obtain pre-approval** from the Sustainability Certificate Program Director and the HBA Program Office for these substitutions before leaving on exchange.

## MENTORSHIP

Sustainability mentors, Ivey alumni working in sustainability-related fields or roles, many of whom are also alumni of the certificate program, will support students throughout the year. Mentorship marathons are scheduled for mid-September. Mentors return to join the two extracurricular events in March.

## FURTHER INFORMATION ON 4662 CASE WRITING OR 4499 RESEARCH PROJECT

All sustainability certificate students have the option to complete a half-course (80-hour equivalent) case writing OR research project under the direct supervision of an Ivey faculty member. Projects must have a sustainability or social impact component and must be approved by the Sustainability Certificate Program before being submitted to the HBA Program Office. Students can receive course credit for **either a case writing or a research project, but not both**.

Projects can be completed in either term of the student's HBA2 (or HBA3) year, but **cannot be completed while on exchange**. Beginning and end dates on your chosen case writing project can be flexible, as long as the 80-hour equivalent has been satisfied and the case has been completed by the end of the chosen term.

Students are responsible for scoping the project and finding a faculty member willing to supervise them. Students must discuss the project with their faculty advisor, fill out the Case Writing Proposal Form, and get approval from both their faculty advisor and the HBA Program Office before the end of the add/drop period in September or January. If you have any questions or concerns about the proposal process, please reach out to the Sustainability Certificate program for assistance.

For all published cases, Sustainability Certificate students will receive case writing co-authorship.

## QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please reach out to [sustainability@ivey.ca](mailto:sustainability@ivey.ca).