

Programme Specification 2022-23

MASTER OF STUDIES IN SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

Awarding body	University of Cambridge
Teaching institution	Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
Accreditation details	Master of Studies
Name of final award	Master of Studies
Programme title	MSt in Sustainability Leadership
HECoS code(s)	100469 (environmental management) 100088 (leadership)
Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)	None
Qualifications framework level	7 (Masters)
Date specification produced	August 2022

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL), an institute within the School of Technology, has run executive development programmes in sustainability for Over 30 years, with open programmes in the UK, Europe, North America, South America, South Africa and Australia, and customised programmes for many leading organisations. CISL has a global alumni base of over 20,000 senior leaders from business, government and civil society.

The MSt in Sustainability Leadership is offered by CISL, drawing on academic expertise from, among others, the Departments of Engineering, Geography, Land Economy and the Cambridge Judge Business School.

CISL also offer Postgraduate Certificates in Sustainable Business (with an organisational or value chains focus) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Business.

Aims of the Programme

Through a combination of interdisciplinary insights, academic analysis, practical business application, peer-learning and personal reflection, the programme aims to develop a community of leaders who have:

- a wide awareness and deep understanding of the social, environmental, ethical and economic challenges and opportunities facing the world;
- the vision and ambition to drive business leadership to achieve real systems change;
- the knowledge, experience and ability to critically evaluate a range of strategic levers for change; and
- the leadership capacity and confidence at a personal and organisational level to best use these levers to effect transformation.

Learning Outcomes of the Programme

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The table below indicates the expected learning outcomes of the programme. The learning outcomes for the PGCert and PGDip are included to show the progression between CISL's

portfolio of qualifications.

	Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Business		Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Business		Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership	
<i>1. The changing global context, the case for a radical shift from current systems and structures, and the role of business</i>						
LO1A	Understand...	+	Analyse...	+	Evaluate structural dimensions of...	...global economic, environmental, and social pressures and trends from a multi-disciplinary and systems perspective
LO1B	Articulate...	+	Analyse...	+	Evaluate and establish...	...the need for a radical shift from current systems and structures to address complex systems-related problems and opportunities
LO1C	Understand...	+	Analyse...	+	Assess and generate...	...the case for business leading systemic change
<i>2. A sustainable future, and the potential synergies, tensions in achieving it</i>						
LO2A	Understand...	+	Analyse...	+	Assess...	... conceptualisations of sustainability and key dimensions of a sustainable future, such as regeneration, inclusion, net zero carbon and resilience
LO2B	Identify...	+	Analyse...	+	Evaluate and generate responses to address...	... synergies and tensions between dimensions of a sustainable future
<i>3. Potential strategies and pathways to leverage change both within and beyond organisations to achieve a sustainable future</i>						
LO3A	Identify and apply...	+	Analyse and apply...	+	Evaluate and apply a broad and deep range of...	...research and best practice on levers for change for embedding sustainability within organisations
LO3B	Identify and apply...	+	Analyse and apply...	+	Evaluate and apply a broad and deep range of...	...research and best practice on levers for change beyond organisations for wider system impact
LO3C	Identify and apply...	+	Analyse and apply...	+	Evaluate and apply a broad and deep range of...	...theories of change and innovation at an organisational and system level
	Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Business		Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Business		Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership	

	Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Business		Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Business		Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership	
<i>4. Personal leadership and effective action as an agent of change</i>						
LO4A	Identify and demonstrate...	+	Develop...	+	Assess and apply advanced concepts that enhance...	...the thinking, values and practices that support effective personal leadership
LO4B	Identify and demonstrate...	+	Develop...	+	Generate impact through...	...personal contribution to effective action as a change agent
<i>5. Sustainability insight, knowledge, and research for specific contexts</i>						
LO5A	Identify and apply...	+	Analyse and apply...	+	Evaluate and apply a broader and deeper range of...	...existing academic and practitioner knowledge on a range of fields and topics to address sustainability challenges and opportunities in specific contexts
LO5B	Generate...	+	Generate further...	+	Generate advanced...	...sustainability-relevant research in an individual and group context
<i>6. Communication and engagement, individually and collaboratively, to advance the sustainability agenda</i>						
LO6A	Create... ...entry-level academic and specific organisational contexts	+	Create... ...academic and specific organisational contexts	+	Create... ...an advanced academic level, and organisational contexts	...clear, concise, and logically ordered written and verbal communications appropriate to ...
LO6B	Contribute to...	+	Contribute further to...	+	Generate...	...effective and collaborative engagement with peers and wider networks as part of a learning community

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary approaches to teaching and learning are:

- taught plenary and small group sessions by academics and practitioners, who are thought leaders and/or case study contributors;
- group work, involving dialogue, debate and presentations throughout the taught modules, as well as a group research assignment;
- experiential techniques including role plays, simulations, debates and field trips;
- individual work, involving structured reading and reflection, research, and written presentation of findings on selected topics;
- support and facilitation by a CISL-led team of faculty, tutors and supervisors from within

- the University; and
- a collaborative E-learning programme, including online modules, thematic e-units, webinars and content-based discussions to maximise knowledge sharing.

Assessment Methods

Students will complete:

- Three written assignments: an Analysis Paper of 3,000 words, a Strategic Action Plan of 3,000 words, and a Group Project of 5,000-7,000 words (33.3% of the overall MSt result).
- A 15,000 word (including notes and appendices) Dissertation and presentation on a topic proposed by the student and approved by the Degree Committee (66.7% of the overall MSt result).

Successful completion of the Programme requires that students:

- Attend all the Residential Workshops.
- Participate fully in the Workshops and Group Project.
- Participate fully in the E-learning Modules and programme, and Virtual Tutorials and Supervisions
- Submit and pass the three first year Assignments. (One failed assignment may be resubmitted. At the discretion of Examiners, a fail at Grade D in one individual or group assignment may be compensated by a high level of competence in the other assessed work)
- Submit and pass the research Dissertation.

Award

The Examiners may recommend that the Degree Committee recommends the Institute of Sustainability Leadership Management Board award a Postgraduate Certificate to candidates who have satisfactorily completed the requirements specified above (point a) and who do not complete, or fail to reach the required standard, in the thesis.

Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Business PCSB alumni since 2008 are exempted from the first workshop and the three assignments. This part of the MSt is equivalent to the PCSB.

Programme Structure

ACADEMIC YEAR 1

- Module 1: Introduction to Sustainability Concepts, Trends and Pressures
- Module 2: Introduction to The Business Case for Action
- Module 3: Leadership for Sustainability
- Module 4-6: Three thematically-focused Modules (see list, below)
- Three-weekly E-learning activities
- Academic Writing E-Learning Module
- Research Skills E-Learning Module
- At least two Virtual Tutorials
- Tutorial for Group Project
- Research Seminars / Research Support sessions
- Submit Dissertation Proposal Form with final title (not assessed)
- At least one Virtual Dissertation Supervision

ACADEMIC YEAR 2

- Module 7-12: Six thematically-focused Modules (see list, below)
- Leadership for Sustainability E-learning Module
- Corporate Philanthropy E-learning Module
- Three-weekly E-learning activities
- Two face to face dissertation supervisions, three virtual dissertation supervisions
- *Submit Dissertation*

List of Thematically-Focused Modules:

- Organisational Culture & Practices
- Cooperation, Collaboration & Partnerships
- Sustainable Production & Consumption
- Sustainable Design & Technology
- Government Policy & Regulations
- Sustainable Finance & Investment
- Organisational Strategy & Business Models
- Governance (Corporate & International)
- Communication & Education

The order in which they are presented at the workshops varies from cohort to cohort depending on scheduling.

Standard Programme Admission Requirements

Candidates are assessed and accepted on the basis that they have:

1. at least a good 2.i honours degree from a UK university or an equivalent standard from an overseas institution;
2. a minimum of three years' work experience after graduation;
3. demonstrable enthusiasm and/or aptitude for sustainability leadership;
4. good ability in written and spoken English;
5. endorsement from your employer or, if independent, from an organisation that will be the focus of your work on the programme;
6. access to appropriate computer technology and internet software; and
7. the ability to pay the course fees or to identify a sponsoring institution.

Exceptional applicants who do not meet the standard admission criteria of a 2.i honours degree will be assessed on an individual basis and may be required to provide further materials in support of their application.

Managing Teaching Quality and Standards

The University ensures high quality of teaching and learning in the following ways:

- Scrutiny of the External Examiners Reports for all teaching programmes
- Encouraging student engagement at both the local level, through involvement in Faculty and Departmental Committees, and at a central level by participation in nationally-benchmarked surveys
- Participation in the biennial Education Monitoring and Review Process to explore provision, share good practice and suggest constructive courses of action
- Mentoring, appraisal, and peer review of staff, and encouraging staff participation in personal development programmes

Student Support

- Students receive briefing materials and a course handbook ahead of the first workshop.
- Programme materials and supplementary materials are all available electronically on the programme specific Virtual Learning Environment.
- Students are assigned to project groups for the duration of the first year of the programme, which provide a tutor and peer support network
- Students have personal access to the Programme Director and Programme contributors
- The residential workshops include sessions on research skills, to help students prepare for their dissertations
- The residential workshops include visits and inductions to the University Library resources to help students to prepare for their dissertations
- Regular (2-3 weekly) online discussions are held between residential workshops
- Each student will be allocated a Director of Studies for the duration of the programme, and an academic Supervisor during the dissertation phase (2nd year).

Graduate Employability and Career Destinations

On completion of the MSt, students are invited to join the CISL Network which brings together over 20,000 senior decision- makers, thought-leaders, policy-influencers and executives from across the world who share an interest in and a commitment to creating a sustainable future.

As the MSt is a part-time degree, the students will mostly be in employment and will use the programme to improve their career prospects. The programme takes an applied approach to knowledge, with both the teaching and assignments oriented towards relevance to their work situation.

It is also clear from our research into the sustainability market that this is a growing field of work, both as a result of the high profile global policy developments (such as those around climate change) and significant financial stimulus investments in the “green jobs” sector. The Careers Service maintains links with employers and takes their needs and opinions into account in the services which it provides for students. The Careers Service also allocates a Careers Adviser to each College, faculty and department to act as a point of contact.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this programme specification. At the time of publication, the programme specification has been approved by the relevant Faculty Board (or equivalent). Programme specifications are reviewed annually, however, during the course of the academical year, any approved changes to the programme will be communicated to enrolled students through email notification or publication in the *Reporter*. The relevant faculty or department will endeavour to update the programme specification accordingly, and prior to the start of the next academical year.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for all awards of the University is available online at: <https://www.camdata.admin.cam.ac.uk/>