

PRiME

*an initiative of the
United Nations Global Compact*

Sharing Information on Progress 2026

ESADE

July 2026

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About the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in their classrooms through Seven Principles focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic and sustainability goals, while drawing attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the UN Global Compact. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. As a voluntary initiative with over 800 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organized relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.



“*The PRME initiative was launched to nurture responsible leaders of the future. Never has this task been more important. Bold leadership and innovative thinking are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General (2017 - Present)

United Nations

”

Principles of PRME



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want – applying to all nations and leaving no one behind. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.





Getting Started

This section provides foundational information about ESADE, including key details and basic institutional data.

Institutional History

Esade's History

Transforming society through people for almost 70 years

[Esade](#) is a private, non-profit, Spanish higher education institution comprising two schools: the Business School and the Law School, both part of Ramon Llull University (URL).

Esade was founded in 1958 by a group of Catalan businesspeople and entrepreneurs together with the Society of Jesus [the Jesuits]. These two founding stakeholders remain active in the institution's current governance structure, with members of the Board of Trustees representing both the Society of Jesus and the business community in equal proportions. Their influence has always been significant: the Jesuits have emphasized the institution's commitment to business education grounded in humanistic values and academic rigor; while the business community has contributed strong corporate connections and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Consequently, our mission has always been to guide and train new generations of committed leaders to have a positive impact and create a better future and a fairer, more diverse and egalitarian society. We aim to train leaders with a global vision, dedicated to creating a more sustainable and developed world and with a clear idea that new technologies need to be based on values and serve as a means to improve people's lives. All this because we believe that significant change is only possible when innovation and social commitment go hand in hand.

Today, we want to recapture that initial spirit, promoting a significant change through professional development and the [holistic education](#) of tomorrow's leaders. In particular, this implies underscoring companies' human dimension because firms consist primarily of human potential. Their leaders are the ones who will be capable of provoking the transformation that global reality demands today, including the key challenge of sustainability.

Esade was a founding member of the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) in 1971 and the fourth school joining PIM (Programme in International Management) in 1975, to meet the growing demand for academic exchanges. Later on, as internationalisation became more complex and offered new opportunities, Esade focused on building closer relations with a select number of partners to explore the scope for collaboration. In 1988, Esade became one of the four founding members of CEMS (originally an acronym for the Community of European Management Schools, today The Global Alliance in Management Education), an alliance that has forged strong ties among various top business schools, each one representing a different country.

Esade was the first business school in Spain and one of the first six in Europe to obtain the EQUIS accreditation in 1998 and it was also the first Business School in Spain to obtain the AACSB accreditation. Esade is fast becoming a global Business School. In this sense, between 2009 and 2025, it has gone from having 15% to 72,35% international students (108 nationalities) and the international chapters of the [Esade Alumni](#) network have risen from 32 to 74.

Esade has been a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) since 2003. From 2008 to date, it has maintained an uninterrupted activity, especially in the Spanish Network. Later, Esade signed up to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) in 2007, prompting it to align its methodology, curriculum, and academic model with the principles and values of responsible management set out in this United Nations global initiative. Esade was also chosen among the best business schools and academic management institutions in the world to participate in the PRME Champions group (2013-2015).

Esade has strengthened its commitment to impact measurement and continuous improvement through the adoption of internationally recognized frameworks, including the EFMD Business School Impact System (BSIS), with evaluations conducted in 2022 and 2026. BSIS is a tool offered by the *European Foundation for Management Development* (EFMD) for evaluating the impact of business schools, and since its launch in 2012 it has been used to successfully evaluate more than 100 business schools worldwide.

Esade is committed to advancing knowledge through rigorous research in management. Our research units include more than a hundred professors with a wide variety of expertise. Research on ethical, corporate responsibility, and sustainability issues is conducted across the institution. In the 2024-2025 academic year, the number of papers on these topics grew significantly, rising from 45% to 80.81% of the institution's total publications.

Training responsible and collaborative leaders

In addition to integrating sustainability and responsible leadership across all its programs, Esade offers 22 programs focused on sustainable development and social impact. The Bachelor in Transformational Leadership and Social Impact (BITLASI) launched in the 2020-2021 academic year and the Master in Sustainability Management in 2022-2023. The remaining 20 correspond to the training on sustainability and social impact that Esade offers to executives, directors, managers and board members through Executive Education.

Mainstreaming subjects on Responsible Management Education across our curricular offer

In the core courses, subjects on ethics, CSR, and sustainability have been very present in Esade since its

foundation. These subjects are embedded across all Business School programs. In addition to dedicated core courses on these topics, the school has made a concerted effort to integrate them transversally throughout the curriculum. Data from the 2024–2025 academic year shows significant progress on the mainstreaming of ethics, CSR and sustainability across all compulsory subjects, which, in the Business School, the percentage ranges from 47,22% in the Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) to 100% in both the MSc in International Management (MIM) and the Full-Time MBA.

Identity and Mission Unit (Identity, Mission and Sustainability)

Esade is distinguished because of the depth of our commitment to creating knowledge and training professionals who are highly competent (with a high level of professionalism) as well as responsible and committed to society.

As of January 2019, Esade creates the new Identity and Mission Unit (I&M) to promote transversal actions for the rest of the institution's units to ensure that our students' educational experience and the employees' professional experience are better aligned with our mission; and to ensure the development of the institution's different areas of activity in social responsibility and sustainability. Through these transversal actions, Esade motivates the members of our community to reflect, engage in dialogue, and act in ways that transform our declared mission into a truly lived and shared mission.

We expose our students to educational experiences that not only cultivate the knowledge and skills they will need to become highly competent professionals but also help them become conscious, compassionate and committed. Conscious of the main economic, social and human challenges faced by our society and of the contradictory values that appear over the course of one's professional lifetime. Compassionate, that is, empathetic and capable of responding to suffering and injustice. And committed to the economic, human and social development of companies and society.

The I&M action plan is a result of the Institutional Strategic Plan (PEI) deployment. All the initiatives move around three pillars: Identity, Mission and Impact.

1. Identity: Building a Community through dialogues among staff, faculty and students.

The main objective this pillar is to promote spaces where everyone can have the opportunity to know our identity and mission, talk about and reflect on them. Through these conversations, we socialize where we come from, where we are going and how we should go if we want to be true to our identity. [Esade's community building website.](#)

2. Mission: Living the mission in teaching, research and social debate.

This pillar has to do with how we deploy the mission. The main objective is to promote initiatives that contribute to the deployment of the mission in teaching, research and social debate. These initiatives include:

- *Teaching*: Fostering projects to support the Esade's pedagogical model, especially methodologies that reinforce the consciousness, compassion and commitment competences in our students. For example, we have been working on the institutionalization of Service-Learning in the BBA undergraduate program, which combines learning with social action, as well as conscious leadership subjects and retreats, designed to help students integrate their values in both their professional and personal development efforts. Developing a sustainability mindset among students as well as their field-specific knowledge requires personal commitment and an in-depth connection with purpose and community.

[Esade's holistic education website.](#)

- *Research*: Esade integrates CSR, sustainability, and the SDGs across its research agenda through a transversal approach that aligns knowledge generation, knowledge transfer, and societal impact with its institutional mission. Sustainability is not treated as a separate domain, but rather as a structural dimension embedded throughout the entire research ecosystem, including departments, research centers, institutes, chairs, applied projects, publications, and public debate activities. Within Esade's knowledge units, several units play a key role, dedicated to researching, driving, and generating social debate on issues related to sustainability, business ethics, ESG, responsible leadership, social innovation, governance, inclusion, employment, technological transformation, and environmental sustainability. This approach enables the SDGs to be addressed from diverse perspectives, reflecting the complexity of today's challenges:

[Institute for Social Innovation](#)

[Esade Center for Social Impact](#)

[Esade Center for Public Governance](#)

[Esade Center for Economic Policy](#)

[Center for Corporate Governance](#)

[Institute for Labor Studies](#)

The four Chairs recently established are highlighted: Longevity, Responsible Digital Innovation, Family Business and Social Impact. Each has a clear purpose: to contribute to the SDGs in different ways and to offer a tangible means of generating new knowledge, while at the same time delivering impact on businesses and society.

- *Social debate*: Esade's CSR/SDGs research activity goes beyond the generation of academic publications, and aims to transfer knowledge to organisations, public administrations, civil society and to inform and engage with wider audiences through social debate. The institution contributes to public debate through conferences, policy-oriented work, media presence, institutional reports, webinars and knowledge dissemination initiatives such as [DoBetter](#), a digital platform sharing articles, webinars, podcasts, and studies to transfer knowledge and promote social debate with positive impact.

3. Impact: Assurance of learning, Sustainability plan, and Volunteering and social action.

This pillar has to do with the impact we have on society and includes from volunteering actions and the promotion of the sustainability plan, until the impact assessment of our training on the development of socially engaged professionals. This pillar includes:

- *Assurance of learning*: Jointly with the BS deanship and the Quality Assurance unit, I&M set the transversal learning goal linked to the social commitment of our students for all the BS programs portfolio. This commitment will facilitate the assessment of the current situation to promote specific actions in order to advance in this goal.

- *Sustainability plan*: The 2022–2026 Sustainability Plan was defined through a participatory process launched in October 2020 and involving 338 members of our community (faculty, staff, and students) and 11 stakeholders (businesses, public institutions, alumni, social entities, etc.). The Sustainability Plan is structured around six basic commitments, which are fully aligned and respond to the most important issues, as prioritized in the materiality matrix carried out in 2021, which was the result of a co-creation and dialogue process with our key stakeholders. [Esade's sustainability and impact website](#).

- *Volunteering and social action*: Includes corporate volunteering, social initiatives from professors, staff and students, among other actions implemented. [Esade's solidarity community website](#).

Graduates & Enrollment

2025 Statistics	Number
Graduates	1,568

Degrees Offered

Bachelor Programs

-  Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.)
-  Bachelor in Transformational Leadership and Social Impact (BITLASI)
-  Doble degree in Business Administration & Bachelor in Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (GBL)

Masters Programs

-  Master of Science in International Management (MIM)
-  Master of Science in Innovation & Entrepreneurship (MIE)
-  Master of Science in Marketing Management (MMM)  Master of Science in Finance (MF)
-  Master of Science in Business Analytics (MiBA)  Master of Science in Sustainability Management (MSM)
-  CEMS Master in International Management (CEMS-MIM)
-  Master of Research in Management Sciences (MRes)
-  Executive Master in Business Administration (EMBA)  Executive Master in Digital Business (EMDB)
-  Executive Master in Business Analytics (EMIBA)  Executive Master in Marketing and Sales (EMMV)
-  Executive Master in Finance (EMF)  Executive Master in Operations (EMOI)
-  Executive Master in Public Administration (EMPA)  Executive Master in Management of Health (EMDOS)
-  Executive Master in Marketing and Sales (EMMS)  Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Doctoral Programs

-  PhD in Management Sciences

Additional

-  Double degree in Business Administration & Business and Artificial Intelligence (DBAI)



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

- ❖ Centralized sustainability office
- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across business school
- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across parent organization
- ❖ Senior leadership office
- ❖ Student contributor



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development

120 Peer-reviewed articles were published by ESADE from this past calendar year. **vs** **80** Peer-reviewed articles were published by ESADE from this past calendar year in support of RME.

Research Funding

In 2025, ESADE was awarded funding for research that is:



**Institution
Specific**



Local



Regional



National



International

Socializing Research

In 2025, ESADE contributed research findings to:

- ❖ Community organizations
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Industry and business networks
- ❖ International media
- ❖ Local media
- ❖ National media
- ❖ Open-access platforms
- ❖ Public events and lectures
- ❖ Research collaborations
- ❖ Social media and digital outreach



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

Institutional Partnerships

- ❖ AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)
- ❖ AMBA (Association of MBAs)
- ❖ CEMS (The Global Alliance in Management Education)
- ❖ CLADEA (Consejo Latinoamericano de Escuelas de Administración)
- ❖ EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development)
- ❖ Financial Times
- ❖ Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC)
- ❖ Positive Impact Rating (PIR)
- ❖ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)
- ❖ United Nations Global Compact non-business signatory
- ❖ Responsible Research in Business & Management (RRBM)
- ❖ Ministries of Education, Higher Education, or similar national bodies
- ❖ University Councils

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ Net Impact
- ❖ Oikos International



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Accreditation body recommendation documents
- ❖ Carbon reduction or offset commitments
- ❖ Climate action plan
- ❖ Curriculum guidelines
- ❖ Ethical data sourcing guides
- ❖ Ethical leadership or good governance policies
- ❖ Faculty hiring, tenure, and promotion guidelines
- ❖ Greenhouse gas emissions
- ❖ Local staff/student/faculty transportation
- ❖ Open-access guides
- ❖ Professional training opportunities
- ❖ Responsible procurement policies
- ❖ Student equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Sustainability strategy or strategic plan (school or university level)
- ❖ Travel guides
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Zero-waste guides
- ❖ Buildings/real estate
- ❖ Campus operations guides
- ❖ Ministry of education recommendation documents

Policy Documents Related to RME and/or Sustainability

ESADE-Mission-Values-Educational approach_ENG

[View document](#)

[Download document](#)

ESADE-Codes of Ethics and Conduct_EN

[View document](#)

[Download document](#)

ESADE_Sustainability Plan 2022-2026_ENG

[View document](#)

[Download document](#)

ESADE_SOST 23-24_ENG_2025

[View document](#)

[Download document](#)



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.



Engagement Opportunities

ESADE offers transparent engagement opportunities for members of our institution and community to contribute to our sustainability and responsibility efforts in the following ways:

- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Annual reports
- ❖ Community events and consultation forums
- ❖ Feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, suggestion boxes)
- ❖ Open faculty and student meetings and town halls
- ❖ Partnerships with local organizations
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions
- ❖ Publicly accessible sustainability data and dashboards
- ❖ Student and staff volunteer programs
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities

Communication Audiences

ESADE communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Accreditation bodies
- ❖ Alumni and donors
- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Business and industry partners
- ❖ Chamber of commerce and local communities
- ❖ Faculty and staff
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Media and public relations channels
- ❖ Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- ❖ Prospective and current students
- ❖ Research and academic networks

SIGNATORY

ESADE



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