

IB9LU-15 Sustainable Innovation and Impact

27/28

Department

Warwick Business School

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Haley Beer

Credit value

15

Module duration

9 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Sustainable Innovation and Impact prepares students to design and lead innovations that respond to some of the most pressing environmental and social challenges of our time. The module explores how businesses, social enterprises and cross-sector partnerships can move from sustainability ambition to meaningful impact through responsible innovation, inclusive business models, stakeholder co-creation and robust impact measurement.

Students will learn how to diagnose complex sustainability problems, generate and test new ideas, develop sustainable and social business models, and evaluate whether innovations genuinely create positive change. The module also addresses emerging themes such as AI for sustainability, meaningful work, employee-led innovation, just transitions and impact-washing. By combining critical debate, practical tools and reflective learning, the module enables students to develop as thoughtful, creative and responsible agents of sustainable innovation and impact.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module aims to:

Develop students' critical understanding of sustainable innovation as a means of creating environmental, social and organisational impact.

Equip students with tools to analyse sustainability challenges, engage stakeholders and co-create responsible innovation opportunities.

Examine sustainable and social business models, including circular, inclusive, regenerative and technology-enabled approaches.

Explore social innovation, social entrepreneurship, meaningful work and positive social change as core dimensions of sustainable business.

Enable students to measure, communicate and critically evaluate impact using relevant frameworks and indicators.

Develop students' reflective capacity and professional identity as responsible practitioners working towards sustainable innovation and impact.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Sustainable Innovation in an Age of Polycrisis
Systems Thinking and Root Causes of Sustainability Challenges
Stakeholders, Justice and Co-Creation
Design Thinking, Experimentation and Responsible Innovation
Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship
Sustainable Business Model Innovation
Technology, AI and Digital Innovation for Impact
Meaningful Work, Purpose and Intrapreneurship
Measuring, Communicating and Governing Impact

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Apply systems thinking, stakeholder analysis and root-cause approaches to diagnose sustainability and social impact challenges.
- Demonstrate appropriate approaches to impact measurement and communication, including theory of change, indicators and social/environmental impact frameworks.
- Use co-creation, design thinking and lean experimentation tools to develop and refine responsible sustainable innovation opportunities.
- Critically evaluate the role of sustainable innovation in addressing complex environmental, social and organisational challenges.
- Critically assess social innovation and social entrepreneurship as mechanisms for creating positive social change and addressing stakeholder needs.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

Much of this module is rooted on recent and current research, also but not only from WBS faculty

Interdisciplinary

This module will connect with University-wide themes (sustainability) and design and engineering concepts covered in other departments.

International

Examples and case studies will relate to a variety of firms in different countries. External speakers will be drawn from several multinational companies too.

Subject specific skills

Analyse sustainable and social business models, including circular, inclusive, regenerative and technology-enabled approaches.

Evaluate the opportunities, risks and ethical implications of emerging technologies, including AI and digital innovation, for sustainable impact.

Transferable skills

Reflect critically on own values, assumptions and professional identity as responsible sustainable innovation and impact practitioners.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Other activity	18 hours (12%)
Private study	51 hours (34%)
Assessment	72 hours (48%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Private study to include preparation for lectures/ seminars/ workshops and own reading

Other activity description

9 x 2 hr workshops F2F

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Impact Report - 2000 words	60%	43 hours	Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
5 reflective entries - 1500 words	40%	29 hours	Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Assignments are graded (%) using standard University Postgraduate Marking Criteria and written feedback is provided Individual written feedback will be given on the assessed essay.

Availability

There is currently no information about the courses for which this module is core or optional.