

PRiME

*an initiative of the
United Nations Global Compact*



Sharing Information on Progress 2026

Arden University

September 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 Arden University, including key details and basic institutional data.

Vision

We will help people thrive and succeed through 'real-world relevant' education that is fuelled by technology, shaped by employers and built around learners' lives.

Institutional History

Institutional History - 2026

Arden University's journey toward the adoption of Responsible Management Education (RME) is rooted in its origins as Resource Development International (RDI), established in 1990 by John Holden in Coventry, UK. Initially focused on distance learning for industrial clients, RDI became a key player in widening access to education. In 2011, it was acquired by Capella Education Company, aligning with global ambitions in online learning. The institution achieved a significant milestone in April 2014 when it was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers by the UK government. A year later, it transitioned into Arden University in August 2015, becoming one of the first private institutions in the UK to achieve full university status.

In 2016, Arden University joined the Global University Systems (GUS) network, enabling greater investment in infrastructure, programme development, and international reach. By 2017, Arden had begun to phase out externally validated courses and expanded its own degree offerings. Leadership change came in 2019, when Carl Lygo was appointed Vice Chancellor and CEO, bringing with him a vision that integrated institutional growth with ethical and sustainable practice.

From 2018 onwards, Arden University formally embedded the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its policies and teaching ethos. This included a sustainability strategy that set ambitious goals, such as becoming carbon-neutral by December 2021 and planting a tree for every graduate. The university also launched initiatives like a student hardship fund, mental health partnerships with Mind and TogetherAll, and programmes to improve digital inclusion by donating laptops to schools in need.

The Faculty of Business and Innovation played a pivotal role in championing the principles of Responsible Management Education. The school began aligning its curriculum and research with the PRME framework, emphasising values such as sustainability, ethical leadership, and social responsibility.

On 8 November 2021, Arden University officially became a signatory of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), joining a global network committed to transforming management education. The university submitted its first Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) report and reaffirmed its commitment to continuous improvement and transparency in 2024 with the second report. This move formally established Arden as an institution committed to purpose-driven, inclusive, and ethical education.

Today, Arden University's identity reflects its transformation from a private distance learning provider into a forward-thinking, values-led institution committed to equipping graduates with the knowledge and mindset to address global challenges.

Graduates & Enrollment

2025 Statistics	Number
Graduates	4674
Faculty & Staff at the University	2475
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	222
Student Enrollment at the University	44328
Student Enrollment at the Institution	28103
Undergraduate Attendance	22343
Masters-Level Postgraduate Attendance	5760
Doctoral Student Attendance	0
Certificate, Professional Development, or Continuing Education Attendance	1520

Degrees Offered

Bachelor Programs

-  Bachelor of Science (B.Sc. or B.S.)
-  Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Masters Programs

-  Master of Science (M.Sc. or M.S.)
-  Master of Arts (M.A.)
-  Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Additional

-  LLB



Purpose

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

Definition of Purpose

Purpose means developing socially responsible and ethically aware business leaders. At the School of Business Management and Creativity, it reflects our mission to embed sustainability, inclusivity and innovation into teaching, inspiring students to lead with impact and integrity in a rapidly changing world.

Institutional Engagement

26% - 50% of faculty at Arden University actively contribute to our work with PRME, advancing responsible management education, or addressing sustainable development challenges through their work.



Values

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



How We Define Values

Our SPARK values place responsibility, inclusion and positive impact at the heart of institutional culture: Stand Out, Progressive, Accessible, Resourceful and Kindness. They guide how Arden supports diverse learners, uses innovation and technology, develops careers, and builds a supportive community.

Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

- ❖ Disciplinary efforts within business school
- ❖ Individual leader
- ❖ Student contributor
- ❖ Senior leadership office
- ❖ Research or issue group, society, or club leading sustainability efforts
- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across parent organization

Student Awareness

26% - 50% of students at Arden University are aware that we are a PRME Signatory Member.

Student Engagement

26% - 50% of students at Arden University actively contribute to our work with PRME, advancing RME, or addressing sustainable development challenges through their work.



Teach

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



How We Define Teach

Teach means equipping students with the knowledge, skills and values to lead responsibly. At the School of Business Management and Creativity, it involves embedding ethics, sustainability and innovation across the curriculum to develop inclusive, socially conscious graduates prepared for complex global challenges

Educator Recognition

At Arden University, we recognize educators for quality of teaching in the following ways:

- ❖ Course evaluation scores
- ❖ Institutional recognition events
- ❖ Professional development opportunities
- ❖ Publication or research support
- ❖ Pedagogical innovation grants
- ❖ Performance-based teaching fellowships

Barriers to Innovative Curriculum

In 2025, Arden University identified the following barriers to innovating, updating, or taking risks in existing curriculum:

- ❖ Budgetary limitations
- ❖ Change fatigue
- ❖ Collaboration barriers
- ❖ Learning curve for faculty
- ❖ Time constraints

Barriers to Innovative Pedagogy

In 2025, Arden University identified the following barriers to innovating, updating, or taking risks in existing pedagogy:

- ❖ Budget constraints
- ❖ Digital divide
- ❖ Resistance from students
- ❖ Risk aversion
- ❖ Standardized testing pressures
- ❖ Student engagement concerns



Research

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

How We Define Research

At Arden University, Research means generating rigorous, responsible and relevant knowledge that addresses contemporary organisational and societal challenges. It connects academic inquiry with education, professional practice and wider communities, promoting ethical research, interdisciplinary collaboration and meaningful impact while contributing to sustainability, responsible management and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development

25 Peer-reviewed articles were published by Arden University from this past calendar year. **vs** **7** Peer-reviewed articles were published by Arden University from this past calendar year in support of RME.

Research Funding

In 2025, Arden University was awarded funding for research that is:



**Institution
Specific**

Socializing Research

In 2025, Arden University contributed research findings to:

- ❖ Industry and business networks
- ❖ Public events and lectures
- ❖ Research collaborations
- ❖ Open-access platforms
- ❖ Community organizations

Research Barriers

In 2025, Arden University identified the following barriers to conducting research related to sustainability and/or responsibility:

- ❖ Funding challenges
- ❖ Publishing barriers
- ❖ Research impact and application
- ❖ Time constraints
- ❖ Technology and resource access



Partner

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

How We Define Partner

At Arden University, Partner means building purposeful, mutually beneficial relationships with business, academia, communities and other stakeholders to advance responsible management education and sustainable development. Through collaboration, knowledge exchange and co-creation, we connect research, education and practice to address shared challenges, strengthen impact and contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Institutional Partnerships

- ❖ AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)
- ❖ AMBA (Association of MBAs)
- ❖ Local institutions and associations
- ❖ Ministries of Education, Higher Education, or similar national bodies
- ❖ Times Higher Education (THE)
- ❖ University Councils

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ None

Partner Voices

The following statement from our partners demonstrates ways in which our collaborations at Arden University support sustainability and responsible management education.

The Arden Lecture 2026 in collaboration with CMI: Sustainability in Action

The [2nd Arden Lecture](#) delivered in collaboration with the Chartered Management Institute was delivered in January 2026. The topic this year was Sustainability in Action with the aims of the session as follows:

What does sustainability really mean for you as a student and future professional?

At Arden, we see it as more than just an environmental issue – it's about creating lasting value for yourself, your career, and the wider world. This session will show you how sustainability connects with enterprise, innovation, and responsible management, and why these skills are essential for long-term success. You'll explore how using resources ethically and creatively can help you tackle real-world challenges, stand out in your field, and make a positive impact on the communities and organisations you engage with. You'll also learn how sustainable thinking can boost your employability, equipping you with the knowledge and practical skills that employers value most – from problem-solving and

innovation to ethical decision-making and resilience. Whether you're planning your career, starting a business, or seeking ways to make a difference, this session will give you tools and insights to take action and create real impact

The lecture was available for all Arden University staff and students and CMI members and over 300 people joined online. The lecture was based around a panel discussion with some expert speakers on the topic of sustainability:

- May Ho CMgr FCMI, Founder and Director, artwhich
- Janine Campling, Founder, Green United Development (GUD)
- Martin Baxter, Deputy CEO, Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP)



Practice

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

How We Define Practice

At Arden University, Practice means translating our commitment to responsible management education into everyday institutional action. It involves embedding sustainability, ethics, social responsibility and the UN SDGs into governance, operations, decision-making, staff and student engagement, partnerships, and wider organisational practices, ensuring our values are reflected in how we operate.

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Professional training opportunities
- ❖ Student equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Sustainability strategy or strategic plan (school or university level)
- ❖ Travel guides



Share

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

How We Define Share

At Arden University, Share means communicating our progress, challenges and learning in responsible management education transparently with our stakeholders. It involves creating opportunities for dialogue, sharing knowledge and good practice, listening to diverse voices, and contributing to wider academic and professional communities committed to sustainability, responsibility and the UN SDGs.

Engagement Opportunities

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

- ❖ Annual reports
- ❖ Feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, suggestion boxes)
- ❖ Open faculty and student meetings and town halls
- ❖ Partnerships with local organizations
- ❖ Student and staff volunteer programs
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities

Communication Audiences

Arden University communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Accreditation bodies
- ❖ Alumni and donors
- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Business and industry partners
- ❖ Faculty and staff
- ❖ Media and public relations channels
- ❖ Prospective and current students
- ❖ Research and academic networks

Communication Barriers

Arden University faces the following barriers in transparent communications:



**Audience
reach**



**Data privacy
regulations**



**Engagement
gaps**



**Ownership
issues**



SIGNATORY

Arden University



Address

Arden House, Middlemarch Park, Coventry CV3 4FJ, United Kingdom
United Kingdom



Website

<https://arden.ac.uk>