OXFORD SUSTAINABLE FINANCE GROUP

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME

Executive Education at Oxford Sustainable Finance Group, University of Oxford

5 July - 9 July 2027

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WELCOME TO THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME

Aligning finance with sustainability is a necessary condition for tackling the environmental challenges facing humanity. It is also necessary for financial institutions (and policymakers and regulators) to manage environment-related risks, as well as capture opportunities associated with the transition to global environmental sustainability.

The Sustainable Finance Executive Programme (SFEP) was launched in 2016 and is the premier short-course on sustainable finance globally. We aim to attract the best and brightest current and future leaders and deliver a unique experience that equips participants with the knowledge and networks required to undertake significant future work on sustainable finance.

The programme has been designed and developed by the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group as an introduction to sustainable finance for professionals working in a range of sectors, for example: executives working in financial institutions that need to understand how sustainability, the environment, and climate change relates to finance and investment; civil servants, regulators, and central bankers working to develop policies that can foster the development of sustainable finance; staff at environmental NGOs who would like to help the global financial system create better environmental outcomes; philanthropic funders looking to navigate sustainable finance topics so as to support the most impactful activities; and trustees or company directors that want to understand how sustainable finance relates to their fiduciary duties.

Participants will engage critically with systems and theories in sustainable finance and investment such as: active ownership, the carbon bubble, climate finance, conservation finance, disclosure, divestment, engagement, ESG, green banks, green bonds, green benchmarks and indices, impact investing, public private partnerships, reporting, responsible investment, stranded assets, and green taxonomies.

The SFEP is the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group's flagship executive programme. Participants will become part of our growing alumni community and receive invitations to our events and conferences. All alumni also receive a 15% discount on the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group's growing range of open enrolment executive programmes.

Dr Ben Caldecott
Founding Director, Oxford Sustainable Finance Group
Lombard Odier Associate Professor of Sustainable Finance
University of Oxford

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INTRODUCTION

The programme is held over five consecutive days at the University of Oxford. It is structured to enable participants to:

- Develop a foundational knowledge in the emerging theories and practice of sustainable finance and investment.
- Become confident in navigating and critically analysing the key aspects and developments in sustainable finance, as well as how to engage with different financial sector stakeholders for collaboration.
- Study how different policies, regulations and supervisory expectations related to sustainable finance are evolving in different jurisdictions, their direction of travel, and opportunities for influence.
- Become part of a global network of like-minded professionals that are approaching sustainable finance from different angles and professional perspectives.
- Learn from, challenge, and engage in conversation with leading Oxford faculty and expert practitioners who blend research with experience. Cutting edge theory on sustainable finance and investment will be examined using a combination of real world case-studies, presentations, and Oxford Union-styled debates.
- Embark on the unique 'Oxford experience' and explore first-hand some of the history and culture that the city has to offer including candlelit college dinners.

Our programmes are designed to equip participants with essential foundational knowledge of core principles and concepts in sustainable finance, as well as an advanced understanding of the very latest developments. They are the ideal preparation for current and emerging professional examinations in sustainable finance and related areas.

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PARTICIPANTS

Through the programme participants will form a network of senior practitioners working at the intersection of finance and sustainability. Since 2016 the programme has averaged 41 participants on each iteration, with 52% female representation and attendees from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. The word cloud below illustrates the job titles of previous attendees:

Previous participants have joined the programme from organisations including:

HSBC	Pensions Regulator	Lloyds Bank
European Commission	WWF	United Nations
EDF	GIZ	ClientEarth
Credit Suisse	House of Commons	Hitachi
United Nations	Morgan Stanley	Central Bank of Brazil
Deloitte	Korea Development Bank	Ceres
Levis Strauss & Co.	McConnell Foundation	AXA
Friends of the Earth	EY	S&P Global

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PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Dr Ben Caldecott is the founding Director of the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group at the University of Oxford Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment. At the University of Oxford, he is the inaugural Lombard Odier Associate Professor of Sustainable Finance, the first ever endowed professorship of sustainable finance, and a Supernumerary Fellow at Oriel College, Oxford. Ben is also the founding Director and Principal Investigator of the UK Centre for Greening Finance & Investment (CGFI), established by UK Research and Innovation in 2021 as the national centre to accelerate the adoption and use of climate and environmental data and analytics by financial institutions internationally. He is a Visiting Professor at the Wealth Management Institute in Singapore.

Ben specialises in environment, energy, and sustainability issues and works at the intersection between finance, public policy, and academe, having held senior roles in each domain. He has authored and edited a substantial number of publications related to sustainability and is an experienced media commentator and public speaker. His expertise and expert evidence have been recognised in high profile legal cases, including in the Federal Court of Australia and the High Court of England and Wales. He is a regular peer reviewer and has a number of trustee, board, and advisory panel appointments, including serving as a Trustee of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and on the UK Climate Change Committee's Adaptation Committee, as well as on DBS Bank's Board Sustainability Committee, UK Export Finance's Export Guarantees Advisory Council, and the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) Technical Council.

PREVIOUS SPEAKERS

- Professor Nathalie Seddon, Director of the Nature-based Solutions Initiative, Department of Zoology
- Mark Zinkula, Former CEO, Legal & General Investment Management
- Dr Steve Smith, Executive Director, Oxford Net Zero, University of Oxford
- Sir Martin Smith, Founder, Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford
- Catherine Howarth OBE, Chief Executive, ShareAction

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CONTENT

DAY I	• Overview and Introductions • Purpose and Structure of Finance • What is Sustainable Finance? • Achieving the Aims of the Paris Agreement
DAY II	• Net Zero and the Critical Role of Finance and Investment • Physical Climate-related Risks • Achieving the Aims of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework • Stranded Assets and Environment-related Risk
DAY III	• Ownership and the Purpose of the Corporation • Sustainable Finance and the Law • What Does it Mean to Have Impact Through Finance? • Panel: Sustainable Finance – Reflections Since the Paris Agreement and What Next?
DAY IV	• Central Banking and Financial Regulation • The Present and Future of Sustainability Measurement and Ratings • Oxford Union Debates
DAY V	• Investing in Real Assets: Reflections from a Practitioner • Stewardship and Engagement: From Theory to Practice • Transition Finance and Transition Plans

FEES

The fee for the Sustainable Finance Executive Programme is £7,425. There is a discretionary discounted rate of £4,950 for participants whose proven primary employment is in the public and third sectors. We define the public and third sectors as:

- central or local government
- regulatory agencies
- supervisory authorities
- central banks
- multilateral institutions
- non-profit civil society organisations
- registered charities
- philanthropic organisations

State-backed companies, including public financial institutions, operating to make a commercial return are not eligible for discretionary discounts. Nor are consultants serving public and third sector clients.

We apply the discretionary discount on a case-by-case basis and will prioritise those from emerging markets and developing countries. At the same time as considering a discretionary discount we will consider eligibility for bursaries based on merit and need. We may request further information from you and your employer before we can process a discount or bursary

The programme fee includes all teaching costs, en-suite accommodation at an Oxford college for five nights, breakfast, lunch and several dinners. It does not include the cost of travel to and from Oxford, visas, insurance or any personal expenses.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be provided at an Oxford College for five nights, and all bedrooms will be single en-suites. Extensions to accommodation are available on request, but dependent on availability.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for the programme are reviewed on an ongoing basis, and until the programme reaches capacity.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate their suitability for the programme in terms of:

- The relevance of the programme to their occupation and organisation.
- Their experience and potential, particularly in areas related to programme content.

The application form is available online at our website:

www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/course/sustainable-finance-executive-programme

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Aligning finance with sustainability is a necessary condition for tackling the environmental and social challenges facing humanity. It is also necessary for financial institutions and the broader financial system to manage the risks and capture the opportunities associated with the transition to global environmental sustainability.

The University of Oxford has world-leading researchers and research capabilities relevant to understanding these challenges and opportunities. Established in 2012 the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group is the focal point for these activities. The Group is multidisciplinary and works globally across asset classes, finance professions, and with different parts of the financial system. We are the largest such centre globally and are working to be the world's best place for research and teaching on sustainable finance and investment.

We are based in one of the world's great universities and the oldest university in the English-speaking world. We work with leading practitioners from across the investment chain (including actuaries, asset owners, asset managers, accountants, banks, data providers, investment consultants, lawyers, ratings agencies, stock exchanges), with firms and their management, and with experts from a wide range of related subject areas (including finance, economics, management, geography, data science, anthropology, climate science, law, area studies, psychology) within the University of Oxford and beyond.

Since our foundation we have made significant and sustained contributions to the field, including in some of the following areas:

- Developing the concept of stranded assets, now a core element of the theory and practice of sustainable finance.
- Contributions to the theory and practice of measuring environmental risks and impacts via new forms of geospatial data and analysis, including introducing the idea and importance of spatial finance and asset-level data.
- Shaping the theory and practice of supervision as it relates to sustainability by working with the Bank of England, the central banks' and supervisors' Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), and the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), among others.
- Working closely with policymakers to design and implement policies to support sustainable finance, including through the UK Green Finance Taskforce, UK Green Finance Strategy, COP26, and the high-level Transition Plan Taskforce.
- Nurturing the expansion of a rigorous academic community internationally by conceiving, founding, and co-chairing the Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment (GRASFI), an alliance of global research universities promoting rigorous and impactful academic research on sustainable finance.

The Oxford Sustainable Finance Group's founding Director is Dr Ben Caldecott.

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PREVIOUS FEEDBACK

"I loved the programme. The combination of content, fellow participants and location made for a stimulating week."

"With limited background in either finance or sustainability this was a great and comprehensive introduction. The setting and organisation was perfect as well!"

"I go back with a lot of food for thought, an enhanced network and a handful of interesting ideas to think about. Thank you for making it possible."

"I absolutely loved this programme. It covered all the key issues I wanted to learn about, and we had a range of perspectives."

"Excellent programme, the material was diverse and interesting. I gained several new ideas to take home with me and implement in my work. Networking is fantastic."

"I really loved this programme – and I feel like I could have stayed another week."

"My key learning has been in terms of my own reflections of how I would want my career to take shape and this course and people have helped me a great deal."

"I really, really enjoyed this programme. It was worth the value – 100%. Thank you!"

"Thank you for such a formative and motivational programme. I have enjoyed the opportunity to engage with professionals and Oxford academics to consolidate my professional development in this exciting area. I feel that I now have all the tools required to catalyse this development, exciting!"

FURTHER INFORMATION

W: **www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/course/sustainable-finance-executive-programme**

E: **SFEP@smithschool.ox.ac.uk**

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE EDUCATION AT OXFORD

Training current and future leaders is one of our theories of change. We offer a full range of programmes, including both open-enrolment executive and customised programmes delivered in-person, online, and blended, as well as undergraduate and graduate teaching and supervision for students enrolled at the University of Oxford.

Open-enrolment Programmes:

- Stewardship and Engagement Leadership Programme
- Sustainable Finance Executive Programme
- Climate-related Financial Risk Programme

Online Programmes:

- Sustainable Finance: ESG and the Future of Finance

Customised Programmes:

- Customised programmes are individually tailored for organisations to enable them to engage critically with systems and theories in sustainable finance and investment.

Public and Third Sector Academy for Sustainable Finance (P3S Academy):

- The P3S Academy is a global centre of learning and capacity building focused on enabling the public and third sectors to grasp the opportunities associated with sustainable finance. Established in 2021, the P3S Academy supports central and local government, regulators, supervisory authorities, multilateral institutions, campaigning NGOs, charities, and philanthropy with access to significantly subsidised and free training on sustainable finance topics.

Degree Awarding:

- The DPhil is the University of Oxford's premier research degree, awarded to candidates who have successfully completed a major piece of original research.
  The course provides support and an intellectual environment to pursue your own independent research.

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