

PRiME

*an initiative of the
United Nations Global Compact*



Sharing Information on Progress 2026

University of St. Gallen

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 University of St. Gallen, including key details and basic institutional data.

Mission

Empowering talents, inspiring leaders

Vision

- We are the leading European business university thanks to impactful research, holistic education and an active community
- We are the first choice for dedicated talents and empower them to become responsible, entrepreneurial leaders
- We jointly create innovative and sustainable solutions for the grand challenges in business and society

For more details, please visit www.unisg.ch/en/university/about-us/vision-strategy-and-values/

Strategy

University strategy

Please find information on the HSG Strategic Plan here: www.unisg.ch/en/university/about-us/vision-strategy-and-values/strategic-plan/

Graduates & Enrollment

2025 Statistics	Number
Graduates	2636



Purpose

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

Letter of Commitment



University of St.Gallen

A Word from our President

"Empowering talents, inspiring leaders" – this is the guiding mission of the University of St.Gallen (HSG). We enable our students to become responsible, entrepreneurial leaders. During the 2025 reporting period, we made progress in further embedding the PRME principles across our institution. In doing so, we follow our vision and are committed to a broad understanding of sustainability, which includes responsibility for the environment, society and the economy.

As one of Europe's leading business universities, HSG is proud of its faculty whose research addresses pressing grand challenges of our time. The HSG Impact Awards have once again recognized projects with tangible societal relevance, ranging from circular economy and smart criminal justice to responsibility in supply chains. These contributions exemplify our strategic focus on knowledge that matters – for business and society alike.

As part of our holistic approach to education, a new joint Master's Certificate in Global Sustainability Management (GSM) has been launched. A programme like no other in Europe, GSM is co-developed and co-taught by experts from leading European institutions in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences as part of the Engage.EU alliance. This new certificate complements existing offers and contributes to our goal of empowering dedicated talents to think and act entrepreneurially and to assume responsibility.

Our engaged students are deeply committed to turning innovative ideas into impactful solutions. A standout example is one of the compulsory courses in the Master's Certificate in Managing Climate Solutions (MaCS-HSG), where students translate theory into climate action. Their collaboration in planning and implementing new solar energy installations on several HSG buildings exemplifies how academic learning and sustainability transformation on campus go hand in hand.

Many entrepreneurial solutions to the grand challenges of our time emerge from the HSG ecosystem through startups developed and led by our students. Two examples are the current Champions of HSG's Best Founders Programme, fortyfour and Zoneln, which are creating societal value through their innovative work on carbon capture and mental health, respectively. In addition, 56% of the businesses awarded the HSG Startup or Spin-off label in 2025 directly focus on solutions to sustainability challenges.

At the institutional level, the St.Gallen Transformation Lab further strengthened our regional ties by rolling out its activities to co-develop innovative and sustainable solutions for the St.Gallen region and beyond.

None of this progress would have been possible without the dedication of our university community. I am deeply grateful to our students, faculty, staff, and partners for their engagement. Based on this strong foundation, we are excited to continue our sustainability journey and further promote the PRME principles at our university and among the wider business community.

This report offers only a snapshot of our journey. For a broader overview of our sustainability activities, I invite you to visit our webpage and explore our digital sustainability report, both accessible via sustainability.unisg.ch

Professor Manuel Ammann
President, University of St.Gallen (HSG)

From insight to impact.

University of St.Gallen – School of Management,
Economics, Law, Social Sciences,
International Affairs and Computer Science



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Sustainability at the University of St.Gallen (HSG)

In line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University of St.Gallen (HSG) takes an integrated view of sustainability, encompassing environmental, social, and economic aspects. Specific action pathways guide our actions to achieve our ambitious goals and provide focus based on our University's impact potential.

Our sustainability strategy defines three overarching goals:

1. Prepare our students to become organisational leaders in a world that must tackle severe environmental and social challenges
2. 'Walk the talk', incl. net zero by 2030 and providing an inclusive, diverse space for studying and working
3. Foster knowledge exchange and collaboration to co-create positive societal impact (for people and planet)

The university has defined three groups of SDGs according to the impact that HSG can create as an integrated business school (supportive, significant, strategic contributions). While HSG contributes to all three of these SDG groups, we identify eight SDGs where the university can make a particularly significant, strategic contribution. These are quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

For more details on how sustainability is anchored in the overarching university strategy, and on how the sustainability strategy is implemented, please visit our homepage: sustainability.unisg.ch



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
- ❖ 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.



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Sustainability integration into teaching activities

We are increasingly embedding competencies in sustainability and responsibility across our courses and programs. In addition to certificate programs such as the [Master Certificate in Managing Climate Solutions \(MaCS\)](#) and the [Bachelor Certificate in Integrative Sustainability Management \(SuM\)](#), or the [Joint Master Certificate in Global Sustainability Management](#), HSG offers a wide range of sustainability courses within its [Contextual Studies](#) portfolio. Core study programmes have increasingly incorporated sustainability courses into their offerings. Furthermore, our executive education offerings include a broad range of sustainability-related content as well as specific courses on e.g., [Renewable Energy Management](#) and [Leading Sustainable Business Innovation](#). To support this integration, the *Teach for Sustainable Futures* initiative provides faculty and programme management with guidance and support. Through workshops, consultations, and shared teaching resources - such as the *Sustainability in Academia (SiA)* resource platform - HSG empowers educators to embed sustainability more deeply and consistently across courses and programmes.

Beyond the classroom, co-curricular activities at HSG give students the opportunity to address real-world challenges and put their ideas into practice. Through student-led initiatives, they gain hands-on experience, build future skills, and contribute to projects with tangible positive social and environmental impact at HSG and beyond. These activities complement the formal curriculum by fostering systemic thinking, creativity, and responsibility, while empowering students to become active shapers of a sustainable future.

For more information on recent developments and highlights on how HSG integrates sustainability into its curriculum and co-curriculum activities, please visit:

- <https://www.unisg.ch/en/university/engagement/responsibility-and-sustainability/sustainability-integration-into-teaching-activities/>
- <https://www.unisg.ch/en/university/engagement/responsibility-and-sustainability/sustainability-report/highlights-teaching/>



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, University of St. Gallen was awarded funding for research that is:



**Institution
Specific**



Local



Regional



National



International

Socializing Research

In 2025, University of St. Gallen 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

Continue telling your story

Sustainability integration into research activities

Research at the University of St. Gallen addresses sustainability from multiple perspectives, integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations to develop pioneering insights that contribute holistically to solving current and future grand challenges in business and society. A broad range of HSG institutes and centres conduct research in the area of responsibility and sustainability. Together

they shed light on sustainable development from different perspectives. Our university is home to leading scholars and internationally renowned thought leaders in the fields of renewable energy management, sustainable finance, circular economy business models, diversity management, governance and democracy research, business ethics, and more.

To highlight outstanding contributions, the [HSG Impact Awards](#) honour research projects with an outstanding impact on society. The [HSG Impact Scholar Community](#) further strengthens collaboration by connecting researchers across disciplines, fostering exchange through formats such as world cafés and discussion rounds. Beyond academic output, HSG researchers actively share their insights with wider audiences through exhibitions, conferences, podcasts, and media contributions—ensuring that research findings inform public discourse and contribute to real-world change.

For more information on recent developments and highlights on how HSG integrates sustainability into its research activities, please visit:

- <https://www.unisg.ch/en/university/engagement/responsibility-and-sustainability/sustainability-research/>
- <https://www.unisg.ch/en/university/engagement/responsibility-and-sustainability/sustainability-report/highlights-research/>

Please note that the methodology used to calculate the number of publications has changed since the last report. The new method is based on publications by permanent research staff with a print issue date in 2025.



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
- ❖ Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC)
- ❖ Local institutions and associations
- ❖ Network for Business Sustainability (NBS)
- ❖ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)
- ❖ Responsible Research in Business & Management (RRBM)
- ❖ Times Higher Education (THE)
- ❖ ARCS (Alliance for Research on Corporate Sustainability)
- ❖ Engage.EU

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ Oikos International

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Positive societal impact

Sustainable development cannot be achieved by individual actors but requires widespread collaboration and strong partnerships. The recently launched [St.Gallen Transformation Lab](#) aims to strengthen HSG's engagement with diverse societal actors, by leveraging knowledge and skills to help shape a positive future emanating from St.Gallen to the world. By collaborating closely with internal and external stakeholders, HSG aims at driving societal transformation and helps to provide significant positive impacts to HSG's surrounding community and beyond. In this context, we understand impact holistically as effects that we have on the economy, environment, and people as a result of our business activities and relationships, indicating our contribution to sustainable development.

Our alumni are important partners in driving sustainable transformation. Through initiatives like [Zukunft-Fabrik.2050](#), they foster intergenerational dialogue, develop future-oriented visions, and launch concrete projects that create lasting impact beyond the university.

For more information on recent developments and highlights on how HSG creates positive societal impact, please visit:

- <https://www.unisg.ch/en/university/engagement/responsibility-and-sustainability/societal-impact/>
- <https://www.unisg.ch/en/university/engagement/responsibility-and-sustainability/sustainability-report/highlights-societal-engagement/>



Practice

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

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Accreditation body recommendation documents
- ❖ Buildings/real estate
- ❖ Carbon reduction or offset commitments
- ❖ Climate action plan
- ❖ Ethical data sourcing guides
- ❖ Ethical leadership or good governance policies
- ❖ Greenhouse gas emissions
- ❖ Local staff/student/faculty transportation
- ❖ Professional training opportunities
- ❖ Responsible procurement policies
- ❖ Student equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Sustainability strategy or strategic plan (school or university level)
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Equity reporting (DEI, EDI, etc.)

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Sustainability on campus

HSG's campus offers an inspiring learning and working environment. In line with its strategic goal of 'walking the talk', HSG strives towards sustainable operations incl. a net zero campus, providing an inclusive and diverse space for studying and work, and ensuring responsible investments. Furthermore, we aim to make sustainability visible on campus and beyond.

The university sources 100% renewable electricity, invests in solar power installations, and implements biodiversity principles in campus management. Innovative projects such as student-led crowd investments for solar energy on campus, support HSG's engagement towards becoming a net-zero and future-oriented campus. With dedicated structures such as the DE&I Office, HSG provides support services to create an inclusive and diverse place to study and work. Numerous student initiatives further strengthen an inclusive campus culture, ensuring that diversity and inclusion are lived as core values.

For more information on recent developments and highlights on how HSG integrates sustainability into its operations, please visit:

- <https://www.unisg.ch/en/university/engagement/responsibility-and-sustainability/sustainability-on-campus/>
- <https://www.unisg.ch/en/university/engagement/responsibility-and-sustainability/sustainability-report/highlights-campus-operations/>



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

University of St. Gallen 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
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities
- ❖ Publicly accessible sustainability data and dashboards

Communication Audiences

University of St. Gallen 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

University of St. Gallen



Address

Dufourstr. 50, 9000 St.Gallen
Switzerland



Website

<https://www.unisg.ch/>