

B21 Sustainable Investing

Credit weighting:	2.0 ECTS credits
Teaching period(s):	20 July 2026 – 24 July 2026
Level:	Bachelor
Teaching methods:	This course represents 53 hours of workload (including lectures, workshops, assignments, project work and company visit).
Course leader:	Frank Conjaerts, CPE
Lecturer(s):	Frank Conjaerts, CPE

Description

This course can be done as a standalone course in Sustainable Investing: ESG Investment Strategy Making and can also be combined with the introductory course [Sustainable Investing: Introduction to Strategies and Tactics](#) that will be offered the week before this one.

This programme explores this rising industry and gives you the skills to navigate the terminology, activity, drivers and participants of the **E**nvironmental, **S**ocial, and **G**overnance (ESG) ecosystem. This programme prepares you to harness ESG data to drive financial performance and investment strategies.

The Sustainability course focusses heavily on the definition, history and tactics of investing. With increasing pressure from regulators, investors and consumers, Sustainable Finance and Investing has moved from a niche concept to a globally recognized strategic priority. This form of financial services, which addresses **E**nvironmental, **S**ocial, and **G**overnance (ESG) factors in investment decisions, is key to addressing some of our global challenges and helping professionals and organizations achieve long-term profitability and success.

You will explore the challenges of ESG factors within the context of investment decision-making, as well as their effect on asset pricing and portfolio management models. Using data, you will learn to assess the impact of an investment and examine the role of ESG in debt, novel fixed-income products, and private equity investments.

This course on Sustainable Investing will equip you with the insights, frameworks, and skills to evaluate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors and measure and manage impact resulting from investments.

You will explore the evolving sustainable investing landscape, understand how to incorporate ESG factors into investment decisions, gain insights into climate risk and how to incorporate those implications into financial models, and develop your own perspective on the interaction of investing and impact.

The Sustainable Investing programme focuses primarily on equipping you to make (more) informed analyses and decisions when investing in sustainable assets and products.

This course is a logical follow-up of (B24) Sustainable Investing: Introduction to Strategies and Tactic

This course will cover the following topics:

- Definition of sustainable investing and its significance in the financial industry.
- Historical background and evolution of sustainable investing.
- The role of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria.
- Principles and Approaches:
 - Different approaches to sustainable investing, such as ESG integration, impact investing, and ethical investing.
 - Principles and frameworks, including the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI).
- ESG Analysis and Data:
 - Understanding ESG factors and how they affect investments.
 - Sources of ESG data and analysis methods.
 - The development of ESG risk, scores and ratings.

Target audience

The programme is intended for students in banking, accounting and finance of advanced bachelor or at master level, and for those interested in becoming investment professionals, finance advisors, consultants, and business and non-profit leaders. This course is open to students.

If you have no or a limited background in finance or banking, we advise you to first take part in the five-day course 'Introduction to Finance and Banking' and then take this course as a follow-on.

A good command of English is necessary! Given the interactive nature of teaching, students must have the capabilities to actively contribute in class and communicate (understand and speak) in English well, ideally min level B2.

Aim of the course

In short, you will learn how to:

- Explore the evolving sustainable investing landscape
- Understand how to incorporate ESG factors into investment decisions
- Gain frameworks and analytical tools which support future financial decisions that serve clients' or organizations' goals and objectives
- Apply frameworks to measure and monitor sustainable investment opportunities
- Learn how to evaluate, measure, and manage sustainable investment opportunities with cutting-edge frameworks, strategies, and techniques
- Analyze cutting-edge implementation strategies
- Gain insight into climate risk inherent in investment opportunities
- Discover how to integrate risks into financial models
- Think critically about how and where to add value while avoiding 'impact washing'.

Study Load

This course represents 53 hours of workload (including lectures, workshops, assignments, project work and company visit)

Please note: You must attend all learning activities (e.g. workshops, fieldwork) to be able to receive the Certificate of Participation and/or the credits for this course, unless absence is officially approved by the teachers and the coordinator of the Utrecht Summer School.

Course calendar

The day to day programme is subject to changes depending on the availability of the guest lecturers.

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 July 2026		
Time	Activity	Description
12:00-18:00	Key pick up	You will find the exact key pick up location in the pre-departure information, which becomes available after you have paid the course fee.

DAY 1: Monday 20 July 2026		
Time	Activity	Description

9:00-09:30	Welcome and Campus tour	
09:30-12:30	Meet & greet Introduction to Sustainable Investing	Definition of sustainable investing and its significance in the financial industry. Historical background and evolution of sustainable investing. The role of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria. Principles and Approaches: Different approaches to sustainable investing, such as ESG integration, impact investing, and ethical investing.
		Principles and frameworks, including the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). ESG Analysis and Data: Understanding ESG factors and how they affect investments. Sources of ESG data and analysis methods. The development of ESG risk, scores and ratings.
12:30-13:30	Lunch*	
13:30-15:30	Start of the group assignment	
15.30-16.30	wrap up/summary	Summary of the day, feedback from and to the groups, outlook for tomorrow

DAY 2: Tuesday 21 July 2026		
Time	Activity	Description
9:00-12:30	Sustainable Investment Strategies Guest lectures (from a sustainable asset management company)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction to the Legal Framework Regional and International regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Finance Disclosures Regulation (2.0) EU Taxonomy CSRD MiFID II Compliance and fiduciary duties. Reporting requirements and disclosure. <p>Responsible Investment Approaches in practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative screening and exclusion criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical and other considerations Addressing ethical dilemmas and conflicts of interest. Aligning investments with personal values and beliefs. Positive selection / Best-in-class strategies Integration of ESG into traditional financial analysis Active Ownership: Engagement and Voting Thematic / SDG Investing Impact Investing. <p>Investment Products and Instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable mutual funds and ETFs Green bonds and social impact bonds. Direct investments in sustainable companies or projects.
12:30-13:30	Lunch*	
13:30-15:30	Continuation of the group assignment	

15:30-16:30	Wrap up/summary	Summary of the day, feedback from and to the groups, outlook for tomorrow
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DAY 3: Wednesday 22 July 2026		
Time	Activity	Description
8:30-12.30	Visiting and opening the Amsterdam stock exchange	See this link: Amsterdam Exchange Experience / euronext.com
12:30-13:30	Lunch*	Back in Utrecht
13:30-15:30	Risk, return, costs and performance	<p><i>Risk and Return Considerations:</i> Analyzing the potential impact of ESG factors on risk and returns. Evidence of the financial performance of sustainable investments. Market trends and correlations between ESG and financial performance.</p> <p><i>The role of ESG investing in Portfolio Management:</i> Building a sustainable investment portfolio. Asset allocation and diversification. Rebalancing and ongoing monitoring. Emerging ESG investment trends and Future Outlook: Current investment theories and trends in sustainable investing. Innovations and potential developments in the field.</p> <p><i>Small wrap up of the first week (Investments)</i></p>
15:30-16:30	Wrap up/summary	Summary of the day, feedback from and to the groups, outlook for tomorrow

DAY 4: Thursday 23 July 2026		
Time	Activity	Description
9.00-12:30	Guest lecture Impact investments Diversity and inclusion	<p><i>Impactor World</i></p> <p><i>The Mission of Impactor World is to Recognize, Aggregate and Increase contributions in Impact Finance.</i></p> <p><i>Impactor World Empowers and Connects to make valuable, efficient and accountable contributions to society. Creating impact requires access to funds, knowledge and resources. This helps shaping one's goals and ultimately provides status and recognition that allows replication and scale.</i></p> <p><i>Impactor World supports entrepreneurship through innovations and scale up to become investment ready and mobilize public/private capital. The instruments we help structure are de-risking solutions (e.g. first/second loss capital, guarantees) result-based solutions (impact incentives, carbon credits schemes) and financing (debt, equity and blended finance solutions).</i></p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch*	
13:30-15:30	Continuation of the group assignment	
15.30-16:30	Wrap up/summary	Summary of the day, feedback from and to the groups, outlook for tomorrow

DAY 5: Friday, 4 July 2026		
Time	Activity	Description
10:00-12:30	<i>Finalization of the group assignment and start of the final presentations</i>	
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch*</i>	
13:30-15:30	<i>Continuation of the final presentations and certification ceremony</i>	<i>Presentations</i>
15:30-17:30	<i>Saying goodbye</i>	<i>Drinks at Grand Café The Living</i>

*Please note: Students must bring/cover their own lunch

The lunch times in the programme can vary, these times are just an indication.