

PRiME

*an initiative of the
United Nations Global Compact*

Sharing Information on Progress 2026

UCD College of Business

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 UCD College of Business, including key details and basic institutional data.

Mission

As a globally connected, research intensive, business school located in the dynamic European capital of Dublin, our mission is centred on the creation of transformational change by means of educational and thought-leadership excellence, inspiring and co-creating a better future for our students, our staff, our alumni, and for business and society in Ireland and the world. We animate our mission through the prism of 'Empower, Connect & Create':

To **empower**, develop, and inspire current and future business leaders with the knowledge, critical thinking, soft skills, global perspectives, and confidence to achieve their full potential, to innovate, and to lead responsibly with purpose and impact.

To **connect** the present and future, academia and business, and the community of our students, staff, alumni, and the business world.

To **create** together with all stakeholders a transformational educational environment and new knowledge, with positive, sustainable, impact for business and society.

Vision

By 2026, as Ireland's premier business school, we will be acknowledged as a European-leading centre of excellence for rigorous, relevant, business education and research.

We will be known as a business school that delivers impact through our educational and thought-leadership activities, embracing:

- transformation of understanding,
- transformation of perspective,
- transformation of opportunity, and
- transformation of society.

We will be a vibrant nexus of connectivity, flow, and exchange of knowledge and ideas, drawing on Ireland's location as a gateway to Europe, as an exciting environment for entrepreneurial activity, and as home to many of the world's leading multinational organisations.

Strategy

UCD College of Business Strategy Summary - May
2023 (1)

[View document](#)  [Download document](#) 

Strategy Alignment

Strategic alignment with advancing sustainable development, the common good, and quality education.

The UCD College of Business commitment to advancing sustainable development, the common good, and quality education is reflected in the UCD College of Business Strategy 2022-2026. Our *mission* is to lead transformational change by means of educational and thought-leadership excellence, inspiring and co-creating a better future for our students, our staff, our alumni, and for business and society in Ireland and the world.

Our commitment to societal impact is embedded in our *strategic themes*, which focus on the global challenges of creating a sustainable global society, transforming through digital technology, building a healthy world, and empowering humanity.

Our strategic priorities include:

- Providing energising, exciting, globally-focused, educational programmes informed by leading-edge research and practice delivered by outstanding educators.
- Educating leaders for responsible and sustainable business by innovating across our curricula and programmes to further embed the themes of sustainability and 'business in society' across all our programmes.
- Advancing principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion set out by the Athena Swan framework, embedding and implementing our action plan in this respect across all our activities.
- Embracing the UCD 'Green campus initiative' covering key projects in the areas of energy efficiency and use of renewables, water conservation, waste reduction and recycling, sustainable commuting and biodiversity.
- Leveraging and growing our network of students, staff, alumni, key employers and other stakeholders, through enhanced communication, interaction and connectivity for the benefit of all.
- Enhancing the communication of our strengths as a leading, research intensive, globally connected business school with excellent programme offerings and research capabilities relevant to addressing key business and societal issues.

Graduates & Enrollment

2025 Statistics	Number
Graduates	3095

Degrees Offered

Bachelor Programs

- Bachelor of Business and Law

Masters Programs

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

Doctoral Programs

- 🎓 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Additional

- BComm
- MPhil
- Professional Diploma
- MAcc
- BBS
- Professional Certificate
- Diploma of Business Studies
- EMBA



Purpose

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

Letter of Commitment



UCD College of Business
University College Dublin
Co Dublin, Ireland

T +353 1 716 8881

An Scoil Ghnó UCD
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath
Contae Átha Cliath, Éire

www.ucd.ie/business

Renewal of Commitment to PRME

The UCD College of Business is a globally connected, research-intensive business school located in the dynamic European capital of Dublin. Our commitment to the Principles for Responsible Management Education is reflected in our mission: to lead transformational change by means of educational and thought-leadership excellence, inspiring and co-creating a better future for our students, our staff, our alumni, and for business and society in Ireland and the world.

We animate our mission through the prism of 'Empower, Connect & Create'. We empower, develop, and inspire current and future business leaders with the knowledge, critical thinking, soft skills, global perspectives, and confidence to achieve their full potential, to innovate, and to lead responsibly with purpose and impact. We connect the present and future, academia and business, and the community of our students, staff, alumni, and the business world. And we create together with all stakeholders a transformational educational environment and new knowledge, with positive, sustainable impact for business and society.

During the past year we have continued to implement our College Strategy 2022-2026, which draws inspiration from the Irish 'níos fearr a chruthú le chéile' – the future is better when we create it together – and which places responsible management education, the UN SDGs, and the challenges of climate change and sustainability at the forefront of our activities.

We continue to review our Programme offerings to ensure that sustainability is embedded across the College. New modules specifically addressing the SDGs have been added, such as the 'Climate Change and Business Sustainability' and 'HRM & Climate Change' modules that culminate in a two-day UNFCCC role play where students negotiate an international climate change agreement. This year we ran events for students who are interested in a future career in sustainability, and we partnered with EY's Climate Change and Sustainability team, to bring the groundbreaking Four Futures experience to campus, marking the first time this respected initiative was delivered within a third-level institution.

Our researchers continue to conduct research on the SDGs and responsible management topics, including climate finance, sustainable energy, decent work, supply chain labour standards, the just transition, ethical leadership, healthcare, equality and diversity, the gig economy, ethics and AI, to name just a few. And they continue to engage in partnerships and dialogue with business, NGOs, policy makers and other societal stakeholders to drive change and have meaningful impact on the world.

We are proud of our continued commitment to PRME and all we have achieved, but we continue to set ourselves ambitious goals to further embed in our activities the principles of PRME, the UN SDGs and the challenges of economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Professor Anthony Brabazon
Dean of Business, UCD College of Business

Accreditations and Memberships





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



Teach

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



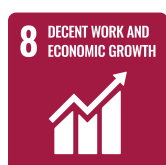
Courses that support RME

UCD College of Business reports 1 course in 2025 that support responsible management education and sustainable development goals.

Sustainable Procurement | BMGT 45640

This module aims to provide advanced insights into the theory, practices, processes, and current thinking in Sustainable Procurement. Sustainability underpins this module as business-as-usual cannot continue, which destroys our environment and allows the exploitation of workers, people and communities. Understanding how to be an effective Procurement manager who can make decisions that impact people, planet and prosperity is imperative.

This is a skills-based module, where, like Procurement Managers, you will co-create learning by discussing key issues in Sustainable Procurement; working with other members of the class; showing leadership and management skills; providing feedback to other; advising on the latest developments in Sustainable Procurement issues; presenting and communicating complex ideas to multiple stakeholders in a variety of ways; and demonstrating your foundational knowledge of Sustainable Procurement. Throughout the trimester, we will explore the latest issues in Sustainable Procurement. You will learn all about Sustainable Procurement starting from the basics of Procurement and delving much deeper into the Sustainable Procurement knowledge you will need for a successful career in Procurement. We will explore the latest issues in Sustainable Procurement including Strategy, Strategic Sourcing, Relationship Management, Interpersonal Developments, Ethical Issues in Procurement, Information and Disclosure in Procurement and Sustainable Procurement.

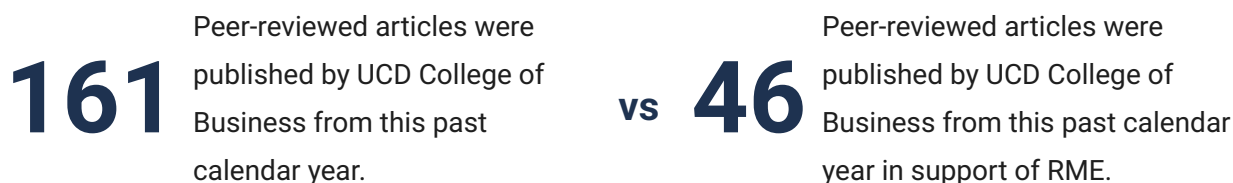




Research

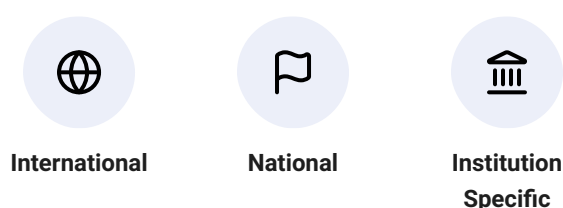
We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development



Research Funding

In 2025, UCD College of Business was awarded funding for research that is:



Socializing Research

In 2025, UCD College of Business contributed research findings to:

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

Research Projects

In 2025, UCD College of Business reported 4 research projects that implemented responsible or sustainable activities.

Community-Based Programmes for Sustainable Energy (COPSE)

Period Covering: January, 2026 - January, 2028

Department: Marketing

The COPSE project uses multiple qualitative methods to assess how and why different community energy programmes enable citizens to participate in the energy transition at scales ranging from the local to the national level. The project focuses in particular on programmes administered by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), for example the Sustainable Energy Communities programme and the Community Benefit Funds linked to large renewable energy projects.

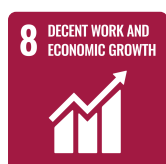


Promoting Collective Bargaining: Lessons from the Past

Period Covering: October, 2025 - January, 2027

Department: Human Resource Management and Employment Relations

This project maps trajectories of collective bargaining reform in the EU and Norway (2010-2025). It draws on 212 measures reported by Eurofound's Network of European Correspondents and examines the main forms of change, the actors involved, the institutional channels through which change occurred and the reported direction of each measure. The analysis covers both changes to the formal bargaining framework and broader initiatives aimed at strengthening or reshaping the conditions under which collective bargaining operates. It considers how these measures affected (i) bargaining structure, (ii) coverage rules, (iii) collective actors' capacity, (iv) wage-setting, (v) the role of the state, (vi) social dialogue, (vii) EU-level influence, and (viii) the legitimacy and cultural standing of collective bargaining. On this basis, it identifies the conditions under which reforms and initiatives were reported to strengthen or weaken collective bargaining. The number of reforms and initiatives reported varies considerably within and across countries and phases. The largest records are found in countries where collective bargaining frameworks were repeatedly changed, particularly during the crisis, or through sustained state intervention. Greece and Portugal each have seventeen entries. The most modest reform records are found in countries described by correspondents as relatively stable. Luxembourg, for instance, has two.



Responsible Finance & Securitized Loans

Period Covering: January, 2026 - December, 2030

Department: Banking & Finance

Collateralised Loan Obligations (CLOs), a critical source of corporate credit worldwide, have financed over \$2.1 trillion of leveraged lending since the global financial crisis. Yet little is known about whether the environmental risk carried by underlying borrowers affects how that credit is allocated.

This project delivers the first environmental finance study of carbon-risk considerations in the CLO market. Using proprietary transaction-level data from Crystal Fund, a Dublin-based structured credit manager, it tests whether borrowers' environmental ESG scores influence managers' loan purchase and sale decisions, the premium or discount negotiated, and the amount and leverage of capital lent. A central strand examines the EU's Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. Subscription to SFDR Article 8 or Article 9 is voluntary, and the research tests whether managers who subscribe hold demonstrably greener borrowers than Article 6 managers, and whether signalling compliance alters pricing and allocation. Divergence between stated commitment and trading behaviour would evidence greenwashing.

A parallel strand tests brownwashing: whether US managers issue fewer environmental trustee reports than EU counterparts because ESG is politically divisive, while their loan decisions align regardless. The findings bear on how environmental risk is priced in global credit markets, and on the credibility of intermediaries' sustainability claims.



Building Bridges in Sustainable and Transition Finance: From policy to practice - Europe & Japan in transition

Period Covering: August, 2026 - August, 2026

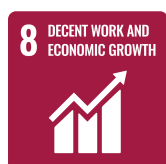
Department: Accounting | Banking & Finance

UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School held a joint sustainable finance research event with Robeco at the new Ireland House in Tokyo, the Embassy of Ireland in Japan. The invitation-only afternoon opened with addresses by H.E. Ambassador Damien Cole and Hideki Takada, Deputy Director-General at Japan's Ministry of Finance, and brought together policymakers, asset owners and academics from Europe and Japan.

Discussion centred on implementation of the EU sustainable finance framework and its application to Japanese investment practice: how frameworks intersect with Japanese developments, and how transition strategies are being operationalised on the path to net zero.

Professor Andreas Hoepner presented on Paris-aligned benchmarks and climate investment. Dr Fabiola Schneider presented SAVINs (Scalable, Auditable, Valued Impacts on Nature), a framework proposing that sustainability-linked bonds and loans generate nature credits by embedding nature-performance targets directly into debt contracts.

The event advances the PRME principles of Research, Partnership and Dialogue by bringing academic work into direct exchange with investors and regulators, and by deepening institutional ties with Japanese partners. The project was supported by seed funding under UCD's East Asia Engagement Strategy.





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)
- ❖ EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development)
- ❖ Financial Times
- ❖ Local institutions and associations
- ❖ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)
- ❖ Times Higher Education (THE)

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ Enactus



Practice

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

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Buildings/real estate
- ❖ Campus operations guides
- ❖ Carbon reduction or offset commitments
- ❖ Climate action plan
- ❖ Environmental stewardship policies
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Student equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Sustainability strategy or strategic plan (school or university level)
- ❖ Travel guides
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Zero-waste guides
- ❖ Accreditation body recommendation documents
- ❖ AI use guide



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

UCD College of Business 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
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions
- ❖ Publicly accessible sustainability data and dashboards

Communication Audiences

UCD College of Business 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
- ❖ Prospective and current students
- ❖ Research and academic networks

SIGNATORY

UCD College of Business



Address

UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School
Ireland



Website

<https://www.ucd.ie/collegesandschools/business/>