

CAS CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

Sustainable Finance







INTRODUCTION

The Geneva School of Business Administration (Haute école de gestion Genève – HEG) of the HES-SO University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland is offering the first **online Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Sustainable Finance** (12 ECTS) to help finance professionals seize growing opportunities offered by responsible investment.

Today, responsible investment represents more than 25% of all professionally managed assets, according to the Global Sustainable Investment Review. For finance professionals, sustainability represents new opportunities in terms of jobs and markets. It is also a source of innovation in financial products and services. The interest for sustainable finance is increasing rapidly among private investors (millennials), as well as among institutional investors.

Designed by professionals for professionals, this programme is mainly organized through online teaching in English and it is well grounded in the Swiss tradition of excellence. Seasoned sustainable finance experts from the financial, banking, international organisations and academic domains have contributed to this CAS. A final week in Geneva is devoted to networking, live presentations, discussions and visits at expert organisations, enabling participants to dive into the rich local sustainability ecosystem.

OBJECTIVES

This course will enable participants to understand the drivers and characteristics of the sustainable finance movement and to build their own responsible investment strategy whether it be as a corporate actor, an investor, an asset manager, or as an active shareholder.

At the end of the programme, the participant is able to:

- Justify why sustainability is relevant to the financial sector
- Combine the constraints of risk, return, and impact
- Conduct ESG analyses and select responsible investment products
- Understand active ownership and engage with companies on sustainability issues
- Report on a full responsible investment process

TEACHING METHODS

The structure of the course combines theory, concepts, industry expert interviews, and practical exercises, and is supported by mandatory and optional readings in addition to video material and tests. The practical dimension of this programme will allow participants to endorse different roles relevant to a full responsible investment process.







For example, students will act as the CEO of a bank and as an asset owner defining their values and investment guidelines. They will also play the role of an analyst defining ESG criteria and applying the guidelines, and of an asset manager in charge of selecting the right investment funds. As virtual shareholders, students will exercise their voting rights and engage with companies on certain themes. Finally, participants will discuss the steps of their investment process during the last week of the course in Geneva.

Experts from the following organisations have been interviewed for this course: Conser Invest, de Pury Pictet Turrettini & Cie, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), ethos, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Impact Finance Management S.A., International Labour Organization, Lombard Odier, Nest Fondation collective, Oberson Abels, PeaceNexus Foundation, Pictet & Cie SA, Quadia, SGS, Sustainable Finance Geneva, Swiss Sustainable Finance, Symbiotics, UNEP Finance Initiative, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), University of Oxford, and University of Geneva.

PROGRAMME

Online

- Step 1: Sustainability and you From capitalism to sustainable development
- Step 2: Be a bank CEO Sustainability, business & finance
- Step 3: Define your investment charter The role of asset owners
- Step 4: Set practical investment guidelines ESG criteria
- Step 5: Implement ESG assessments Responsible investment
- Step 6: Submit an investment idea SDG, thematic and impact investing
- Step 7: Select the right funds Responsible investment process
- Step 8: Be an active shareholder Corporate governance & engagement
- Step 9: Formulate your investment process Walking the path of sustainable finance

In Geneva

 Step 10: Meet Geneva experts' sustainability ecosystem - Recent developments in sustainable finance



ORGANISATION

Director



Andrea Baranzini, professor of economics at HEG Geneva, is specialized in environmental economics and sustainable development.

Educational design



Antoine Mach, co-founder and managing partner of Covalence SA, a Geneva-based company specialized in Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) ratings, founded in 2001. He co-founded Sustainable Finance Geneva.



Jean Laville, partner at Conser Invest, an independent consultancy firm dedicated to sustainable finance. He is also Deputy Director of Swiss Sustainable Finance, an association promoting sustainable finance in Switzerland.

Facilitator



Kookie Habtegaber is a development economist. Her main focus has been on the interface between economic development, environmental risks and sustainable finance. Most recently Kookie served as the global lead for WWF's green economy work.

DIPLOMA

Participants who will successfully complete the online course and the final week in Geneva will receive a Certificate of Advanced Studies (12 ECTS).

Participants attending the distance learning classes only will receive a certificate of attendance.

PROFILE

The online Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Sustainable Finance is targeting a local and international audience of finance professionals willing to take the next turn in their career by mastering the theory and practice of this growing field: financial analysts, portfolio managers, independent wealth managers, client advisors, and junior ESG analysts.



CONDITIONS AND APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications will be treated on a «first-come first-served» basis and will be restricted for pedagogical reasons. In addition to the signed application form, the application must include the followings: curriculum vitae, recent picture, copy of highest diploma, and motivation letter.

Applications should be submitted to the HEG Executive education office no later than 15 February 2019.

LOCATION AND SCHEDULE

The CAS Sustainable finance will be open for 26 weeks: students will have 25 weeks maximum to follow the 9 steps of the online education part of the programme, from 25 February to 23 August 2019; the programme ends with three days in Geneva, from 28 to 30 August 2019.

COST

For the complete programme (distance learning & Geneva on-site classes): the programme fee is CHF 6'000.-. It does not include potential travel and hotel expenses in Geneva.

For the distance learning ONLY (steps 1-9): the programme fee is CHF 4'000.-.

INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS

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PARTNER

Supported by the Cyberlearn HES-SO e-learning center, a reference for online programs







