

PRiME

*an initiative of the
United Nations Global Compact*

Sharing Information on Progress 2026

Wits Business School

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 Wits Business School, including key details and basic institutional data.

Graduates & Enrollment

2025 Statistics	Number
Graduates	929
Faculty & Staff at the University	6700
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	200
Student Enrollment at the University	54931
Student Enrollment at the Institution	5222
Undergraduate Attendance	0
Masters-Level Postgraduate Attendance	1663
Doctoral Student Attendance	134
Certificate, Professional Development, or Continuing Education Attendance	2103

Degrees Offered

Masters Programs

- ☒ Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- ☒ Master of Management
- ☒ Master of Management by Research

Doctoral Programs

- ☒ Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Additional

- ☒ Postgraduate Diploma in Management
- ☒ Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration



Purpose

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



Definition of Purpose

We see purpose as defining our reason for existence and the School's purpose is clearly spelt out through our mission statement: "To develop responsible and ethical leaders, generate impactful knowledge, and contribute to the creation of sustainable solutions for Africa and the world. " The mission statement is supported by the WBS values, stated Commitment to Sustainability and strategic priorities.

Institutional Engagement

76% - 100%

of faculty at Wits Business School actively contribute to our work with PRME, advancing responsible management education, or addressing sustainable development challenges through their work.

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wits-today-brochure

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Values

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



How We Define Values

Our values are 6 commitments that shape how we teach, research, lead and engage. These are Excellence, Integrity, Sustainability-driven, Responsive, Stakeholder-centric and Collaboration. Together these provide clear guidance and understanding for all stakeholders of what underpins everything we do and the expectations that we have of ourselves and all our stakeholders. As part of the development of the new WBS 2026-31 strategy, our WBS values were reviewed and more clearly articulated. We share, articulate and celebrate these widely.

Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

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

Student Awareness

76% - 100% of students at Wits Business School are aware that we are a PRME Signatory Member.

Student Engagement

51% - 75% of students at Wits Business School 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

Both our mission and vision speak to the development of ethical and responsible leaders, and this is under-pinned by our stated Graduate Competencies and in our strategic KPIs. The stated goal focuses on ensuring that ethics, sustainability and governance is taught across all programmes. Currently every student enrolled in a degree programme incorporating coursework is exposed to some ethics, sustainability and responsibility in their courses, and more than 80% of all continuing education courses do the same. A course has been developed for the new MBA that serves as a foundational introduction to these areas, and all further courses in the programme then build on and deepen that knowledge. The plan is to introduce similar courses into all programmes over time as curriculum revisions happen.

Educator Recognition

At Wits Business School, we recognize educators for quality of teaching in the following ways:

- ❖ Annual teaching excellence awards
- ❖ Faculty promotion and tenure consideration
- ❖ Professional development opportunities
- ❖ Publication or research support

Barriers to Innovative Curriculum

In 2025, Wits Business School identified the following barriers to innovating, updating, or taking risks in existing curriculum:

- ❖ Accreditation constraints
- ❖ Assessment challenges
- ❖ Change fatigue
- ❖ Learning curve for faculty
- ❖ Measurement and benchmarking issues
- ❖ Resistance from students

Barriers to Innovative Pedagogy

In 2025, Wits Business School identified the following barriers to innovating, updating, or taking risks in existing pedagogy:

- ❖ Accreditation limitations
- ❖ Assessment rigor concerns

- ❖ Budget constraints
- ❖ Digital divide
- ❖ Learning curve for faculty
- ❖ Resource constraints
- ❖ Risk aversion



Research

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

How We Define Research

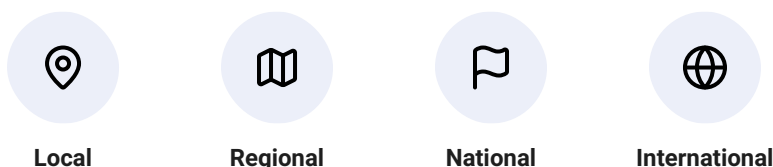
Research at WBS is increasingly being viewed through the dual lenses of quality and impact. As part of a designated research-intensive institution, peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters and conference proceedings have always been encouraged, but increasingly, more applied research that contributes to policy and practice is valued, with a strong focus on more diverse and inclusive dissemination. In particular, research that contributes positively to Africa's inclusive development agenda is encouraged, across all disciplines.

Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development



Research Funding

In 2025, Wits Business School was awarded funding for research that is:



Socializing Research

In 2025, Wits Business School contributed research findings to:

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

Publications Related to RME and/or Sustainability

Inclusive Growth in Africa: Exploring Contingencies and Thresholds of Financial Development and the Digital Economy

| [DOI](#)

Authors: Dr Sylvester Horvey, Wits Business School | Dr Jones Odei-Mensah

Date of publication: July, 2026

Department: International Business | Economics

ABSTRACT

Given the persistent inequalities and economic disparities, the quest for inclusive growth has become more critical. Nevertheless, a substantial knowledge gap exists regarding the role of the digital economy and financial development in inclusive growth. In light of this, this paper examines the direct, synergistic, and threshold effects of financial development and the digital economy on inclusive growth in Africa. The study considered 38 countries between 2000 and 2019 and was estimated using the dynamic panel threshold and the generalised method of moments technique. The key results are presented as follows: (1) digital economy fosters inclusive growth; (2) financial development presents a significant moderating influence on the digital economy-inclusive growth nexus, suggesting that the influence of the digital economy on inclusive growth is more profound amid a robust financial system; (3) the results from the dynamic panel threshold demonstrate a non-linear U-shaped nexus between inclusive growth and the digital economy, while financial development demonstrates a linear and significant impact in the upper regime, implying that higher levels of the digital economy and financial development are essential to fostering inclusive growth and vice versa. Given this, the study recommends that policymakers ensure a robust financial system and investment in digital infrastructure to promote inclusive growth.



Research Barriers

In 2025, Wits Business School identified the following barriers to conducting research related to sustainability and/or responsibility:

- ❖ Collaboration challenges
- ❖ Data access and management
- ❖ Funding challenges
- ❖ Ethical concerns

❖ Research impact and application



Partner

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

How We Define Partner

Partners are any individuals or organisations including industry, research institutes, academic and related bodies, non-profit, governmental, etc. that the School works with both formally or more informally on activities including teaching, research and projects in or for our broader community. Our values of Stakeholder-centric: Our success is built on the success of our students, alumni, staff, partners and broader communities; and Collaboration: We believe that the most significant challenges and opportunities require collective effort.

Institutional Partnerships

- ❖ AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)
- ❖ AMBA (Association of MBAs)
- ❖ EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development)
- ❖ Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC)
- ❖ Local institutions and associations
- ❖ Positive Impact Rating (PIR)
- ❖ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)
- ❖ Times Higher Education (THE)
- ❖ Ministries of Education, Higher Education, or similar national bodies
- ❖ University Councils
- ❖ GBSN (Global Business Schools Network)
- ❖ AABS (Association of African Business Schools)
- ❖ SABC Channel Africa
- ❖ Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
- ❖ Jozi My Jozi
- ❖ Chapter Zero Southern Africa
- ❖ AABS (Association of African Business Schools)

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ None



Practice

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

How We Define Practice

WBS and Wits University are committed to responsible and accountable management practices on our campuses and broader operations. The Wits Pro Vice-Chancellor: Climate, Sustainability and Inequality leads activities across teaching, research and operations. Wits undertakes integrated reporting to demonstrate progress towards targets and commitments.

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Accreditation body recommendation documents
- ❖ Buildings/real estate
- ❖ Campus operations guides
- ❖ Curriculum guidelines
- ❖ Environmental stewardship policies
- ❖ Ethical leadership or good governance policies
- ❖ Faculty hiring, tenure, and promotion guidelines
- ❖ Professional training opportunities
- ❖ Responsible procurement policies
- ❖ Student equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Sustainability strategy or strategic plan (school or university level)
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Zero-waste guides
- ❖ Equity reporting (DEI, EDI, etc.)
- ❖ Open-access guides

Policy Documents Related to RME and/or Sustainability

SustainabilityStrategyReport

View document  Download document 

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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

WBS reports on success and continued efforts in all our accreditation and QA endeavours, both externally and within the University and School. We both seek feedback from students, alumni and staff through annual surveys (including our student experience, alumni and PIR surveys) and share the results with that community.

Engagement Opportunities

Wits 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
- ❖ Open faculty and student meetings and town halls
- ❖ Partnerships with local organizations
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions
- ❖ Student and staff volunteer programs
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities
- ❖ We are currently working to offer engagement opportunities

Communication Audiences

Wits Business School communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Accreditation bodies
- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Faculty and staff
- ❖ Media and public relations channels

Communication Barriers

Wits Business School faces the following barriers in transparent communications:



Data privacy
regulations



Donor
sensitivities



Feedback
loops



Bureaucratic
delays



Transparency
hesitation

SIGNATORY

Wits Business School



Address

2 St David's Place
South Africa



Website

www.wbs.ac.za