

PRiME

*an initiative of the
United Nations Global Compact*

Sharing Information on Progress 2026

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

Strategy Alignment

Strategic Alignment 2026

Our commitment to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (UN-PRME) is integral to Durham University Business School's Strategic Framework and to our wider purpose as a globally engaged business school. Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability (ERS) is not a discrete strand of activity, but a transversal commitment that informs our research, education, partnerships, engagement and institutional practice. It is central to our ambition to develop responsible leaders and entrepreneurs, generate knowledge of consequence, and contribute to more equitable, sustainable and prosperous futures.

Institutional History

Institutional History

In 2025, Durham University Business School proudly marked 60 years of excellence in business education, research, and impact. Since the launch of our first programme in 1965, we have shaped generations of leaders, advanced ground-breaking research, and built a strong global community. The School signed the United Nations Principles of Responsible Management (PRME) in 2012 and our commitment to the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education continues and is embedded within our Strategic framework.

Graduates & Enrollment

2025 Statistics	Number
Graduates	2246
Faculty & Staff at the University	4800
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	340
Student Enrollment at the University	21734
Student Enrollment at the Institution	4549
Undergraduate Attendance	3204

2025 Statistics	Number
Masters-Level Postgraduate Attendance	1010
Doctoral Student Attendance	266
Certificate, Professional Development, or Continuing Education Attendance	69

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.)
-  Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.)

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

-  BSc Economics with Management
-  BSc Economics and Politics
-  BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics
-  BSc Accounting
-  BSc Accounting and Finance
-  BSc Finance
-  BA Business and Management
-  BA Marketing and Management
-  BSc Economics

Masters Degree Programmes

-  MSc Accounting Analytics and Sustainability
-  MSc Accounting
-  MSc Economics
-  MSc Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
-  MSc Behavioural Economics
-  MSc Finance
-  MSc Finance (Accounting and Finance)
-  MSc Finance (Economics and Finance)
-  MSc Finance (Finance and Investment)
-  MSc Finance (Financial Technology and Banking)
-  Finance (Corporate and International Finance)
-  MSc Management and Finance
-  MSc Islamic Finance
-  MSc Management
-  MSc Management (Consulting)
-  MSc Management (Entrepreneurship)
-  MSc Human Resource Management
-  MSc Management (Supply Chain Logistics)
-  MSc International Business
-  MSc Marketing
-  The Durham MBA
-  The Durham–European Business School Executive MBA (EMBA)

Postgraduate Degree Programmes

-  The Durham DBA
-  The Global DBA Durham-Emlyon
-  PhD Accounting
-  PhD Management and Marketing
-  PhD Economics
-  PhD Finance

Certificates, Professional Development, or Associate Programmes

-  The Durham Senior Leader Apprenticeship



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Letter of Commitment



Executive Dean's Introduction

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Since our previous Sharing Information on Progress report, we have strengthened both the breadth and the practical impact of this commitment. Sustainability is increasingly embedded across the School's intellectual agenda: around 15 per cent of our published research is focused on ESG-related themes, alongside Durham University's wider ambitions for Net Zero and biodiversity gain. Importantly, our focus extends beyond environmental sustainability to encompass responsible innovation, ethical governance, social equity, inclusive growth and the changing responsibilities of organisations in an increasingly complex world.

Our research illustrates this breadth. Colleagues are producing scholarship that addresses sustainability reporting, responsible leadership, supply-chain resilience and the translation of research into public policy and organisational practice. Recent work has examined, among other issues, how pro-equality legislation can reduce executive gender pay gaps; the organisational conditions that enable environmentally sustainable product innovation; and ethical governance frameworks for immersive technologies. These are important examples of research connecting rigorous scholarship with questions of fairness, accountability and responsible innovation.

Our commitment to responsible management also increasingly informs interdisciplinary research and policy engagement. Through Just Transitions to a Net Zero World (JusTNOW), colleagues in economics, finance and management are working with partners including the

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Bank of England, IFC, World Bank Group and other academic and policy institutions to address how the transition to a net-zero economy can be both economically effective and socially just. Through the Space Applications Research Centre (SPARC), where the Business School contributes expertise in space logistics, sustainability and governance, we are extending questions of responsible and sustainable management into the rapidly developing space economy.

In education, our responsibility is not simply to teach sustainability as a topic, but to prepare graduates to exercise judgement in circumstances where economic, technological, social and environmental considerations intersect. Ethical leadership, ESG, sustainable finance, responsible innovation and the governance of emerging technologies increasingly feature across our programmes and experiential learning. Our work in areas such as fintech and digital assets, for example, is explicitly concerned with preparing graduates to lead responsibly in data-rich and highly regulated markets. This reflects a broader educational philosophy in which critical thinking, ethical judgement and the ability to lead diverse organisations responsibly are essential dimensions of contemporary management education.

We are also extending this educational impact internationally. Through the Australia Awards Africa course, Financing Climate Action in Africa, Durham colleagues are working with partners across Africa, Australia and Asia to build the capabilities of senior officials in climate finance, low-carbon development and capital mobilisation, using live cases to strengthen institutional capacity and cross-country learning. Our strategic relationship with the University of Gothenburg similarly provides a platform for joint work on sustainability, including the interaction between artificial intelligence and sustainable development, collaborative research and student engagement.

Our partnerships and engagement are equally important to the way we interpret PRME. We recognise that responsible management cannot be advanced by universities acting alone. Our partnerships increasingly bring together business, government and civil society around shared societal challenges. Our work with the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, for example, connects research on Net Zero, innovation and inclusive productivity with policy and practice across the North of England. Through Smart & Scale and our partnership with Barclays Eagle Labs, we are supporting SMEs and entrepreneurs navigating the interconnected challenges of digitalisation, Net Zero and productivity.

Responsible finance remains another area of distinctive strength. The School's work in ethical finance addresses financial reporting, sustainable development and broader conceptions of value beyond financial return. Our partnership with the Securities Commission Malaysia further demonstrates how these principles translate internationally through collaboration in Islamic finance, regulatory excellence and responsible financial leadership.

Our understanding of responsibility also encompasses equity and inclusion. The inaugural Woman of the North Summit, hosted by the School with Health Equity North, the Northern Health Science Alliance and Leigh Day, brought together civic leaders, academics and advocates to address persistent health and social inequalities affecting women across the North and contributed to the launch of the Women of the North Charter. This reflects our conviction that sustainable prosperity must also be inclusive prosperity.

Finally, we recognise that institutional credibility depends upon aligning what we teach and research with how we operate. Our Waterside Building is conceived not simply as a physical home for the School, but as a hub for collaboration, place-based growth, industry partnership

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and the creation of a more equitable and sustainable future. Our activities sit within Durham University's wider environmental ambitions, including its commitment to Net Zero by 2035 and net biodiversity gain by 2032.

PRME therefore provides both a framework and a challenge. It requires us continually to examine whether our research addresses questions that matter; whether our graduates are equipped to exercise responsible leadership; whether our partnerships generate meaningful public value; and whether our own decisions reflect the principles we advocate.

Our ambition is not simply to demonstrate alignment with responsible management education, but to contribute actively to its development. By connecting rigorous scholarship with education, policy, business and society, we will continue to ensure that Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability remain at the heart of Durham University Business School — translating global thought into lasting impact.

Professor Kieran Jude Fernandes
Executive Dean

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Values

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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
- ❖ Senior leadership office
- ❖ Student contributor

Student Voices

The following narrative demonstrates how Durham University Business School has influenced students' academic journey and personal growth.

Kalila Helen Mackenzie: Sustainability Journey



I have been committed to environmental sustainability for some time now, and I have looked to contribute to tackling climate change in both my professional and personal life. In my 'previous life' working as a Strategy Consultant for a Southern African Financial Services Group, I developed the Group's Sustainability Strategy, including working alongside the finance team to roll-out the bank's Green Bond. Personally, I changed my consumption to more sustainable products, from frequenting the 'zero-waste' store to changing to a lower-carbon diet.

I then decided to undertake my postgraduate studies as I want to become a professor in environmental economics. I undertook my MSc in Economics at the University of Exeter, and did my thesis on the UK's waste management strategy, investigating if England would reach its recycling target by 2035. My key finding was – tackle food waste! I hope in the near future all councils across

the UK include food waste collection, as this will go a long way towards reducing waste sent to the landfill and the related carbon emissions. Personally, I switched to composting and taking my food waste to collection bins.

I applied to Durham University for my PhD as I was excited to join the Centre for Environmental and Energy Economics, which includes some of the top academics in the field of environmental economics. I believe that tackling climate change is the biggest issue we face globally, and that applying economic theory to addressing it, from policy design to international environmental agreements, is fundamental to overcoming this global challenge.

When I started my PhD, initially my research proposal was to investigate the impact of policy changes to Feed-in Tariffs on UK households' adoption of solar panels. I come from South Africa, where solar panels have become a necessary investment for households and businesses, to tackle the on-going crisis of the national electricity provision (or lack thereof).

Central heating and the environmental impact of natural gas was not forefront in my mind. This changed quickly after experiencing my first winter in Durham! I was fortunate enough to be included by my supervisor, Prof. Laura Marsilliani, in the geothermal energy from mines and solar geothermal heat ([GEMS](#)) research project. This project was fundamental to my PhD research. I gained broad exposure to the landscape of heating in the UK – from the local coalmining heritage to the groundbreaking research into developing geothermal district heating solutions.

Within the GEMS project, we worked alongside Earth Sciences, Anthropology and Engineering researchers to understand how to address the environmental, social, political and technical issues in developing geothermal heat. We designed a household survey with a discrete choice experiment that captured households' stated preferences for low-carbon heating solutions. The data from this survey has been used in the empirical analysis of choice modelling in my PhD research. I was awarded first prize at the Durham Energy Day 2023 for my research poster.

I also gained extensive knowledge from taking a Teaching Assistant role for the modules Economics of Sustainability and Environmental Economics and Policy. Through the discussion-based seminars with the students, I learnt a great deal about global sustainability issues on topics ranging from agriculture, forestries, fisheries and international climate agreements. It was immensely rewarding to engage with students on these topics, and to challenge both them and myself to contemplate how economic policy can be utilised to address sustainability across industries and globally for the future.

Throughout my PhD, I have looked to engage broadly on the topic of decarbonising heat in the UK. This has ranged from attending and presenting at academic seminars, workshops and conferences in the UK and abroad, being an active member of the Durham Energy Institute, the Centre for Environmental and Energy Economics and the Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy,

presenting my research to policymakers at Durham, Westminster and the Senedd, and discussing low-carbon heating systems with local community members at outreach events. I have found that all facets of engagement on the topic have been rewarding.

Going forward, I am pursuing a role teaching and researching in environmental economics. I understand the key role research can play in shaping thinking and ideally impacting on policy design in the field of environmental economics at both a country and international level. I have also been filled with appreciation from engaging with students on their own sustainability behaviour, and hopefully encouraging them (and myself) to engage in a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

[From sustainability consultancy in South Africa to groundbreaking climate research at Durham – The Durham Student](#)

Values Voices

Testimonial - Sophia Brady Video Transcript

Newly graduated student Sophia Brady (Combined Social Science honours) shares how Business School ERS values embedded in our teaching, research and engagement have inspired her to become a future sustainability leader.

Hello everyone, I'm Sophia Brady, a recent graduate from Durham University. I'm really excited to talk to you about my experience studying sustainability at Durham University Business School. Across all the sustainability related modules that I took from the Business School, I observed that reflection was a core pillar of their teaching pedagogy and it was reflection from multiple angles, not just reflection upon the content itself but with how it interacted with the current world and the current world's engagement with sustainability.

How could this knowledge theorem idea be practically introduced into the business world and how we as students and young professionals going out into the world could utilise this knowledge in our own sustainability goals?

My engagement with sustainability at Durham has been the primary provider of experience in academic policy and research contexts studying sustainability in both the Business School and Earth Science department. I have been really encouraged and challenged to seek to understand sustainability from multiple different viewpoints and disciplines. This multi distancing perspective has really opened my eyes to contemplate in question what are the fundamental drivers which has brought us here today. My engagement with the Centre for Sustainable Development Law and policy has enabled me to see and more deeply understand the complex multifaceted problems and

considerations one has to think about when creating climate change and sustainability policy. Furthermore, researching and endeavouring to create pathways for the circular use of waste material has also given me insights into sustainability scientific research.

Throughout my studies and engagement with sustainability teaching at Durham, I've always been encouraged to think of sustainability in a long-term context, to reflect on why businesses sometimes struggle to do so, and to reflect on how companies can evolve beyond the business-as-usual rhetoric. As sustainability is fundamentally a systemic and structural problem, I do agree that we need to teach how to analyse the problem from all angles, to uncover the design and impact of these structures and systems around us, and to tackle the problem from a different, more comprehensive perspective.

My studies at Durham have helped me cultivate my current viewpoint on the climate crisis and the imperatives that sustainability asks of us, and the more I engaged, the more I saw my position deepen and strengthen. There's so many of the projects I have worked on with Durham Business School as a student. The spirit of collaborative ideation and working has been evident and is a central pillar of the school. There are ample opportunities for students to engage with the Business School outside of their degree work and when I did engage with such things and with research centres, all ideas were discussed and given space regardless of rank or seniority. I felt that my opinions, my ideas and my voice mattered.

I think overall this displays a great commitment to collaborative action from the university, the Business School and its staff. Based on my experience at Durham University Business School, I believe that the teaching and learning I received deeply enforced the idea that to solve this problem, we as a society need a major shift in our values and our thinking. It encouraged me to see environmental and social problems not as separate issues, but as part of a complex integrated system that demands holistic interdisciplinary solutions.

For example, my own dissertation looked at creating a theoretical model for value driven sustainability. But the idea for my dissertation came from my years of study and how my engagement with Durham had developed and changed my understanding of the issue. I also strongly agree with the assertion that creating a more sustainable and wiser world necessitates a change in mindset. It is often the case that traditional organisational values are often rooted in short term gains and silent thinking. My studies challenged me to consider alternative perspectives, embracing sustainability not as an add on but as a core value, prompting me to think differently about leadership, decision making and collaboration.

Experience engaging with sustainability education for Durham has impacted me profoundly. The encouragement I received to study in the multidisciplinary fashion, learning about how multiple different fields and disciplines think about and engage with sustainability, and my work specifically

with and the Business School and its associated research centres, has really helped me to see the problem and to dig for the truth about the fundamental nexus of the problem and how as a society, we need to strive to embody the values of sustainability without creating or exacerbating inequality.

Personally, now I aspire to wholly dedicate my career to sustainability, promoting a moral values driven approach, ethical practices and systemic change, and I endeavour throughout my career to contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Celebrating Values

The following demonstrates a way in which our institution celebrates values in various specializations.

Black History Month Event

On Thursday 30 October the Business School held a talk in celebration of Black History Month titled **'Carrying Weight, Carving Space: Black Women Professors and the Labour of Leadership in British Academia'** with **Dr Vanessa Iwowo**, Business School, Birkbeck University of London.

In contemporary times, Black Women Academics in the UK occupy a liminal position. Paradoxically on the one hand, they appear hyper-visible as symbols of diversity and inclusion; and on the other, are seemingly invisibilized and occluded from within the more intricate infrastructure and economies of academic power. This talk reflects on personal struggles and triumphs in leadership, highlighting the interlocking axes of race, gender, and culture and how these intersections have shaped both burden and brilliance. Drawing on decolonial feminist thought, I explore leadership as an embodied practice of endurance, care, and transformation, and through stories of resistance and renewal, I extend an invitation to rethink leadership not as hierarchy or individual success, but as community and the collective labour of *survival*, *opportunity* and *possibility* within an academy that is still learning to see us fully.

Continue telling your story

EDI Event - What's Really Wrong with Decolonisation?

On Thursday 22 January 2026, the Business School held an EDI Forum event with Hameed Chughtai from Lancaster University.

This talk served as a deliberate provocation. It invited us to pause. It will explore the discomfort surrounding decolonial thought. The aim was to collectively interrogate our foundations and examine who our research (and education) serves and whose knowledge we value. Together we explored the

difficult questions. This dialogue opened a space for imagination. This duty exists within our universities; we will explore pathways toward just and responsible research and practice in and beyond our institutions.

Durham University Staff Men's Network

Varqa Shamsi Bahar, Associate Professor, in the department of Management and Marketing, Durham University Business School was appointed as Co-Chair to the Durham University Staff Men's Network. This network provides a space for connection, support, and open discussion around issues affecting men in the workplace. It will explore mental health and wellbeing, paternity and family life, physical health, LGBTQ+ inclusion, faith and spirituality, and any other areas members identify as important.

CARE Initiative

The CARE initiative was launched in February 2026, jointly organised by EDI leads of professional services staff and academic in the Department of Management and Marketing. All staff are invited to attend the CARE sessions which will feature informal sessions over coffee/tea and pastries to discuss relevant workplace matters, such as navigating rejections in research, disability in the workplace, and supporting mothers returning from maternity leave. The format of the sessions includes question prompts from prior to provide to 3-4 colleagues who will share their reflections on a theme, and then colleagues can share their views too and continue that conversation over tea/coffee.



Teach

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



Courses that support RME

Durham University Business School reports 18 courses in 2025 that support responsible management education and sustainable development goals.

Digital, Resilient and Sustainable Procurement | BUSI4X615

This course aims:

To provide an overview of the latest research and leading practices related to embedding sustainability in procurement

To provide an overview of the latest research and leading practices related to sourcing risk management and to develop resilience in supply chains.

To provide an understanding of the adoption of digital technologies in procurement and how digital technology adoption can impact the overall performance of the organisation.



Consultants, Consultancies and Ethics | BUSI4AW15

This course aims:

To provide students with an in-depth understanding, at an advanced level, of the consulting profession, the consulting role and the way consultancies are organized and take responsibility for their employees as well as for their clients and society more broadly.

The course also aims at providing the basis for making an informed choice to start a career as management consultant.



Ethics and Sustainability in Accounting | ACCT1151

Aims

To introduce students to the social and ethical contexts in which accountants operate including examples of issues from the world of work.

To ensure students demonstrate an awareness of professional codes of ethics for accountants.

To ensure that students can differentiate between the various ethical approaches, identify when an ethical issue arises and propose alternative solutions.

Content

Normative ethical theories

Ethical concepts of duty and justice

Ethical decision making

Working in the public interest

Professional codes of ethics

Corporate social responsibility

Moral development

Learning Outcomes

Subject-specific Knowledge:

On completion of this module students should be able to:

Describe and compare ethical frameworks including consequentialist and non-consequentialist approaches.

Apply this knowledge to scenarios from the business and accounting contexts.

Subject-specific Skills:

On completion of this module students should be able to:

Identify and evaluate an ethical dilemma in an accounting context and propose a solution (s).

Assess professional codes of ethics for accountants and identify when the fundamental principles are being challenged.

Key Skills:

Written Communication

Digital Literacy - using online discussion and developing internet etiquette

Ethical development - awareness of own level of development

Modes of Teaching, Learning and Assessment and how these contribute to the learning outcomes of the module

Learning will be based on knowledge transfer and application of knowledge from workshops, directed study and independent study. Investigation of cases and real world organisations will underpin the workshops to encourage students to develop awareness of cultural and contextual differences.

Workshop activities, discussion boards, portfolio building and assessment will ensure students can apply their knowledge within the accounting context.

The formative assessment will provide feedback to students regarding their understanding of ethical frameworks and allow them to reflect on their own ethical development.

The summative assignment is a portfolio of small tasks which will give students the opportunity to propose alternative solutions to an ethical dilemma whilst encouraging the development of the reflective practitioner. This will include work in the discussion fora allowing students to address a number of different ethical issues.

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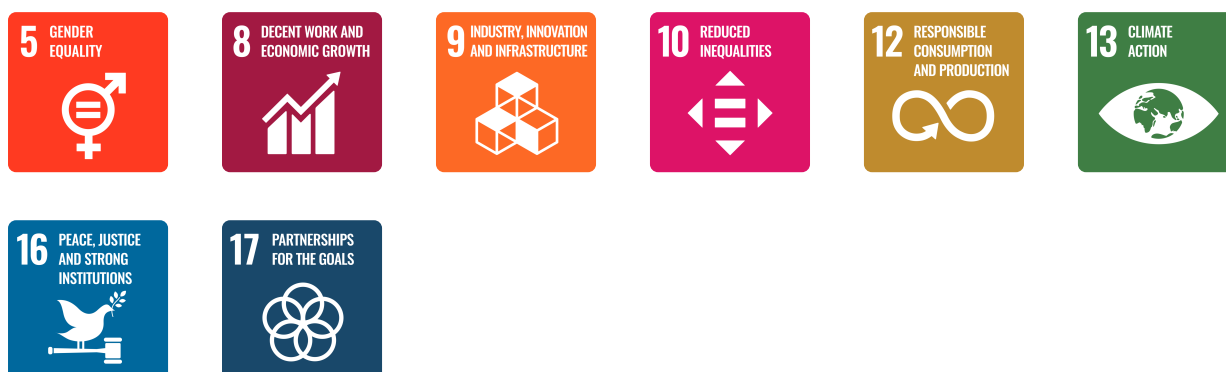
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Corporate Governance | ACCT40915

Aims

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of:

- the theoretical underpinnings of corporate governance;
- the underlying concepts and practice of corporate governance;
- the academic research in corporate governance informing practice, policy and regulatory debates;
- the role of corporate governance as a means of accountability in organisations and society;
- a global and holistic perspective concerning corporate governance.

Content

- Theoretical positioning of corporate governance
- Regulation of corporate governance
- Governance role of board of directors
- Governance role of audit committees
- Internal and external audit, risk and internal control
- Governance of directors remuneration
- Governance role of ownership structures, specifically focusing on institutional investors
- Corporate social responsibility and the changing expectations in governance
- Future of corporate governance



The Economics of Sustainability | ECON1051

Aims

To facilitate students' understanding of evolving approaches to how economists analyse environmental issues as well as contribute to decision-making about the environment and intergenerational equity. Students will be made aware of the limitations of economic approaches in the real world.

Content

A range of material is covered at an introductory level with emphasis on topics such as:

Economics of sustainability: intergenerational equity, discount rates, interdisciplinary approaches to environmental issues

Growth and the Environment: limits to economic growth and technology.

Green accounting and environmental indicators.

Welfare economics.

Environmental valuation.

Analytical tools - e.g. cost-benefit analysis, cost effectiveness and alternatives.

Economic efficiency and markets, market failure, externalities.

Instruments of pollution control policy: environmental standards, taxes, tradable permits.

Criteria for evaluating environmental policies.

Resource economics: renewable and non-renewable.

Energy economics.

Global environmental problems: Climate change, biodiversity loss, land use, world fisheries, urban-rural tensions.

Topics in the economics of sustainability and policy solutions.



Environmental and Climate Economics | ECON40615

Aims

To provide students with an advanced knowledge and critical understanding of the economic aspects of environmental problems, with a particular focus on climate change, and of specialist economic tools to analyse and solve those problems.

Content

Topics may include:

Pollution targets

Pigouvian taxation

Environment Externalities

Property rights

Coase's theorem

International environmental problems and agreements

Mitigation and Adaptation solutions to climate change

Welfare change measurement for price and environmental quality changes

Direct and indirect methods for environmental valuation and their data sources

Revealed preference approaches and selected case studies

• Stated preference approaches and selected case studies.



Ethics and Finance | FINN1071

Aims

The aims of the module are the following:

introduce students to key concepts in ethics and their articulations in finance and financial offerings.

discuss emerging ethical-based financing offerings, including ESG, social and sustainable development financing.

provide students with frameworks and skills necessary to understand and critically evaluate the ethical nature of financial offerings in different institutional forms, including ESG, FinTechs and capital markets.

Content

Ethical and Moral Foundations of Finance.

Changing Financial Landscape and the Importance of Ethics in Finance and Financial Decision Making.

Shareholder Value Maximisation vs Stakeholder Governance in Financial Sector

Ethical Screening Methods in Finance and Investment: ESG, Responsible Finance, Impact Investing, Social Investment.

Sustainable Development Financing.

Ethical Capital Markets: Approaches and Products.

Financial Inclusion, Inclusive Finance and Microfinance.

Ethical Issues in Digital Financial Offerings, Fintechs, and Social Finance.

Ethical and Social Finance Regulations.



Climate Finance | FINN41515:

Aims

The goal of this course is to become equipped with analytical tools in Economics and Finance applied to the study of Green Finance and Sustainable Economics. There are many professional opportunities in the Green Finance sector. It is a rapidly emerging sector and it also plays a key role in the consulting and the traditional banking and finance sectors that face the threats of climate change. Moreover, in recent time, Green Finance sector has been a hotbed of new startup ventures. This makes green economy as one of the most important areas to understand.

Content

Sustainable investment methodologies;

ESG Megatrends;

ESG & Fixed income products;

ESG & Banking;

ESG & Equity, Private Equity & alternative investments;

Climate risks assessments;

Sustainable Real Estate;

The course is on a contemporary set of issues, so the topics above are indicative and subject to change as the various political and economic mechanisms evolve with the ongoing debate on how to pay for climate change mitigation and resilience.



Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability | BUSI3241

Aims

This module provides a foundation upon which students can build their understanding of and ability to critique the role of business in society from a critical political economy perspective. It draws on a wide range of sources for the critical analysis of corporate social and environmental responsibilities and engages participants in debate about contemporary ethical issues and related business practices. It equips participants to apply a range of relevant theories and concepts to processes for managing corporate responsibilities, and critically evaluate proposals for rethinking and reforming business

Content

Introducing CR: Why Corporate Responsibility?

Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability: A Critical Political Economy Approach.

Business in a Stakeholder Society and the Reform of Corporate Governance.

Business Ethics, AI Ethics and Technomoral Wisdom.

Sustainability Imperatives: SDGs, ESG, Green New Deal & AI for Good.

The Sharing Economy, the Zero Marginal Cost Society and Business Model Innovation:

Responsible Leadership, Decision-Making, Operations and HRM.

Responsible Marketing, Sustainable Supply Chain Management and Fair Trade.

Responsible Financial Management and Accounting: Integrated Reporting and Impact Investing.

The Future of the Corporation in the Age of Surveillance Capitalism and a VUCA Environment.



Sustainable Supply Chain Management | BUSI48W15

Aims

Introduce how businesses and their extended supply chains are having an impact on Sustainability (Economic, Social, and Environmental)

Provide a critical understanding of how sustainability creates trade-offs in supply chain processes like procurement and often influences the supply chain structure.

Explore the critical drivers, key barriers, and successful interventions in implementing the principles of sustainability across the supply chains.

Discuss the emerging landscape and importance of sustainability across supply chain practices, based on real-life case studies.

Content

Introduction to Supply Chains and its impact on Sustainability

Evolution of the idea of sustainability and the key drivers

Sustainable Procurement Practices and Challenges

Key Stakeholders and Trade-offs

Reconfiguring Operations and Supply Chain

Developing a Strategy for Sustainable Supply Chains

Creating Sustainable Eco-System

Markets for Sustainable Goods/ Services

Certification & Carbon Management

Sustainability and Technology



Social Marketing, Ethics and Sustainability | BUSI2381

Aims

The module aims to enable students to consider the scope of commercial marketing techniques for social change campaigns and specifically it aims to:

Determine what is the nature of exchange in social marketing

Examine various marketing theories and how these can be applied to social marketing

Identify how well current models derived from the private sector address the salient issues of social marketing

Consider how social marketing might be used to promote ethical and sustainable practice that bring social benefits

Determine to what extent social causes can be more successfully advanced through applying the principles of marketing analysis, planning and controls to problems of social change.

Content

History and development of social marketing

Definition and domain of social marketing

Ethics in social marketing

Analysing the social marketing environment

Upstream social marketing

Social marketing and behaviour modification

The social marketing mix

Social marketing communications

Implementation and monitoring of social marketing campaigns

Application of marketing to social behaviours (environmental and sustainability marketing, tobacco regulation, smoking cessation programmes, campaigns designed to promote moderation in alcohol consumption and the use of fear appeals, use of marketing to promote other social behaviours, such as donation behaviour, piracy, etc).



Sustainability and Ethics (FT MBA Module) | ECON48210

Aims

To contribute to the overall aims of the programme by developing students' understanding of the impact of sustainability and ethical issues on organisations.

To explore the concept of global sustainability as it relates to business and other organisations.

To consider the role and purpose of business and other organisations in relation to other actors in society.

To review current trends in Business Ethics, Corporate Social Responsibility, Risk Management and Compliance, and Governance.

To develop links with the Business School's research strategy by incorporating current research into corporate social responsibility.

Content

Global ecological and social sustainability and the impact on and responsibilities of organisations

The role and purpose of business and other organisations
Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility
Stakeholder theory and alternative approaches to business ethics
Governance

Modes of Teaching, Learning and Assessment and how these contribute to the learning outcomes of the module

The module will be delivered in a series of workshops. Each of the workshops will typically involve a mixture of lecture input, groupwork and feedback. Workshops will be used to deliver core knowledge and explain theories and models; it is also expected that external speakers will deliver guest lectures and contribute to a subsequent discussion in more than one of the workshops. Groupwork will involve activities such as the discussion of a paper or a case study set in advance with students preparing material to feed back during a plenary session. The material covered in workshops and groupwork will include a global perspective on the issues that sustainability gives rise to and, while being focused on business organisations, will not be exclusively so. Outside of class time students will be expected to read widely and prepare for the following class.

Formative assessment will consist of writing up answers to one of the case studies.

Summative assessment will consist of an individual assignment based on an organisation of the students choice (but not one of the case study companies considered in class, and agreed in advance with the Module Leader) in which the various aspects of the module are applied to consider what the organisation would have to do to move to be sustainable in the medium to long term. The resit opportunity will also be an individual assignment but based on a different organisation to the original submission.



Facing the Future | BUSI3401

This course aims:

To develop a deep and critical appreciation for futures-thinking and foresight methods, using academic frames, narratives, and insights.

To develop an awareness of global systemic issues arising from major existential threats and the corresponding negative effects on businesses, markets, societies, and institutions.

To develop students' anticipatory competencies, imagining and envisioning potential and predictable future scenarios, evaluating opportunities and threats on which the survival of people and the planet depend.



Global Environmental Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility

| BUSI4BJ15

The Global Environmental Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility Sustainability module will strive to equip students with up-to-date knowledge on contemporary environmental issues such as resource depletion, carbon footprint, and the roles of a diverse range of stakeholders in driving changes and addressing the issues. This module provides an overview of the contemporary economic, legislative, and political challenges in combating environmental issues and minimising the environmental footprint of businesses.



Responsible Business | BUSI4BP15

This course aims:

To equip students with a comprehensive understanding of how businesses can act responsibly to address global challenges, particularly through alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To develop skills to create sustainable business strategies, develop responsible business modes, fostering ethical decision-making, and promoting cross-sector collaboration.

To prepare students to lead organisations that balance profitability with social responsibility and environmental stewardship.



Sustainability in Banking | FINN44115

This course aims to:

Develop advanced knowledge and critical understanding of key concepts and modern issues in banking related to sustainability from Artificial Intelligence, climate, colonial, financial inclusion and ethical perspectives.

Provide a thorough synthesis of the most important current research in sustainable banking, with an

emphasis on the applications of the key principles.

Develop students' ability to master the knowledge and understanding at an advanced level of the means by which new challenges to banks from the Artificial Intelligence, climate, colonial, financial inclusion and ethical perspectives can be managed.



Natural Resource Economics | ECON44615

This course aims to:

To provide the students with an advanced knowledge and critical understanding of issues related to natural resource management.



Work and Society | BUSI5F015

This course aims:

To develop students' knowledge and understanding of key issues relating to trends in work and society.



Teaching Awards

In 2025, 1 award was given to faculty and educators at Durham University Business School.

Global Curriculum Award

Granter: Durham University

Grantee: Angela Green

Award Description:

This award recognises an initiative which enhances student learning at module or programme level by offering a more inclusive, internationally orientated curriculum. This could include initiatives that encourage integration of home and international students, initiatives that encourage intercultural understanding, communication and collaboration, and/or incorporate content aligned with international sustainable development goals, thereby making the curriculum more appealing and relevant to our diverse body of students and delivering benefits to their global attributes and future employability.

Teaching Voices

The following statement demonstrates ways in which educators at Durham University Business School support sustainability and responsible management in their classrooms.

Responsible use of AI for Dissertation writing

MSc Marketing, Programme Director, Professor Helen Goworek announces an important development in connection to the responsible use of AI in dissertation writing. Following her participation at the QS Reimagine Education Conference in London December 2025.



'A session on embedding AI responsibly into Teaching and Research was led by QS president Nunzio Quacquarelli and also attended by Sam Nolan, Director of Durham Centre for Academic Development. The session built on the work of the Responsible AI Consortium initiated by QS in collaboration with Imperial Business School, EDHEC and Luiss Business School, providing a capability framework for AI. [Responsible AI Consortium | QS](#) Durham could consider joining this consortium or following the framework. As a result of the discussion on how to use AI responsibly and the importance of dissertation supervision, this conversation has had a positive impact on curriculum development at Durham in that dissertation tutorial attendance will consequently become compulsory for marketing and management students in 2026/27, to oversee students' responsible use of AI.'

Continue telling your story

Financing Climate Action in Africa short course



Our international reach is also reflected in our work on global challenges. Professors Habib Rahman, Julian Williams, Michael Naef and Dr Nourin Shabnam were part of an international team that delivered a Financing Climate Action in Africa short course in Mauritius. They helped senior officials develop the skills to access and structure climate finance, create robust measurement and reporting plans and produce fundable, implementation-ready projects.

Open Course on Sustainability and Ethics

Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability continues to be embedded across the curriculum, including through the Open Course on Sustainability and Ethics, which has been refreshed for the 2026-27 academic year to include discipline-specific content in Accounting, Economics, Finance, Management and Marketing. In addition, every three years, the School surveys Module Leaders on ERS content to inform curriculum development and external accreditation reporting; the most recent exercise ran in 2025 and we are preparing for the next review round.



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, Durham University Business School was awarded funding for research that is:



**Institution
Specific**



National



International



Local



Regional

Socializing Research

In 2025, Durham University Business School contributed research findings to:

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

Research Projects

In 2025, Durham University Business School reported 9 research projects that implemented responsible or sustainable activities.

Great British Chemicals

Period Covering: August, 2025 - July, 2032

Department: Finance

Our Vision: Great British Chemicals will make, collate and translate knowledge from research on defossilising the chemicals value chain across technologies, policy, energy and industrial systems, to deliver impact in partnership with industry, civic bodies, national government and the third sector ensuring a strong economy, and an improved environment, which is fair, and creates inclusive opportunities.

The triple drivers leading to a focus on defossilising chemicals are:

- the major contribution of the chemicals sector to the UK's industrial carbon emissions;
- the dependence of all industries/manufacturing sectors and the health of citizens on chemicals.
- the critical importance of the chemicals sector to the UK economy.

Reducing the UK Carbon emissions by 78% by between 1990 and 2035 (6th Carbon Budget) cannot be achieved without addressing the carbon embedded in the feedstocks and processes used across the foundation industries. A rapid adoption of smarter technologies is needed, now. Creating a net zero chemicals industry is a huge challenge due to its diversity and complexity but we have the opportunity to address the underlying issues: how to change the feedstocks and processes with the least disruption to the existing capital infrastructure. We will therefore target the foundation chemicals with the existing petrochemical industries and develop new approaches to producing defossilised equivalents to create a new, de-fossilised chemicals supply chain, and evaluation of end-of-life fate to ensure interventions are benign by design. We will approach this using a whole system approach, identifying and replacing hotspots with zero fossil alternatives. Many consortia are addressing challenges of non-fossil feedstocks, but very few, if any, consider the chemicals from end-to-end. This is essential to minimise the demand for energy and competition for limited resources, such as biomass. Waste hierarchy principles can also be used to optimise less energy intensive manufacturing including the manufacturing of vehicles, wood products, pharmaceuticals and electronics, among other industries. These sectors provide opportunities for industrial symbiosis by providing byproducts as feedstocks for other industries, i.e. metal powders for catalysts and electrodes, wood waste for valorisation to new monomers, solvents/plastic/chemicals waste from EEE and pharma for functional coatings. These can provide new revenue streams for businesses.

GBC is a complete end-to-end alliance that will transform the way that we address waste to chemicals, leveraging the outcomes of major UKRI investments such as CircularChem and Flue2Chem and aligned research. GBC is a national hub uniting industry, researchers, and policymakers to revolutionise the UK's chemicals using sectors by advancing innovative, scalable technologies that transform waste and renewable resources into sustainable solutions, tackling the grand challenge of reducing fossil fuel dependency while securing resilient, environmentally sound, and economically vibrant supply chains. By the end of this programme, we will have shown how industry can use the net zero transition to make money in one of the most profitable areas for the UK.

The research will be delivered via three work streams: Electrification, Carbon capture and Chemical transformations. These will be underpinned by three cross-cutting Function Streams: Planet, Prosperity, People. Further co-creation and co-delivery with wider stakeholders will be delivered via Flexible Funding which will be structured to deliver an innovation and ideas pipeline:

- Phase 1 (early stage) - identify high-potential research outputs and assess their industry applicability through feasibility studies, market analysis, and project prioritisation based on scalability and readiness.
- Phase 2 (mid stage) – advance prioritised projects to validated tools/services by supporting development, industry collaborations for real-world testing, and both technical and commercial validation.
- Phase 3 (late stage) – enable full-scale deployment by finalising development to industry standards, supporting adoption through pilot programmes, and establishing commercialisation pathways for long-term industry uptake.



Leverhulme Centre for Algorithmic Life

Period Covering: October, 2025 - September, 2035

Department: Management | Marketing

The Leverhulme Centre for Algorithmic Life (CAL) will transform how we understand and study the relationship between human life and machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms. The extraordinarily rapid rise of algorithmic systems is witnessing a seismic shift in how the lives of humans are complexly entangled with machine paradigms of knowledge and action. CAL will be dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of algorithmic life, pursuing one of the most urgent questions for contemporary society: how do we wish to live with and alongside algorithmic technologies? The current field has had a particular focus on locating the “benefits to humanity” of AI or the harmful effects of algorithmic decisions. Appropriate to its time in the mid-2010s, this focus on the “good and the bad” of AI has been reflected in research investment, often positioning the humanities and social sciences as relevant primarily in understanding the distribution of risks and benefits or designing ethical codes of conduct. What is urgently needed is a field of study of algorithmic life that does not begin with the effects of technology on the human, but rather with the very capacities of ML and AI algorithms to remake worlds and to change what it means to be human. Two key research questions animate CAL: what are the novel paradigms of knowledge, perception, and action that emerge with contemporary algorithmic technologies? How do ideas and concepts of what it means to be human transform and adapt in collaboration with the different life-worlds of algorithms?



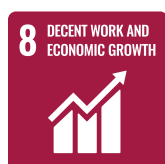
North East England – our energy industry

Period Covering: October, 2025 - April, 2026

Department: Management | Marketing

Project description: The objective of the project is to have a full and complete picture of the energy landscape in North East England covering:

- - Energy sector projects (current and planned, location) and who is involved e.g. owner, operator, main contractors, development timeline and status.
 - Key infrastructure mapping, ports, industrial zones, key businesses / facilities with information on each
 - Jobs in the sector and potential for job creation
 - Visual to be used going forward highlighting key areas and activities in the sector
 - Economic value to the North East of England during development and operating phases.
 - Gaps in the regional supply chain and potential for inward investment.



UK Energy Futures

Period Covering: November, 2025 - October, 2028

Department: Management | Marketing

The North-West of England, North Wales and the East Irish Sea Basin (Figure 1) host significant geo resources that could be used to facilitate the energy transition in the UK, underpin the regional and national energy security, and provide a sustainable energy future for the area when combined with the surficial renewable energy resources such as wind, tidal and solar energy.

The resources available in the region include geothermal heat, net zero carbon high calorific natural gas, storage options for CO₂, hydrogen, compressed air, and geothermal heat as well as the real possibility of commercialising what others consider waste, as well high-level nuclear waste storage. By integrating surface and subsurface energy processes and reusing by-products from processes, we suggest that it is possible to create a low environmental impact energy future and an energy system that acts as a model for elsewhere in the UK, Europe and beyond.

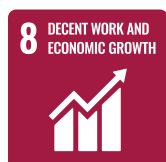


Reconfiguring China's Development Finance in Africa: Geopolitical Shifts and Sectoral and Geographical Allocation Dynamics

Period Covering: March, 2026 - December, 2026

Department: Management | Marketing

This proposed study builds on an ongoing project that analyses how China's policy-bank lending to Africa has evolved amid changing geopolitical and financial dynamics. Using secondary datasets such as AidData, Engineering News-Record, and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce's Investment and Country Guide, the research employs fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA) to examine how geopolitical rivalry, credit risk, and governance factors influence the shifting sectoral and geographical distribution of Chinese finance across African countries. Preliminary findings suggest that tightening overseas lending reflects both rising credit concerns and increasing competition from Western and multilateral financiers. The Seed Fund will support an extension of this work through fieldwork in China, focusing on supplementary interviews with key policy banks to enrich and validate the quantitative findings, providing deeper insight into how institutional and geopolitical considerations shape China's evolving role in Africa's development finance.

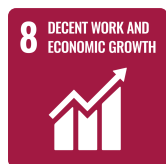


TRACE4MAGNET- Ensuring Traceability of Rare Earth Magnet Supply Chain

Period Covering: February, 2026 - May, 2027

Department: Management | Marketing

This project proposes the development of a blueprint for the development of Digital Magnet Passport (DMP) to enhance traceability, transparency, and trust across the UK rare earth magnet supply chain. The DMP will serve as a secure, privacy-preserving digital record of magnet provenance, lifecycle, and recycling data. By leveraging distributed ledger technologies and through stakeholder co-design, the project aims to address critical challenges associated with supply chain resilience and circularity of rare earth magnet supply chains.



WEAVE: Waste Eliminating Apparel Value Ecosystem

Period Covering: May, 2026 - August, 2027

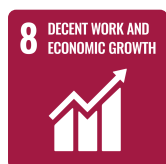
Department: Management | Marketing

Small and medium-sized textile manufacturers in India face growing pressure to reduce waste and carbon emissions while maintaining competitiveness. This project examines how such firms develop zero-waste fabric supply chains by recycling and repurposing scraps into new, sustainable fabrics. Drawing on the perspectives of the Circular Economy and Dynamic Capabilities, we explore how small manufacturers reconfigure their routines, technologies, and partnerships to “close the loop” in production. Using field evidence from garment and fabric mills and modelling their material flows through dynamic optimisation, we aim to generate new theoretical insights into circular manufacturing and practical tools for SME sustainability.

The findings will inform both academic debates on circular operations and policy discussions on low-carbon textile production. The 17-month study combines qualitative content analysis and mathematical modelling, producing a scholarly article and a practitioner guide on zero-waste operations and fabric mills and modelling their material flows through dynamic optimisation, we aim to generate new theoretical insights into circular manufacturing and practical tools for SME sustainability.

The findings will inform both academic debates on circular operations and policy discussions on low-carbon textile production.

The 17-month study combines qualitative content analysis and mathematical modelling, producing a scholarly article and a practitioner guide on zero-waste operations.

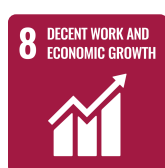


Insight, intervention, impact: co-designing mental health support with small business owners

Period Covering: October, 2025 - February, 2027

Department: Management | Marketing

Many founders and small business owners experience severe mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety and suicide, due to high personal risks, heavy workloads and limited support. Current interventions often fail to support this group, as these are not tailored to business owners' strengths, needs and preferences, which limits access, understanding and use of mental health resources. This project provides in-depth insights into these mental health strengths, needs and preferences, and presents them in a novel way as short narrative videos. We combine interdisciplinary co-design approaches to develop targeted interventions aiming to improve access, understanding and use of mental health resources. By generating ways to sustain these interventions in practice, we seek to achieve long-term impact. Operating at the intersection of mental health and entrepreneurship research, this project advances theoretical understanding and directly applies it to develop interventions promoting the mental health of founders and small business owners.



Strengthening law enforcement with advanced IoT forensic tools and enriched investigation schemes, realised by a Software Defined Network Security-as-a-Service architecture (SALUS)

Period Covering: November, 2025 - October, 2028

Department: Finance

SALUS addresses the growing security challenges of IoT systems by providing law enforcement with (i) new forensic investigation schemes and policies, and (ii) advanced IoT forensic tools for threat detection, evidence collection, and cross-agency collaboration, all while ensuring compliance with EU legal and ethical frameworks. To implement this, the project combines a novel Digital-Twin (DT) infrastructure for proactive threat simulation, a secure Software Defined Network-enabled IoT architecture (SDaaS) acting as the backbone of the DT for dynamic policy enforcement, and AI-powered forensic capabilities for real-time IoT device detection, lawful evidence interception, and blockchain-based chain of custody. Validated through five diverse pilot use cases in collaboration with five (5) police authorities and two (2) critical infrastructure providers (hospitals and nuclear power plants), SALUS bridges technology and operational needs to enhance security in critical infrastructures and IoT ecosystems. The above technological developments will be closely accompanied by activities concerning: i) incorporation of legal and ethical aspects, including fundamental rights, privacy, personal data, etc, ii) integration of operational aspects, alignment with relevant EU cybersecurity policies, analysis of modus operandi, lawful evidence exploitation, and delivery of policy recommendations for tackling new and emerging forms of IoT-related crime, all aimed at improving police authorities' understanding, iii) development of multi-dimensional, comprehensive practitioner training activities and joint exercises, tailored to the organization of

operational-level hackathon activities, iv) Development of investigation, technological and security standards, and v) Establishment of a synergistic ecosystem among related national and EU funded projects, as well as stakeholders from the law enforcement community.



Research Awards

In 2025, Durham University Business School was awarded 3 research awards for responsibility- and/or sustainability-related research.



Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal - Literati Award 2025

Granter: Emerald Publishing

Grantee: Richard Slack, Durham Business School

Award Description:

Since 1993, the Emerald Literati Awards have celebrated the thinkers and innovators whose ideas push boundaries and open new possibilities for the future of knowledge itself.

The award for Outstanding Paper has been the backbone of the Emerald Literati Awards for Excellence. The winners are chosen by a journal editorial team giving the winning authors confidence in knowing that their paper was one of the most impressive pieces of work from the previous year. Professor Richard Slack received this award in 2025 for his work on sustainability reporting.



British Accounting & Finance Association 2025 Life-Time Achievement Award (LAA)

Granter: British Accounting & Finance Association

Grantee: Professor Richard Slack, Durham University Business School

Award Description:

The BAFA Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) is a prestigious award given annually to individuals who have made a substantial and direct contribution to UK academic accounting and finance over the course of their careers. The award is given to individuals who have spent a substantial amount of time in their academic careers within a higher education institute within the UK.

Professor Richard Slack, Durham University Business School, Durham University won the 2025 BAFA Life-Time Achievement Award (LAA) for his substantial and direct contribution to UK academic accounting and finance over the course of his career.

Richard's research examines the use of narrative and corporate reporting information by capital market users and has led funded projects on environmental disclosure and integrated reporting and their use to capital markets. On financial reporting, Richard has a specialist interest in accounting for intangibles, an area directly relevant to inform policy and practice.

Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences

Granter: Academy of Social Sciences

Grantee: Emeritus Professor Carol Adams

Award Description:

Emeritus Professor Carol Adams has been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, recognising her outstanding contribution to the social sciences throughout her academic career.

The Fellowship honours individuals who have made significant contributions to social science through excellence in research, professional practice and wider societal impact.

Research Presentations Related to RME and/or Sustainability

In 2025, Durham University Business School gave 4 research presentations related to RME and/or sustainability.

The use of biometrics and the implications for privacy: An information systems perspective

Authors: Efpraxia Zamani | G. Donta

Date of publication: July, 2026

Presented at: National or international discipline-specific conference

Department: Management | Marketing

This systematic review examines Information Systems (IS) literature on biometric technologies, by focusing on the end user's perspective of privacy, trust and acceptance. Biometrics, by relying on unique physiological and behavioural traits, enhance efficiency, convenience and security. However, at the same time, they raise concerns about surveillance, data permanence, cultural differences, and ethical implications, particularly as applications expand beyond authentication to areas like stress

monitoring and affect detection. Such concerns become even more pronounced within the context of immersive environments, such as metaverses, precisely because the use of biometrics becomes mandatory for users' participation. The analysis reveals that user acceptance of biometric systems is not solely determined by technical accuracy but emerges from broader socio-ethical considerations, including transparency, proportionality, perceived control and the balance between convenience, privacy, and trust. Our findings call for future research that includes cross-cultural and longitudinal studies, explores non-adoption, and investigates biometric data use in immersive contexts. In doing so, the review highlights the socio-technical and ethical dynamics shaping biometric adoption and points to implications for Information Systems research, system design and policy development.



Islamic Finance Development and Climate Resilience: A Cross-Country Comparative Analysis

Authors: Professor Mehmet Asutay | Dr Alireza Zarei

Date of publication: July, 2026

Presented at: National or international discipline-specific conference

Department: Finance

Climate risk has emerged as a new source of systemic risk to financial stability, prompting many countries to accelerate climate-related policy actions. While environmental protection is not a novelty under the *Maqasid al-Shariah*, where environmental stewardship is framed as a moral obligation rather than a voluntary commitment in conventional finance, the Islamic finance industry has progressed more slowly in responding to climate-related risks. This lag is reflected in the rising exposure to both physical and transition climate risks in Islamic countries compared to other countries. Similarly, progress in green fiscal policies remains limited, as evidenced by relatively lower green public spendings and taxes, along persistently high fossil fuel subsidies. These risk dynamics and limited progress complicating the transition toward low-carbon economy pathways, particularly given that nearly 90% of Islamic countries are classified as low- and middle-income economies, which are disproportionately vulnerable to climate risk exposures.

This study aims to explore the relationship between Islamic finance development and climate resilience, assessing whether the multidimensional objectives embedded in Islamic finance translate into improved climate performance. The analysis employs the LSEG Islamic Finance Development Indicator (IFDI) as the main independent variable, alongside the IMF Financial Development Index (FDI) to compare how differing financial objectives influence climate outcomes. Climate performance

is captured using the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index (ND-GAIN), which incorporates measures of climate vulnerability and readiness, as well as carbon intensity to GDP. The empirical analysis covers 113 countries, including Islamic and non-Islamic countries, over the period 2012-2023. The models control for macroeconomic indicators, green finance variables, Islamic financing contract structures, and political regimes.

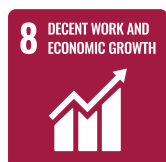
The study applies panel data regressions using fixed and random effects models and robustness check of dynamic panel regressions. In addition, sub-analysis of countries income level and OIC memberships are also conducted. A dynamic panel threshold model is employed to adapt the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) framework, using ND-GAIN as climate variable and the Islamic finance development as the financial transmission channel. Furthermore, Granger causality tests are conducted to explore the direction of causality between Islamic finance development and climate-related indicators.

The findings suggest that Islamic finance development is broadly aligned with sustainability objectives. Countries with more developed Islamic finance systems tend to show higher climate resilience (in terms of ND-GAIN and climate readiness), and lower climate vulnerability. While no significant relationship is observed between IFDI and carbon intensity in the baseline model; however, the correlation becomes stronger when lagged IFDI is introduced, suggesting a delayed effect of Islamic finance development on emissions outcomes. The results also show that autocracy regime is associated with higher climate vulnerability, highlighting governance challenges in climate-risk management.

The findings of sub-analyses reveal that the positive role of Islamic finance development is more pronounced in OIC countries and is particularly effective in supporting climate resilience and reducing vulnerability in low- and middle-income economies. The EKC analysis reveals a reverse U-shaped relationship between country income and climate resilience: climate resilience improves with income growth up to a certain threshold, beyond which further income increases are associated with declining resilience. This pattern highlights important policy implications, including the need for balanced and sustainable climate policies, enhanced cooperation between high- and low-income economies to support just transition, and deeper integration of climate risk into Islamic finance regulatory and supervisory frameworks, alongside continued efforts to strengthen risk awareness and capacity building.

Finally, the causality analysis suggests distinct dynamics between Islamic and conventional financial development. The results indicate bi-directional causality between Islamic finance development (IFDI) and ND-GAIN indicators, including climate readiness and vulnerability, whereas only unidirectional causality observed from conventional finance development (FDI) to climate indicators. These findings suggest that conventional finance responds to climate pressures in a more reactive and opportunistic

manner, often driven by climate shocks, regulatory changes and resilience needs. By contrast, Islamic finance exhibits signs of proactive adaptation, reflecting alignment with broader sustainability and developmental mandates.



Green Investment and Kantian Morality

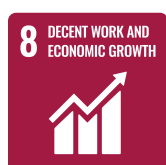
Authors: Laura Marsiliani | Thomas Renstrom

Date of publication: July, 2026

Presented at: National or international discipline-specific conference

Department: Economics

The rise of responsible investment cannot be fully explained by standard utilitarian behaviour. While moral theories have been applied to responsible consumption and voluntary provision of public goods, no attempts have been made at modelling moral investments. This paper develops a model of Kantian moral investment, where agents seek to do the right thing by investing according to how they would want everyone to invest. We derive the first-best Pareto efficient asset pricing relation for this framework, which contains a pollution premium on dirty assets. We compare first-best outcome to the equilibria under non-Kantian, fully Kantian, and partially Kantian scenarios, highlighting the implications for equilibrium pollution levels. In a fully Kantian economy, the equilibrium is Pareto efficient, with wealth inequality and preference heterogeneity shaping portfolio holdings. However, when only a fraction of investors is Kantian, the equilibrium outcome depends on both the proportion of Kantians and the scope of their morality. Specifically, inclusive Kantians- who act on what they believe all agents, including non-Kantians, ought to do- generate more pollution than exclusive Kantians, who adjust their behaviour acknowledging that non-Kantians will not act similarly. As the proportion of non-Kantians increases, the equilibrium deviates further from the Pareto-efficient allocation. These findings provide new insights into the relationship between morality, investment behaviour and environmental outcomes.



Tackling Social Housing Stigma

Authors: Mercy Denedo

Date of publication: September, 2026

Presented at: Regional or local issue or theme-specific conference

Department: Accounting

Stigma in social housing comes in many forms. Earlier research sets out how social housing tenants are affected by stigma, how it shapes their experiences and what can be done about it. Our current research has added to this growing body of knowledge, as has research carried out by the G15 group of housing associations which found that nearly half of tenants feel stigmatised living in social housing, and nearly half of those feel stigmatised because of something the landlord has or has not done. Reading that across the whole sector, that amounts to nearly two million tenancies. Social housing stigma was the most important issue raised by tenants in the post Grenfell Ministerial Roadshows. This led to the development of Stop Social Housing Stigma (SSHS) – a tenant-led campaign to present a positive image of social housing and its tenants and to challenge the stigma attached to social housing.



Publications Related to RME and/or Sustainability

Curating wellness: Exploring healing experiences in digitally transformed museums | [DOI](#)

Authors: Professor Zhibin Lin, Durham University Business School | Changhong Bai | Yanzheng Tuo | Jiankai Wu

Date of publication: December, 2025

Department: Management | Marketing

This study explores how digital technologies shape museums as spaces of healing, using a qualitative case study of the China Grand Canal Museum. We conducted semi-structured interviews with 27 visitors between July and August 2022 and identified five core dimensions of healing experiences: emotional engagement, sensory immersion, attention recovery, creative inspiration, and educational and cultural enlightenment. We further developed a conceptual framework that consists of four sequential stages that illustrate the digital transformation of museum space for healing experience: digital technology enablers, exhibition transformation, enriched visitor experience, and healing value

realization. The findings contribute to understanding how digital technologies enhance museums' therapeutic potential while maintaining cultural authenticity, offering valuable insights for cultural institutions to manage digital transformation effectively.



“A Practice of Fairness”: Social Equity Budgeting in Freedom City | [DOI](#)

Authors: Professor Laurence Ferry, Durham University Business School | Thomas Ahrens

Date of publication: December, 2025

Department: Accounting

Social justice is often theorized as fairness and expressed in equity as part of public administration and associated budgeting practices. Whereas much literature contrasted deontological positions, emphasizing a procedural justice with fairness based on rules, with consequentialist theory that emphasizes a distributional justice based on outcomes, this paper addresses lack of social justice research into practices. As politics of the budget process is fundamental to who gets what, calling upon practice theory, this paper's theorization of “a practice of fairness” is anchored and operationalized in Social Equity Budgeting (SEB) in context of austerity-localism in English local government from 2010 to 2024 under Conservative led coalition and Conservative Governments, with specific examples from a longitudinal case study of Newcastle City Council (NCC). The paper suggests social justice needs a practice focus embracing interactions for practical intelligibility and understanding, alongside procedural and distributional aspects found in deontological and consequentialist approaches to justice.



Governance and accountability in reshaping public services: Open challenges and Wicked Problems of the 21st Century

| [DOI](#)

Authors: Professor Laurence Ferry, Durham University Business School | Professor Mariannunziata Liguori, Durham University Business School | Dr Henry Midgley, Durham University Business School

Date of publication: September, 2025

Department: Accounting

Issues of accountability are ubiquitous in public governance. Accountability connects with other concerns like legitimacy, power, citizen engagement, and new modes of service production. These issues and connections become all the more poignant given the evolving landscape of public services amidst the backdrop of 21st-century poly-crises. The pieces in this special issue explore these dynamics, particularly concerning shifting governing modes, contractual arrangements, performance management, and digitalization. New service delivery models introduce complexities beyond efficiency, impacting power dynamics and stakeholder interests. In this introductory piece, the editors introduce these issues, highlight the enduring questions from the literature informing this special issue, and introduce the 14 pieces. The editors end by reflecting on accountability's importance through discussions of accountability for neoliberalism and performance measurement, contracting out, liberty, democracy, social equity, and human-centered public governance.



Igniting creativity through travel: The roles of interest, cognitive flexibility, and destination information presentation style

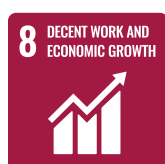
| [DOI](#)

Authors: Professor Zhibin Lin, Durham University Business School | Huixuan Chen | Lujun Su

Date of publication: December, 2025

Department: Management | Marketing

Despite the assumed link between tourism and creativity, research remains limited, and findings are inconsistent. This study draws on trait activation theory and broaden-and-build theory of positive emotions to propose a theoretical model that explores how environmental novelty influences tourist creativity. We argue that environmental novelty evokes interest, fostering cognitive flexibility and enhancing creativity. The presentation style of destination inform (statements or questions) impacts cognitive stimulation and creativity. We conducted a field quasi-experiment and four scenario-based experiments and found that a novel environment enhances the flexibility dimension of creativity, but not originality, through interest and cognitive flexibility. In addition, presenting information in a question style sparks cognitive stimulation and increases originality. The results provide valuable implications for tourists seeking to enhance creativity and for destination management organizations developing novel travel experiences that incorporate thought-provoking questions into their information presentation.



Virtual virtues: a governance framework of moral consequentialism and deontological ethics for immersive virtual reality platforms

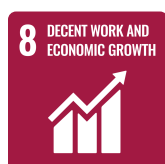
| [DOI](#)

Authors: Dr Spyros Angelopoulos, Durham University Business School | Arash Saghafi

Date of publication: December, 2025

Department: Management | Marketing

Recent technological advancements have enabled immersive platforms to support interactions with human-like artificial agents, which raises novel ethical questions, as users may act under the premise of not facing tangible consequences. The intersection of physical and virtual environments, therefore, requires novel governance mechanisms that can address both the individual behaviours as well as the organizational implications of immersive platforms. In this conceptual paper, we incorporate a value-reflexive perspective to outline the foundations of moral judgments and bring together two schools of thought in ethical decision-making: consequentialism, which focuses on outcomes, and deontology, which emphasizes intentions. Building on these perspectives, we introduce a governance framework for immersive platforms that highlights how organizations can strategically align ethical principles with their broader objectives. Our proposed framework argues that the governance of immersive platforms is an ethical necessity as well as a strategic organizational capability. By considering employee interactions, user experiences, and stakeholder perceptions of fairness, the proposed governance of immersive platforms can inform diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and open new avenues for research at the intersection of digital ethics, governance, and strategy.



Maximizing Profit and Minimizing Waste with Buy-x-Get-y-Free Promotion Policies During Clearance Sales

| [DOI](#)

Authors: Professor Fang Liu | Arvind Sainathan

Date of publication: September, 2025

Department: Management | Marketing

Maximizing profit and minimizing waste (leftover inventory) can be two conflicting objectives during clearance sales. BxGy policies (buy x units at full price and get y units free) are popular promotion policies for achieving these objectives. We consider four scenarios depending on whether customers are homogeneous/heterogeneous in their valuations and whether the retailer's objective is to maximize profit/minimize waste. In each scenario, we characterize the structure of the optimal promotion policy (OPP). We categorize the two kinds of OPPs based on the retailer's objective as profit-based and clearance-based OPPs. If customers are homogeneous, we show that B1Gy policies

are always optimal. However, if they are heterogeneous, B1Gy policies may not maximize profit, resulting in a complex structure for profit-based OPPs. Therefore, we focus on B1G0, B1G1, and B2G1 policies due to their prevalence among retailers. We then derive how both kinds of OPPs change with quantity. We explain the impact of quantity using the ideas of bundling effect and differentiation effect. We perform a numerical study to examine (i) the impact of the two kinds of OPPs on profit and waste, and (ii) the impact of demand uncertainty. Finally, we discuss how our results apply to several practical instances.



Colonial origins of agglomeration: Evidence from Malayan rail stations | [DOI](#)

Authors: Dr Habib Rahman, Durham University Business School | Audrey Kim Lan Siah

Date of publication: February, 2026

Department: Economics

This study examines how historical rail stations condition long-run development using Colonial Malaya as a laboratory. By constructing novel historical data on rail stations, agglomeration centres, tin mines, and rubber plantations dating back a century and matching contemporary data on economic activity at the 1-km cell level, we find that regions with earlier access to rail stations exhibit higher levels of economic activity today, owing to agglomeration economies. These results persist even in regions that have abandoned colonial stations. This study highlights the role of investment in transport infrastructure in accelerating local economic activity.



Cyberattacks on Small Banks and the Impact on Local Banking Markets | [DOI](#)

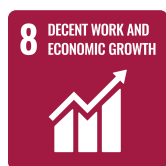
Authors: Dr Ivan Lim, Durham University Business School | Professor Francesco Vallascas, Durham University Business School | Dr Fabian Gogolin

Date of publication: February, 2026

Department: Finance

Cyberattacks on small banks have direct and spillover effects in local markets. Following successful cyberattacks, hacked small banks experience a decline in deposit growth rates. This effect of cyberattacks is not observed in hacked large banks. Cyberattacks on small banks also increase the

local market share of large banks through positive deposit spillovers. The consequent change in market structure reduces credit access for small borrowers and impedes small establishment growth. Our findings show that, unlike large banks, small banks are not seen by depositors as having the resources to maintain adequate cybersecurity systems to protect customers from evolving cyber threats.



Success Factors for Environmentally Sustainable Product Innovation: A Meta-Analysis

| [DOI](#)

Authors: Professor Saadat Saeed, Durham University Business School | Rosa Maria Dangelico

Date of publication: February, 2026

Department: Management | Marketing

Growing environmental challenges and sustainability imperatives have intensified firms' need to pursue environmentally sustainable product innovation (ESPI), leading to a surge of research examining the factors that determine its success. This study presents a meta-analysis of 182 independent samples and contributes to our understanding of ESPI in three major ways. First, by adopting the open systems theory, this meta-analysis presents a holistic, integrated examination of the driving factors of ESPI and assesses their relative importance, marking a significant leap in environmental sustainability and innovation management research. Second, by comparing these findings with established meta-analyses of product innovation, it reveals whether ESPI necessitates a novel theoretical paradigm or can be contextualized within established innovation-management frameworks. Although some of ESPI's success factors are common to conventional product innovation, this study highlights factors that are specific to ESPI, which suggests that the development of ESPI should be treated differently from that of conventional product innovation. Third, the analysis shows that ESPI's drivers are contingent upon the institutional context, national culture and level of economic development significantly moderate their effects. Collectively, these findings advance theory integration in sustainability and innovation management and offer actionable insights for managers and policymakers seeking to foster effective, context-sensitive ESPI strategies.



Institutional and capability enablers of firm-level emissions abatement under the EU Emissions Trading System

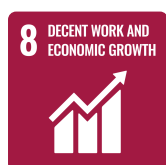
[DOI](#)

Authors: Professor Panayiotis Andreou, Durham University Business School | Sofia Anyfantaki | Christos Cabolis | Konstantinos Dellis

Date of publication: May, 2026

Department: Finance

This paper investigates why firms facing identical carbon-pricing incentives exhibit heterogeneous decarbonization trajectories. We address this question through a theoretical framework that conceptualizes national institutional quality and innovation-system capabilities as boundary conditions that shape firms' adjustment capacity under emissions trading. Our analysis combines firm-level verified emissions from the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) for 31 European countries over the period 2005-2018 with country-level indicators from the IMD World Competitiveness Center and the World Economic Forum. We provide evidence that firms operating in environments characterized by stronger human capital capabilities, more advanced technological and digital infrastructure, and more supportive legal and scientific frameworks achieve greater emissions abatement. These effects are strongest during Phase III of the EU ETS, when the carbon-pricing constraint became more binding. Overall, our findings highlight how institutional and capability conditions mediate firms' responses to a harmonized carbon price, offering new insights into the sources of heterogeneous abatement outcomes under a unified emissions trading system. From a policy perspective, our paper contributes to debates on the country level boundary conditions under which emissions trading can support more transformative decarbonization trajectories across heterogeneous national contexts.



Possibilities for Social Equity Budgeting: Critical Insights From Bentham? [DOI](#)

Authors: Professor Laurence Ferry, Durham University Business School | Professor Jim Haslam, Durham University Business School | Dr Henry Midgley, Durham University Business School

Date of publication: March, 2026

Department: Accounting

Considering prior ways of seeing and practical mobilisations of Social Equity Budgeting (SEB), we suggest that prior conceptualisation, research and practice can be advanced by reflecting on insights from the philosophical and political literature on equity and justice. Here, we pursue such an approach and specifically contribute by considering how the writings of the English philosopher Jeremy

Bentham (1748–1832) provide critical insights informing possibilities for SEB. Our critical historical perspective, focused on the history of ideas in context, helps reinforce dimensions of today's prescriptive envisioning of SEB and indicate new insights and emphases in this regard around democracy and transparency (or publicity, to use Bentham's term). We here analyze progressive dimensions and possibilities in Bentham but also acknowledge and articulate the need to balance this with appreciation of critique of Bentham and more negative possibilities. Both dimensions have policy implications. Our analysis is facilitated by the notable (relatively) recent work of the Bentham Project at University College London (UCL) in seeking to publish the many previously unpublished writings of Bentham held in the UCL archive. Here, Gallhofer and Haslam's (2003) text, informed in part by detailed archival research into Bentham's then unpublished handwritten manuscripts, was a key starting point.



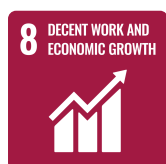
How disruptive is financial technology? | [DOI](#)

Authors: Professor Danny McGowan, Durham University Business School | Douglas Cumming | Hisham Farag | Santosh Koirala

Date of publication: April, 2026

Department: Finance

We study whether Financial Technology (Fintech) disrupts the banking sector by intensifying competition for scarce deposits funds and raising deposit rates. Using difference-in-difference estimation around the exogenous removal of marketplace platform investing restrictions by US states, we show the cost of deposits increase by approximately 5.9% within small financial institutions. However, these price changes are effective in preventing a drain of liquidity. Size and geographical diversification through branch networks can mitigate the effects of Fintech competition by sourcing deposits from less competitive markets. The findings highlight the unintended consequences of the growing Fintech sector on banks and offer policy insights for regulators and managers into the ongoing development and impact of technology on the banking sector.



Research Voices

The following statements demonstrate ways in which researchers at Durham University Business School bring sustainability and responsible management into their research.

Contribution to the Business Community and Wider Society

The School's contribution to the business community and wider society has grown substantially through a set of SME- and community-facing programmes which builds on research undertaken in the Business School. Scale with a Purpose, delivered with partner Junction Point CIC and funded through the Business School's Smart and Scale programme, has developed a new qualification for social entrepreneurs navigating the pressures of scaling a mission-led enterprise, measuring and proving impact credibly, choosing a legal structure that supports rather than constrains growth, and securing finance beyond short-term grant funding. Around 30 entrepreneurs have been trained to date using evidence from research developed in the Business School, and the programme is also enabling Junction Point CIC itself to grow turnover and create jobs, generating wider regional economic impact.

Spotlight on: Professor Atanu Chaudhuri – driving a sustainable future on Earth and beyond



Professor Atanu Chaudhuri pioneers research into sustainable operations and supply changes, both on Earth and in space. Atanu is also Co-Director of the Durham University Space Research Centre (SPARC) – an innovative Centre exploring sustainable operations and circular economy principles in space satellite systems.

Exploring supply chain futures

Atanu is a professor in our world-leading Business School. His research focuses on the intersection between digital technology adoption, sustainability and supply chain resilience. He focuses particularly on the challenges, and solutions, for global manufacturing and healthcare industries.

From industry to academia

With a lifelong fascination in how products are made, Atanu first studied Mechanical Engineering before working in the automotive industry. It was here that he got an initial insight, and fascination for, the complexity of supply chain planning.

Consultancy work deepened Atanu's understanding of global supply chains and sustainability challenges and inspired him to tackle real-world problems through academic research.

Atanu has worked in academia for over 15 years, having taught at the Indian Institute of Management, and at Aalborg University, Denmark.

He joined Durham University in 2019 – drawn by our global reputation, triple-accredited Business School and the natural beauty of North East England. The region's vibrant culture and strong football heritage also attracted him!

Creating a hub for space sustainability

One of Atanu's proudest professional achievements is the establishment of the SPARC research centre.

A meeting with Professor James Osborn, from our Department of Physics, highlighted the need for research into the sustainability and circular economy of satellite operations in space and the idea for SPARC was ignited.

Working with colleagues from across all four University faculties, Atanu and James secured a University Strategic Research Fund grant to establish SPARC. The centre unites experts in Business, Physics, Computer Science, Law, and Governance to help shape a responsible, resilient and globally competitive space sector.

The initiative positions Durham as a leader in multi-disciplinary space research, tackling problems that will shape the future of satellite technology and resource management.

For Atanu, involvement in SPARC is shaping his future research. New projects are focused on space sustainability, building resilient supply chains and fostering a local ecosystem for space-related innovation.

His hope is to secure further research funding to elevate Durham as a global leader in supply chain research, and position SPARC as a hub for space sustainability research and education.

[Spotlight on Professor Atanu Chaudhuri - Durham University](#)



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)
- ❖ Financial Times
- ❖ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)
- ❖ Times Higher Education (THE)
- ❖ Corporate Knights

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ Climate Society
- ❖ DUCK (Durham University Charities Kommittee)
- ❖ Durham People of Colour Association
- ❖ Durham Students Union
- ❖ Sustainable Finance Society

Partnerships

The following provides more details on 2 key partnerships at Durham University Business School.

PRME North East and Yorkshire Network

As a leader within the UN PRME North East and Yorkshire Network, Professor Helen Goworek has strengthened regional partnerships among higher education institutions, businesses, and other stakeholders committed to advancing the SDGs and responsible management education. Through convening activities, collaborative events, and the exchange of best practice, the network has enhanced collective capacity for sustainability education and responsible leadership across the region. This activity directly supports the PRME Partner Principle by fostering multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

Events offered through this partnership have included; online UN PRME Climate Literacy Training for staff, an online seminar exploring contemporary research into the use of Employee Voice systems to improve working conditions and an online seminar to discuss successfully gaining funding for sustainable business research.

School of Business Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg

The School commenced on a sustainability journey with a partner institution in The School of Economics, Business and Law, University of Gothenburg in Sweden. Following an initial joint workshop in Gothenburg in April 2022, where the Schools examined the practical issues involved in improving equality, diversity and inclusion, there was a joint appetite to build on the common ground encountered.

Accordingly, a reciprocal workshop was held in Durham in November of that year, for which the theme was environmental sustainability.

The relationship was further cemented in October 2023, with a delegation from Durham again visiting Gothenburg for a workshop concerned with the assessment of research quality. At this meeting a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two Schools and an agreement made to deepen the relationship. Collaboration between the Schools in relation to teaching, research and leadership commenced.

The next joint workshop was held in Durham in May 2025, under the theme of Implementation of Sustainability Strategy.

A PhD exchange led by the Accounting Department has been launched and the first round of student exchange is taking place this academic year.

Partner Voices

The following statement from our partners demonstrates ways in which our collaborations at Durham University Business School support sustainability and responsible management education.

The Northern Powerhouse Partnership (NPP) - Quote

Following the launch of the Durham University Business School and Northern Powerhouse collaboration on net zero carbon economies, the NPP posted on 4 June 2026.

'A big thank you to everyone who joined us this afternoon for our Net Zero Knowledge Exchange with [Durham University](#)

The event brought together academics, business leaders and policymakers to discuss some of the latest research and thinking on the energy transition, innovation and regional economic growth.

We were delighted to hear from Professor [Anna Valero](#), as well as researchers from across Durham University, before zero-oriented industrial development can support growth across the North.

Thank you to all of our speakers and attendees for a thoughtful and engaging discussion.'

[Post](#) | [Feed](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



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
- ❖ Campus operations guides
- ❖ Carbon reduction or offset commitments
- ❖ Climate action plan
- ❖ Curriculum guidelines
- ❖ Ethical data sourcing guides
- ❖ Ethical leadership or good governance policies
- ❖ Faculty hiring, tenure, and promotion guidelines
- ❖ Greenhouse gas emissions
- ❖ Local staff/student/faculty transportation
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Equity reporting (DEI, EDI, etc.)

Policy Documents Related to RME and/or Sustainability

Environmental-Sustainability-Vision,-Policy-and-Strategy-July-2023

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

Sustainability-Ambition-Statement_0523

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

Durham-University-Integrated-Sustainable-Travel-Plan-2020_25_For-PandP-20250807

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

Enhancing-Biodiversity-at-Durham-2022-32

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

Inclusive Durham_StrategyBrochure

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

Waste-Management-Strategy

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

Policy--Sustainable-Food-Policy-(1)

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

Engagement-and-Communication-Strategy-and-
Action-Plan

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

EDI-Policy

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

Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategy

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

Practice Awards

In 2025, Durham University Business School received 1 award for responsible and/or sustainable practices.

Championing Inclusive Culture award

Granter: Durham University

Grantee: Cathy Syson - Accreditations and Performance Manager at the Business School

Award Description:

The Professional Services: Inspiring the Extraordinary Awards are held annually to bring together colleagues from all parts of the University to celebrate the outstanding achievements of both individual and team contributions. Whether it be for their innovative ideas, their leadership and citizenship, for their drive to bring about change or their unwavering commitment to areas such as Equality, Diversity and Inclusion or the Environment and Sustainability, we want to recognise them for all the great things they do.

Together we celebrate difference, value one another and are each responsible for creating an inclusive community that is respectful and fair for all. This category recognises good citizenship and an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to creating an inclusive culture and a positive difference to communities at the University.

Practice Voices

The following statement from stakeholders at Durham University Business School demonstrates our commitment to sustainable and responsible practices.

Testimonial – Mental Health First Aider (MHFA)

PRME Testimonial – Mental Health First Aider (MHFA)

Practice Voice: Gemma Metcalfe-Glasgow (she/ser), Senior Accreditations and Governance Manager

"For me, becoming a Mental Health First Aider comes very much from a personal place and my own mental health journey."

I joined Durham University Business School in June 2025 as Senior Accreditations and Governance Manager, leading the Accreditation and Stakeholder Relations portfolio. In September 2025, I completed Mental Health First Aider training through MHFA England, becoming part of Durham University's network of Staff Mental Health First Aiders.

My decision to undertake the training was shaped by my own lived experience.

Looking back, there were signs from an early age that I struggled with aspects of my mental wellbeing. I was a worrier as a child, found change challenging, and often felt anxious in social situations. I performed better in coursework and assignments than exams, preferred smaller friendship groups, and found things such as making phone calls or speaking in public particularly difficult.

In 2014, I was diagnosed with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). A few years later, in 2018, I was diagnosed with Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) and Depression following a significant mental health crisis. I experienced a second major crisis in January 2024.

Like many people, I became very good at masking how I was feeling. My standard response when someone asked how I was would be, "I'm fine," even when I was struggling considerably beneath the surface.

One of the most important things I learned was how closely physical and mental health can be connected. Following my IBS diagnosis, I discovered that there is a recognised relationship between chronic physical health conditions and anxiety or depression. In my own experience, if one condition became more challenging, it could often have an impact on the others too.

I also realised that mental health challenges are not simply "all in your head". Alongside anxiety and depression, I experienced physical symptoms including panic attacks, extreme fatigue, heart palpitations, tinnitus, and unexplained aches and pains. Understanding the connection between my mental, emotional and physical wellbeing helped me take a more holistic approach to managing my health.

Over the years, I have developed what I describe as my "mental health toolbox". This includes a combination of counselling and talking therapies, medication, mindfulness, hypnotherapy, reading, listening to music, building Lego, spending time at the beach, and leaning on the support of the people who matter most to me, including my daughter, my partner, my family, my friends, and my cat, Wilbur.

What I have learned is that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We are all individuals, and what supports one person's wellbeing may not work for someone else. Finding the right combination of strategies can take time, and that is completely ok.

My experiences also motivated me to become an advocate for mental health awareness. During a previous role at the University of Glasgow, I spoke openly about mental health through my voluntary role as Engagement Lead for Culture, Collegiality and Wellbeing. I have continued to share my experiences both personally and professionally because I believe open conversations help break down barriers and reduce feelings of isolation.

Despite increasing awareness, stigma surrounding mental health remains a significant challenge. Too many people still feel unable to talk about their experiences or seek support because they fear judgement. Mental health challenges can affect anyone, regardless of their role, background or circumstances, and seeking help should never be seen as a weakness.

Shortly after joining Durham University, an opportunity arose to apply for Mental Health First Aider training. With the encouragement and support of my line manager, I applied and was accepted onto the programme.

For me, this was an opportunity to give something back and to contribute to Durham University's commitment to health and wellbeing ([Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)). The intensive [MHFA England](#) training equipped me with practical skills to support colleagues through the ALGEE action plan: assessing and assisting in a crisis, listening non-judgementally, providing reassurance and information, encouraging appropriate professional help, and encouraging self-help and support strategies.

As [Staff Mental Health First Aiders](#), we are not counsellors or therapists. Our role is to provide an initial point of support, helping colleagues access the right services and resources when they need them. Sometimes that means signposting someone towards professional support. Sometimes it is simply taking the time to sit down, share a coffee, and listen.

I am particularly proud to be part of a wider network that supports staff wellbeing across the University. Initiatives such as the [Health and Wellbeing Hub](#) and the [Employee Assistance Programme \(EAP\)](#) provide invaluable support to staff and their families. Having personally benefited from similar services during my own mental health journey, I understand first-hand how transformative timely support can be.

Being a Mental Health First Aider is a role I am incredibly proud to hold. My own experiences have taught me the importance of empathy, understanding and connection. If sharing my story helps even one person feel less alone, seek support, or start a conversation about their wellbeing, then I believe that is a meaningful and positive contribution.

Continue telling your story

Environmental Management System

EcoCampus is the environmental management scheme for higher and further education.

The EcoCampus Scheme develops, implements and maintains our environmental management system in line with the international management system standard, ISO14001.

EcoCampus offers a flexible phased approach to implementing an environmental management system for the higher and further education sectors. We gain recognition at each stage of the process through a series of awards from bronze through silver, gold and platinum. In 2020, we gained a platinum EcoCampus Award and we have maintained this every year since.

The platinum award conforms with the requirements of the international environmental management system standard ISO 14001. The Scheme provides training, consultancy, e-learning and software combined with third party verification via a UKAS accredited certification body.



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

Durham 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
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Publicly accessible sustainability data and dashboards
- ❖ Student and staff volunteer programs
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities

Communication Audiences

Durham University Business School 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

Sharing Voices

The following statement from stakeholders at Durham University Business School demonstrates our commitment to sharing and learning from sustainability and responsible management practices.

IMPACT Magazine - Durham University Business School's thought-leadership magazine

IMPACT celebrates the influence and innovation driving our community and the wider business world. Discover how our world-class research shapes industries regionally, nationally and globally, and explore the achievements and activities that showcase the excellence of our students, staff, researchers, business connections, partners and alumni. Edition 15 explores how our research and community are driving positive change. This edition features insights into topics such as neurodiversity in entrepreneurship, climate resilience, leadership authenticity, childcare inequality and much more. Edition 15 can be found [here](#).

Continue telling your story

COP30 Debrief Event at Durham Castle

View document  Download document 

Net-Zero Knowledge Exchange: Northern Powerhouse Partnership, Centre for Environmental and Energy Economics and JusTN0W

A half-day seminar was co-hosted by Durham University Business School and the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, in collaboration with the Centre for Environmental and Energy Economics (CE3) and JusTN0W on 4 June 2026. The afternoon brought together colleagues from across academia, industry and policy to discuss current research and policy challenges relating to the energy transition, AI, industrial development, and regional economic growth.

The agenda included a keynote by Anna Valero, Professor in Practice at LSE and Industrial Strategy Advisor to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Followed by research presentations from Business School Faculty and a panel discussion on Net-Zero-Oriented Industrial Development and Regional Growth in the North of England.

Development Economics Workshop 2026

The Development Economics Workshop brings together academics, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and students to engage with contemporary issues in economic development. The workshop provides a platform for presenting new research, exchanging ideas, and fostering discussion on the economic, social, institutional, and policy challenges shaping development across the world.

Through keynote sessions, research presentations, panel discussions, and informal networking, the workshop encourages collaboration across disciplines and institutions. It aims to connect rigorous academic research with real-world development challenges, generate new perspectives, strengthen research networks, and contribute to more informed and effective approaches to development policy and practice.

[Home - Development Economics Workshop](#)



Development Economics Workshop 2026

Sustainability Dialogue 2026

Our School annual flagship event on Sustainability, the Sustainability Dialogue 2026 took place on 3 March 2026 on 'Responsible Business: Ideal or Reality?' and included a provocative panel discussion touching upon the role of investment, regulation, industry voluntary agreements, ethical leadership, human rights legislation and more to foster corporate responsibility. We are grateful to business leaders Sri Hollema and Paul Chandler and colleagues Owen Boyle, Pablo Munoz and Robert Song for a truly enjoyable and inspiration panel discussion. Public speaking engagement by our amazing staff is crucial to foster dialogue with different stakeholders and communities, establishing networks and ultimately generating societal impact.

14th International Labour and Employment Relations Association European Congress

On 10-12 September 2025, Durham University Business School hosted The 14th European Congress of the International Labour and Employment Relations Association ILERA led by Professor Barbara Bechter and Bernd Brandl; it included several sessions on ERS themes.

[Conference programme - ILERA2025](#)



SIGNATORY

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