

PRiME

an initiative of the
United Nations Global Compact

2025 Sharing Information on Progress **(SIP) Report**

International Business School
Suzhou, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool
University

September 2025

Table of Contents

1. About PRME	3
2. About SDGs	5
3. Getting Started	6
4. Values	13
5. Teach	15
6. Research	17
7. Partner	19
8. Practice	21
9. Share	23

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 International Business School Suzhou, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, including key details and basic institutional data.

Mission

To contribute to society through bridging East and West, delivering student-centred education, conducting impact-oriented research, and acting as a catalyst of business education and sustainable development.

Vision

To be a model international business school in China, driving impact creation in the business community and society we serve.

Strategy

IBSS Strategy

Connection is the core of the IBSS strategy. We connect countries with cultures, theory with practice, and intention with action. To bring this vision to life, the School's Senior Management Team is structured across five key pillars: (1) Education, (2) Research, (3) Industry & Business, Community, and (4) Internationalisation and (5) Executive Education.

This strategy is upheld by six core values that define our organizational culture and guide the behavior of all IBSS students and staff. These values—being Inquisitive, Mindful, Professional, Adaptive, Collaborative, and Transformative—form the acronym IMPACT, which represents our ultimate objective: to create lasting and meaningful impact.

Strategy Alignment

IBSS Strategy Alignment

The pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides a powerful common ground for Eastern and Western societies, serving as a vital platform to translate knowledge into practice and unite key stakeholders—including students, faculty, businesses, NGOs, and governments—around a shared vision. Our strategic mission, supported by five structural pillars, provides a solid foundation for achieving the objectives of our Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability (ERS) Strategy 2021–25. These pillars are: Education, Research, Industry & Community Engagement, Executive Education, and Global Partnerships.

Pillar 1: Education

IBSS is committed to fostering social responsibility and environmental awareness through its educational offerings and institutional practices. Strategically, this is achieved by embedding the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) across the curriculum and facilitating experiential learning opportunities such as company visits that highlight sustainable business practices. This dedication is reflected in the integration of Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability (ERS) learning outcomes into 90% of postgraduate programs (9 out of 10) and 88% of undergraduate programs (7 out of 8), distributed across 91 individual modules. Programs such as BA International Business with a Language, BA Human Resource Management, and MRes Management further reinforce these concepts through fieldwork and organized visits, providing students with direct exposure to sustainability challenges and solutions within local business contexts. Beyond the formal curriculum, IBSS actively promotes student-led engagement in sustainability. The school supports associations such as Sustainable Future Talents and Oikos, which empower students to drive grassroots initiatives. A notable example is the "15 Ways in 15 Weeks" campaign, launched by Sustainable Future Talents in collaboration with the IBSS Sustainability Committee as part of the broader Carbon Neutral IBSS Project. This campaign provided weekly actionable tips to reduce individual carbon footprints, drawing inspiration from the UN Environment and UnSchool's "Anatomy of Action" framework. Actions were organized around five key themes—stuff, fun, move, money, and food—effectively linking daily behaviors to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The initiative received the prestigious Global RCE Recognition Award in 2023. Additionally, the school's efforts in cultivating responsible future leaders are exemplified by two IBSS students being honored as "PRME Global Students" (PGS), with one appointed "PGS Representative for Asia and Southeast Asia."

Pillar 2: Research

IBSS has established a Research Center for Excellence on Sustainability and ESG to advance scholarly work in these fields. In 2024, IBSS faculty produced 187 journal articles, 54 of which specifically addressed themes related to Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability (ERS). The school has also secured competitive research funding, including five grants from the National Natural Science Foundation of China and two international grants supporting ERS-related projects. To facilitate knowledge dissemination, IBSS organized five research workshops in collaboration with partners such as Green Light Years, along with 12 seminars focused on sustainability and ESG during the 2023–2025 period. Faculty expertise is regularly featured at major academic and professional forums. For instance, Professor Lixian Qian presented his research on "Adoption and Diffusion of New Energy Vehicles" at the Dean's Expert Forum of Chinese at Annual Conference of Chinese Management, offering valuable insights into consumer behavior and industry trends. IBSS's leadership in ESG was further underscored when Professor Ellen Touchstone moderated a workshop titled "How to Measure Corporate ESG Performance and Impact" during Shanghai Climate Week, where Dr. Shili Chen also presented relevant business cases. Concurrently, the school's research on empowerment and entrepreneurship is gaining notable recognition. Dr. Yameng Zhang presented her work on "Women's Entrepreneurship and Empowerment in the Digital Age" at the Female Management Scholars Forum,

contributing novel perspectives on gender and entrepreneurship. This study was subsequently honored with the Best Paper Award at the 2024 Women in Academy of International Business Annual Meeting, affirming its academic impact and relevance. IBSS has further established a student award to recognize excellence in ERS research. This accolade is presented annually to the student who produces the Best Final Year Project in an ERS-related field.

Pillar 3: Industry, Business & Community

This pillar is dedicated to developing and implementing actionable solutions that drive meaningful sustainability transformation. Through strategic collaborations with international business associations, NGOs, and governmental bodies, we empower organizations to pursue sustainable growth in the face of complex global challenges. A key example of this commitment is Dr. Ellen Touchstone's role as President of the Regional Center of Expertise Suzhou (RCE Suzhou). In this capacity, she led the organization of the 7th Suzhou Climate Marathon in 2023, which brought together approximately 60 participants from seven institutions to develop strategies for reducing single-use plastics. Building on this success, the 8th edition in 2025 focused on identifying creative and feasible solutions to climate issues specific to Suzhou. Furthermore, IBSS faculty actively contribute to high-level policy and business dialogues. Dr. Yameng Zhang was invited to deliver a keynote speech at The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China's 2023 Investment Conference, where she explored opportunities within China's green economy. Her research on the green financing capabilities of multinational enterprises in the new energy sector was also presented at the prestigious 2025 Caixin Summer Summit (ESG session). These efforts are complemented by strong local partnerships, such as our collaboration with the Suzhou ESG Innovation Center and the Suzhou Industrial Park Urban Development Research Institute, which has enabled 11 students to undertake research internships focused on critical sustainability challenges.

Pillar 4: Executive Education

IBSS has integrated sustainability into the core of its leadership development programs. Courses on "Business Ethics and Responsibility" and "Sustainability, Innovation and Change" have been added to the International MBA curriculum. In 2023, we offered a Managerial Acceleration Programme focused on sustainable management, covering modules such as ESG, sustainable finance, and strategic operational shifts. We also offer tailored executive education courses, including: Sustainability and ESG, Sustainable Development Path of China's Automobile Manufacturing Industry, International Governance Systems etc. Our Brown Bag Lunch Events have featured discussions on diverse ERS topics, from "Digital Literacy Empowers Rural Women" to "The Electric Vehicle Revolution," facilitating multi-level dialogue on sustainability.

Pillar 5: Global Partnerships

We promote international collaboration by organizing workshops and summer schools in partnership with leading global institutions. These initiatives are designed to address pressing global challenges and foster cross-cultural learning. Notable examples include the "Made in China 2025: Innovation and

Sustainable Development” workshop, held in collaboration with Ramon Llull University, and a specialized ESG investment workshop conducted with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia. In 2024 and 2025, we further strengthened these ties by co-organizing two-week international summer school programs. These programs featured dedicated courses on sustainability and ESG, providing participants with insights into the evolving Chinese market and the specific opportunities available to sustainable brands. Through these activities, we aim to equip a new generation of global leaders with the knowledge and perspective needed to drive responsible business practices. In 2025, IBSS will host its own “Bridging East and West” International Business Case Competition, under the theme “Co-creating Sustainable Value”. This event will bring together outstanding students, scholars, and industry professionals from around the world to help participating companies address real-world sustainable business challenges.

As we confront intersecting global challenges—from geopolitical tensions to the emergence of artificial intelligence—our mission to integrate the SDGs as a critical strategic lens becomes ever more crucial. We are committed to exploring how AI can be harnessed to achieve sustainability goals, and how sustainability principles can provide an ethical framework to mitigate global tensions. This dual approach is central to our ethos and is rigorously aligned with our commitment to PRME.

Institutional History

Institutional History



IBSS became a signatory of the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) in 2013, advanced to an advanced signatory in 2019, and played a key founding role in the establishment of the PRME China Chapter in 2021. Upholding its mission to drive positive impact and sustainable development both within China and internationally, IBSS was selected as a 2023 PRME Global Champion. As one of only 47 PRME Champions globally in 2023, IBSS was the first business school in China to receive this distinction. Furthermore, IBSS was again named a PRME Champion for the 2024-2025 term, making it the only business school in China to achieve this recognition in both years. This accolade acknowledges IBSS's dedicated efforts over the past decade in embedding ethics, responsibility, and sustainability into its educational practices, cultivating responsible global citizens, and promoting responsible and sustainable management education throughout Chinese higher education. The ongoing advancement of PRME initiatives at IBSS has been made possible through the collaborative efforts of the school's leadership, the PRME working group, administrative support teams, and student leaders. Special recognition is due to Dr. Ellen Touchstone, Dr. Xuanwei Cao, and Dr. Juelin Yin for their exceptional contributions to promoting Responsibility, Sustainability, and Business Ethics (RSBE) within IBSS.

Graduates & Enrollment

2024 Statistics	Number
Graduates	2053
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	227
Student Enrollment at the University	7901
Student Enrollment at the Institution	6243
Undergraduate Attendance	4916
Masters-Level Postgraduate Attendance	1287
Doctoral Student Attendance	40

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 Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Doctoral Programs

 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

 BA Accounting  BA Business Administration  BSc Economics and Finance  BSc Economics
 BA Human Resource Management  BA International Business with a Language
 BSc Information Management and Information Systems  BA Marketing

Masters Degree Programmes

- MSc Business Analytics
- MSc Economics and Finance
- MSc Finance
- International Master of Business Administration IMBA
- MSc Investment Management
- MSc Management
- MSc Management (PT)
- MRes Management
- MSc Operations and Supply Chain Management
- MSc Operations and Supply Chain Management (PT)
- MSc Professional Accounting
- MSc Project Management
- MSc Project Management (PT)



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

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Student contributor

Student Voices

The following narrative demonstrates how International Business School Suzhou, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University has influenced students' academic journey and personal growth.

Student invoice _ Yiying Wang

Yiying Wang, a second-year student in Economics and Finance and President of the Sustainable Future Talents (SFT) student organization at IBSS, has been elected to the PRME Global Students (PGS) Taskforce in recognition of her outstanding capabilities and dedication. She will serve in the PGS Careers program, representing IBSS as a distinguished ambassador on the global stage of sustainable development. The PGS Taskforce serves as the core leadership team of the PRME Global Students initiative, responsible for designing and implementing key programs such as PGS Careers, PGS Ambassador, and PGS Talks. Comprising members from around the world, each project is led by two coordinators and up to six taskforce members. The team is open to students from all PRME signatory institutions, providing a collaborative platform to contribute to global sustainability projects and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Within the PGS Careers program, Wang Yiying will help enhance students' employability through mentorship and training sessions, while also facilitating connections with experts in SDG-related fields. The initiative aims to offer career guidance and support students in defining their professional pathways in sustainability.

Reflecting on her role, Yiying shared: "Personally, it is a fascinating opportunity to exchange ideas with like-minded individuals from diverse cultural and national backgrounds. For SFT, the PGS Taskforce represents a valuable potential partner. I hope to encourage more SFT members to join PGS initiatives, and to collaborate in organizing events that incorporate PGS's professional expertise. As a truly international platform, PGS offers an ideal entry point for IBSS students interested in sustainable education." Yiying warmly invites all interested students to participate in SFT's activities, suggesting they start by exploring specific areas of sustainable development that align with their personal interests. She firmly believes that interest is the best teacher—and that through active involvement, students can discover their passions and continue to grow as future leaders in sustainability.



Teach

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



Fostering Innovation



A lot

Our institution supports innovation significantly through teaching and learning.

Experiential Learning



A lot

Our institution supports experiential learning significantly through teaching and learning.



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 2024, International Business School Suzhou, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University was awarded funding for research that is:



**Institution
Specific**



Local



Regional



National



International

Socializing Research

In 2024, International Business School Suzhou, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University 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



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)
- ❖ EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development)
- ❖ United Nations organs other than the UN Global Compact
- ❖ EMBA Consortium
- ❖ QTEM
- ❖ RCE Network

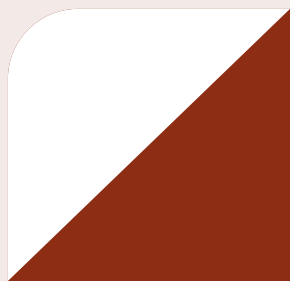
Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ Oikos International
- ❖ PRME Global Students



Practice

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



Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Buildings/real estate
- ❖ Campus operations guides
- ❖ Curriculum guidelines
- ❖ Faculty hiring, tenure, and promotion guidelines
- ❖ Ministry of education recommendation documents
- ❖ Professional training opportunities
- ❖ Ethical data sourcing guides
- ❖ Local staff/student/faculty transportation



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

International Business School Suzhou, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University offers transparent engagement opportunities for members of our institution and community to contribute to our sustainability and responsibility efforts in the following ways:

- ❖ Partnerships with local organizations
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions
- ❖ Student and staff volunteer programs
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities

Communication Audiences

International Business School Suzhou, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool 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
- ❖ 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

International Business School Suzhou, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University



Address

8 Chongwen Road, BS 514, South Campus of XJTLU
China



Website

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/study/departments/international-business-school-suzhou/>