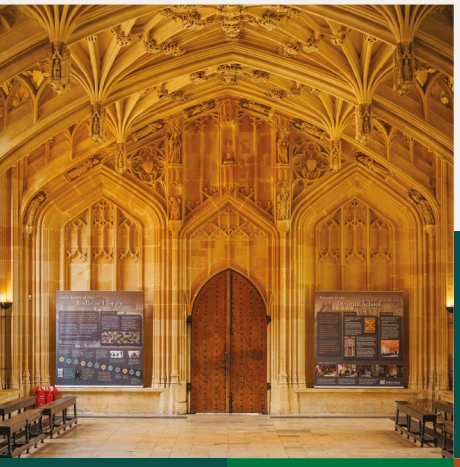
Custom Executive Education

Bespoke, professional education for your organisation, grounded in Oxford research

Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment
University of Oxford







“Despite the geopolitical context we face, demand for custom business training in sustainability remains strong, and we are partnering with the best in the world to deliver on that demand.”



Director’s welcome

Welcome to the Smith School, the University of Oxford’s home for research and education at the intersection of enterprise, climate, nature and sustainable finance. As climate risk, regulation and stakeholder expectations reshape every sector, we help organisations become climate ready through Oxford’s world-leading research, interdisciplinary expertise and bespoke executive education.

Mette Morsing, Director of the Oxford Smith School, Professor of Business Sustainability and Interim Dean of Said Business School:

“Despite the geopolitical context we face, demand for custom business training in sustainability remains strong, and we are partnering with the best in the world to deliver on that demand. We are at the cutting edge on some of the most important research on sustainability, nature, including finance, biology and community-based approaches and it is integral to our education programmes. By putting the environment, nature and sustainability at the forefront of our business education work we hope to broaden the agenda beyond terms like ESG and towards something altogether more holistic and impactful.”

Introducing our Executive Education Team



Dr Giovani Palafox-Alcantar

Head of Executive Education



Denise McCormick

Executive Education Manager



Adriana Ortiz

Executive Education Coordinator

Our core Executive Education team work with the Oxford Smith School's Director and senior academic team to deliver impactful learning experiences.

With experience spanning academia, teaching and both the private and public sectors, our team is uniquely positioned to develop and adapt curricula to the context of our learners.

Course Director

We appoint a senior faculty member to listen to your brief and develop a course specially crafted for your business, your learning level, and build sessions around society's most pressing issues.

Your course will benefit from our access to a wide range of expert speakers and resources within the University of Oxford and globally, including the Smith School's Academics.

Our team's flexibility and agility in tailoring programmes to your specific needs is a core pillar of the success of our bespoke executive education offering.



Gordon Clark

Professor and Director Emeritus of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment

Gordon Clark

Gordon Clark is one of our senior course directors. He is Professor and Director Emeritus of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, and was the Halford MacKinder Professor of Geography at Oxford prior to his appointment to the Smith School. He continues as a Senior Consultant at the Smith School in Executive Education, alongside his work as a course director.

One of the reasons companies come to the Smith School at the University of Oxford is because they're looking for insights about problems that they already know well. They're not coming to be told about a problem they didn't know about. They're looking for depth and scope about issues that are important to them. They're also looking to Oxford for authoritative and deeply informed insights, because they're already awash with information about, say, sustainability and biodiversity. They trust us to provide knowledge backed up by rigorous and globally recognised research."

Executive Education at the Oxford Smith School

Teaching is at the heart of the Oxford Smith School. We have extensive experience designing and delivering bespoke executive education on climate, nature and sustainability for FTSE100 companies, global professional service firms and some of the world's largest financial institutions. Our teaching combines leading research with real-world experience, industry insights and practical examples, ensuring learning is grounded in the challenges organisations face and the impact they seek to achieve. We work carefully with clients on interventions tailored to differing knowledge levels and audiences.

Our programmes are rooted in academic excellence and a deep understanding of real-world impact. With research-led courses, we empower leaders and organisations with the skills, knowledge and networks to drive meaningful change.

We are part of the School of Geography and the Environment where we work closely with colleagues from the Environmental Change Institute and the Transport Studies Unit. Our interdisciplinary work spans the breadth of the University of Oxford, including collaborations with the Saïd Business School, the Blavatnik School of Government, the Institute of New Economic Thinking, the Oxford Martin School, and beyond.

Times Higher Education

University of Oxford
Ranked number 1 in the world (2026) for record 10th consecutive year

The School of Geography and the Environment
Ranked number 1 in the world (2024)

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

The School of Geography and the Environment
Ranked number 1
in the world for 16th consecutive year (2026)

"There is much more awareness now within organisations of the basics of sustainability. As a result, demand for basic training or introductory courses is declining. Currently, it's more about the implementation, and that's when senior leaders need guidance and support that is more individually tailored to their company's contexts and needs. We are seeing three times the amount of interest in our custom programmes compared to the previous two years. Being a relatively small School puts us at an advantage - we are agile and can adapt and respond quickly to requests, while drawing on Oxford's broader network of experts."



Dr Giovani Palafox-Alcantar,
Head of Executive Education at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, is overseeing our growing array of custom programmes with global companies and NGOs.

Read more in the Financial Times:
Retreat of DEI has not changed priorities of executive education



Where business drives environmental change

The Smith School brings together expertise from across enterprise, economics, finance and law to address the defining environmental challenges of our time.

Our interdisciplinary research explores how organisations, markets, policy and regulation can accelerate the transition to a more sustainable and resilient future. This breadth of expertise gives executive education participants access to leading thinking that is both academically rigorous and directly relevant to the decisions they face.

Expertise across four core disciplines

Enterprise

Helping businesses and industries transition towards net zero and more sustainable forms of production.

Finance

Aligning financial decision-making with global environmental sustainability.

Economics

Exploring how markets, policy and economic intervention can accelerate sustainable development.

Law

Using law to catalyse and govern the sustainability transition.

Key research themes

- Climate
- Biodiversity
- Water
- Energy
- Circular Economy
- Food

Recent contributors have included

Energy Prospects
Prof Radhika Khosla

Critical Minerals and Circularity
Dr Caitlin McElroy

Sustainable Food Transitions
Dr Michael Clark

Nature-Based Solutions
Dr Jen Lucey

Climate Change and Technology
Prof Cameron Hepburn

Water Security
Prof Rob Hope

Customisation

We offer four approaches to customisation, which allow participants to tailor our existing courses to various levels or to develop an entirely bespoke course.

Our executive education curriculum design team will work with you to understand your organisation's needs and experience, and develop a course tailored to your specific priorities and goals. It is possible to mix and match approaches, for example to modify some modules and add entirely bespoke modules to the same offering.

Standard Course

If one of our standard courses meets your needs, we can run a bespoke cohort for your learners only.

We are also available to offer uniquely Oxford experiences in addition to the standard curriculum.

Modified Standard Course

Using one of our standard courses as a base, we tailor modules to your needs by deepening particular points of focus, adding industry-relevant examples, geographical regional context, or bringing in academics with particularly relevant expertise for teaching and Q&A sessions.

Standard Course Plus

Expanding on one of our standard courses with additional modules, this option allows you to shift the base course to focus in depth on a particular theme or area. This option can be deployed both to build expert knowledge in a topic, or to add a particular sectoral focus to a broader course.

Custom Course

A 100% bespoke learning experience, our custom courses allow you to select from a wide menu of topics and delivery modes to build a course with a unique thematic focus and mixture of teaching sessions and asynchronous materials to suit your unique profile.





Custom Executive Education Partnerships

The Oxford Smith School has established partnerships with leading enterprises to offer multi-year programmes that evolve to suit learning and development priorities across all levels of major organisations.



Accenture Partnership at a Glance

3,000+

Accenture participants

Hybrid Delivery

Teaching delivered across asynchronous online material accessible to participants any time, alongside live webinars with teaching, tutorial and Q&A formats.

Regional Focus

Tailored content to suit APAC region with attendees spanning Indonesia, Malaysia and China.

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Professional Services Partnerships

Working in collaboration with Accenture's dedicated learning team, Oxford Smith School developed a sustainability online lecture series, with introductory sessions across key sustainability themes including circular economy, cooling and net zero. Accenture and Oxford Smith School subsequently co-designed and delivered a further series the following year, focused around six sustainability challenges faced by executives including sustainable leadership and net-zero transitions. Four of these webinars were then developed into a third mini-series for Accenture's Asia Pacific region including Indonesia, Malaysia and China.

Financial Services – CACEIS

CACEIS Impact Stories/Testimonials



James Parish

Head of Regional Coverage, UK CACEIS, UK Branch

Understanding nature and climate risks is extremely important to an organisation like CACEIS, so we're helping our clients better understand those risks while enhancing their governance. The origins of our organisation go right back to the roots of our shareholder, Crédit Agricole, a major French agricultural bank, and for us it's all about making sure that we serve the community and that society benefits from our activities. From our point of view, educational programmes like this really help us as an organisation to build closer bonds with our clients and enable them to deliver better results."



Joe Saliba

Deputy CEO of CACEIS

The education partnership with the Oxford Smith School demonstrates CACEIS' continued commitment to provide exceptional thought leadership to our clients and guests alike. CACEIS remains committed to supporting ESG principles - and as we're part of Crédit Agricole group, it is in our DNA."

CRÉDIT AGRICOLE CACEIS



Pension Fund – AustralianSuper



Pravie Kears

Senior Manager, Investments Business Management, CIO Office, Investments

The Oxford Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment created a programme thoughtfully tailored to the needs of our investment team, combining world-class academic insight with highly relevant discussion of contemporary investment themes.

Professor Gordon Clark and his team brought together an impressive calibre of experts and created an environment that encouraged learning, debate and practical application. The opportunity to study at Oxford made the experience particularly memorable and valuable.

Our long-standing partnership with the Smith School continues to deliver significant value to AustralianSuper."

AustralianSuper

Example course structure

AustralianSuper course outline

Day 1	Session	Day 2	Session	Day 3	Session
9:00–11:30	Oxford City Walking Tour	**08:45**	Arrivals: Tea and Coffee	**08:45**	Arrivals: Tea and Coffee
11:30–13:30	Lunch	**9:00–10:30**	Speaker 3 Vijay Karia **AI, Data entries and Venture Capital**	**09:00–11:00**	Speaker 7 Brian Babcock-Lumish Global Threats to the International Order
13:30–14:00	Opening Remarks **Gordon Clark**	**10:30–11:00**	Morning Break: Tea and Coffee		
14:00–15:30	Speaker 1 Danny Sriskandarajah **Navigating the Political Economy of the 21st Century**	**11:00–12:30**	Speaker 4 Cameron Hepburn **Climate and Energy Breakthrough Technologies: The Top 10**	**11:00–11:30**	Morning Break: Tea and Coffee
				11:30–13:00	Speaker 8 Stefania Innocenti **Thinking about Risk**
15:30–16:00	Afternoon Break: Tea and Coffee	**12:30–13:30**	Lunch	**13:00–14:00**	Lunch
16:00–17:30	Speaker 2 Meric Gertler **Competition for Talent**	**13:30–15:00**	Speaker 5 Radhika Khosla **India - Technology, Climate, Innovation**	**14:00–15:30**	AustralianSuper de-brief and reflection 1
		15:00–15:30	Afternoon Break: Tea and Coffee	**15:30–16:00**	Afternoon Break: Tea and Coffee
Evening	AustralianSuper Private Dinner	**15:30–17:00**	Speaker 6 Dong (Lilly) Liu **Challenges in Advanced Modular Reactors**	**16:00–17:30**	AustralianSuper de-brief and reflection 2
		18:30–21:00	Drinks Reception and Oxford Formal Dinner **Hosted by Gordon Clark**	**Evening**	AustralianSuper Private Dinner
			St Edmund Hall **Keynote by Lord Lionel Tarassenko "Generative AI: a force for good?"**		

Liontrust Asset Management



Peter Michaelis

Head of Sustainable Investment, Liontrust

The aim of our Sustainable Future fund is to deliver strong returns by investing in sustainable businesses.

The foundation of this approach is an understanding of how the key environmental and social challenges will be solved. We were hosted for two days by the Smith School in Oxford where we covered energy, cooling, food systems, materials, transport and demographics. Each talk and discussion challenged preconceptions, relying on original research and thoughtful analysis. I have no hesitation in recommending the Smith School for any others looking for a guide to a better future."

LIONTRUST
COURAGE · POWER · PRIDE

Liontrust course outline

Time	Speaker
08:45	Arrivals, Tea and Coffee
9:00–10:00	Dr Caitlin McElroy Materials and the Circular Economy
10:00–11:00	Dr Radhika Khosla Energy Prospects
11:00–11:30	Tea and Coffee
11:30–12:30	Professor Cameron Hepburn Climate Change and Technology
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:00	Dr Michael Clark Food and Agriculture
15:00–16:00	Dr Juan Pablo Orjuela Transport
16:00–16:15	Tea and Coffee
16:15–17:15	Professor Gordon L Clark Population
18:30	Formal Dinner Balliol College

Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)



Emma Wright
Head of Sustainability, Strategy and Change at STFC

Working in partnership with the Smith School, we co-designed a bespoke sustainability learning programme aligned to STFC's environmental commitments and operational culture.

Recognising that many of our researchers, engineers and technical teams spend their days undertaking experiments and operating complex facilities rather than sitting behind laptops, we created a highly flexible, action-focused online programme. This was complemented by short video messages from STFC's senior leadership team to empower colleagues to embed sustainability into their own roles and decision-making. Around 500 staff participated across the organisation, leading to the formation of departmental green teams and individual sustainability action plans, helping to build organisational capability, ownership and momentum for environmental change across STFC."

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment

Our partnership with Oxford Smith School is very special. At ANCA we build the capacity of institutions, but the Fellowship and our partnership with Oxford, stands out as one of its defining elements."



Dorothy Maseke
Head of the ANCA Secretariat

ANCA partnership

Here we are investing in individuals: people who will drive change, exercise influence, and innovate. People who will stick their necks out when things are hard and capital needs to move into a nascent space. That is what this Fellowship is about, and that is why our partnership with Oxford Smith School matters so deeply to us.

AFRICAN NATURAL CAPITAL ALLIANCE | fsdafrica



Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment

The Oxford experience

Alongside the academic programme, participants can enjoy historic walking tours, the age-old Oxford tradition of punting on the River Cherwell or experiential learning at Oxford's Ashmolean or Pitt Rivers Museums.



To start your journey with the Smith School please contact:

The Executive Education Team

executive.education@smithschool.ox.ac.uk



Experience Oxford at its best through formal college dinners, drinks receptions and curated activities across the city.




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