

PRiME

*an initiative of the
United Nations Global Compact*

Sharing Information on Progress 2026

The Open University Business
School

September 2026

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About The Open University Business School

The Open University Business School (OUBS) is a leading provider of business and management education delivered through supported distance learning. Through teaching, research, and external engagement, the School seeks to widen participation, advance social mobility and contribute to more sustainable, inclusive, and responsible forms of management and leadership.

OUBS holds triple accreditation through AACSB, EQUIS, and AMBA, providing international recognition of the quality of its education while supporting its broader commitment to responsible management education and societal impact.

OUR MISSION:

Providing world class open management education and research which empowers individuals, organisations and society to influence future development and deliver just outcomes.

OUR VISION:

To empower our global community to deliver social mobility and create a sustainable future

OUR VALUES:

Inclusive, Responsive, Innovative

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 The Open University Business School, including key details and basic institutional data.

Graduates & Enrollment

2025 Statistics	Number
Graduates	1960
Faculty & Staff at the University	9099
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	749
Student Enrollment at the University	140,000
Student Enrollment at the Institution	19,762
Undergraduate Attendance	18,386
Masters-Level Postgraduate Attendance	1376
Doctoral Student Attendance	42
Certificate, Professional Development, or Continuing Education Attendance	0

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.)

Doctoral Programs

-  Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)



Values

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



How We Define Values

At OUBS, values are not treated as abstract statements but as principles that shape how we teach, research, collaborate and engage with society. Our approach is informed by the Open University's values of inclusion, innovation, and responsiveness, which align closely with the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). We understand values as the commitments that guide organisational decision-making, educational practice and professional conduct. Within OUBS, these commitments are reflected in our focus on widening participation, social mobility, sustainability, ethical leadership, responsible innovation and the creation of positive societal impact. Through teaching, research, partnerships and institutional practice, we seek to develop graduates who are capable of making informed, ethical and socially responsible decisions in complex organisational environments. As a business school within a university founded on principles of openness and inclusion, we view responsible management education as both an educational and societal endeavour. Our aim is not only to equip students with disciplinary knowledge and professional capabilities, but also to foster critical thinking, ethical awareness and a commitment to contributing positively to organisations, communities and society.

Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

- ❖ Individual academic and professional staff champions who lead curriculum innovation, research and engagement activities.
- ❖ Research centres, clusters and communities of practice that advance scholarship relating to sustainability, responsibility and social justice.
- ❖ Senior leaders across the Business School and University who provide strategic oversight and ensure alignment with institutional priorities.
- ❖ Cross-University collaborations that support sustainability, equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility initiatives
- ❖ A centralised Sustainability Office that provides strategic leadership and coordination across the University
- ❖ Disciplinary and interdisciplinary initiatives within OUBS that integrate responsible management, sustainability and societal impact into teaching, research and knowledge exchange.



Teach

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



How We Define Teach

At OUBS, teaching is understood as the development of knowledgeable, reflective, and responsible managers, leaders and professionals who are able to navigate complex social, environmental and organisational challenges. Our approach aligns with the Open University's enduring mission to be open to people, places, methods, and ideas, and with its vision of life-changing learning that enriches society. It is underpinned by the University's values of inclusivity, innovation and responsiveness. Responsible management education is embedded across the curriculum through critical engagement with ethics, sustainability, social responsibility, leadership, governance, inclusion and the wider societal consequences of management practice. These themes are not confined to specialist modules but are integrated across disciplines including management, accounting, marketing, entrepreneurship, leadership, strategy and human resource management. The Sustainable Development Goals provide an important framework through which students explore contemporary global challenges and the role of organisations in addressing them. OUBS contributes particularly strongly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) through its open-entry model and flexible supported distance-learning approach, which expands access to higher education for learners who may be balancing study with employment, caring responsibilities or other commitments. This commitment to widening participation reflects the School's broader belief that responsible management education begins with creating opportunities for diverse learners to access, succeed in and benefit from higher education. Through teaching, OUBS seeks not only to develop disciplinary knowledge and professional capability, but also to foster critical thinking, ethical judgement, evidence-informed decision-making and an appreciation of the responsibilities that organisations have to individuals, communities and society.



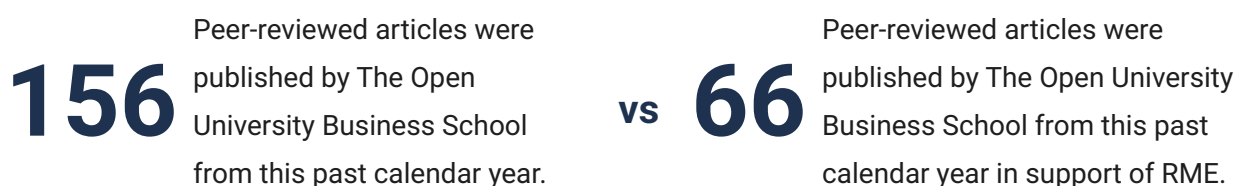
Research

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

How We Define Research

Research in support of Responsible Management Education and Sustainable Development - During the reporting period, OUBS published 156 peer-reviewed journal articles, including 66 publications that contributed directly to responsible management education, sustainability and sustainable development agendas. While responsible management education is represented most explicitly within these 66 outputs, many other publications also contribute indirectly to understanding contemporary organisational, economic and societal challenges. Research activity was supported through funding secured from local, regional, national and international sources, reflecting the School's extensive engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders and research communities. OUBS researchers actively disseminate their work beyond academic journals, contributing evidence and expertise to community organisations, government and policy makers, industry and business networks, open-access platforms, public events and lectures, and collaborative research partnerships. Through these activities, research supports both scholarly advancement and wider societal impact.

Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development



Research Funding

In 2025, The Open University Business School was awarded funding for research that is:



Socializing Research

In 2025, The Open University Business School contributed research findings to:

- ❖ Community organizations
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Industry and business networks

- ❖ Open-access platforms
- ❖ Public events and lectures
- ❖ Research collaborations



Partner

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

How We Define Partner

OUBS also benefits from a range of institutional partnerships that support quality enhancement, international collaboration and responsible management education. These partnerships provide opportunities for collaboration, benchmarking, knowledge exchange and the continued development of responsible management education within a global community of business schools. Partnerships play an important role in OUBS's approach to responsible management education, enabling researchers to work collaboratively with policymakers, employers, community organisations and international networks to address complex social, economic and environmental challenges. In addition to institutional memberships and accreditations, including AACSB, AMBA, EFMD and the Global Business School Network (GBSN), OUBS researchers contribute to a range of partnerships that support sustainability, social justice, responsible leadership and inclusive economic development. Partnerships play an important role in OUBS's approach to responsible management education, enabling researchers to work collaboratively with policymakers, employers, community organisations and international networks to address complex social, economic and environmental challenges. In addition to institutional memberships and accreditations, including AACSB, AMBA, EFMD and the Global Business School Network (GBSN), OUBS researchers contribute to a range of partnerships that support sustainability, social justice, responsible leadership and inclusive economic development.

Institutional Partnerships

- ❖ AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)
- ❖ AMBA (Association of MBAs)
- ❖ EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development)
- ❖ Global Business School Network (GBSN)

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ Students Organising for Sustainability UK



Practice

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

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Buildings/real estate
- ❖ Campus operations guides
- ❖ Climate action plan
- ❖ Curriculum guidelines
- ❖ Environmental stewardship policies
- ❖ Ethical data sourcing guides
- ❖ Ethical leadership or good governance policies
- ❖ Faculty hiring, tenure, and promotion guidelines
- ❖ Greenhouse gas emissions
- ❖ 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
- ❖ AI use guide
- ❖ Accreditation body recommendation documents
- ❖ Carbon reduction or offset commitments
- ❖ Equity reporting (DEI, EDI, etc.)



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

The Open University Business School 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
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Publicly accessible sustainability data and dashboards
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions

Communication Audiences

The Open University Business School communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Alumni and donors
- ❖ Faculty and staff
- ❖ Prospective and current students

SIGNATORY

The Open University Business School



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