

What does Education for Sustainability have to do with Business and Management?

“Connecting and challenging to change the world. Our aim is to be the world’s leading Business School, nurturing ground breaking innovation and challenging conventional thought to change the world.” (<https://www.sbs.ac.uk/business-school/vision-mission>)

Future business directions are changing. Successful business is sustainable business; an approach which allows for innovation, problem solving and looking towards the future. Topic areas of relevance to sustainability already in the Business and Management curriculum include:

- **Human factors:** human resource management that develops and supports employees, enabling them to flourish and achieve in the workplace; employee wellbeing; equality and diversity; ensuring equal access to the work place and career progression; relationships between individuals (communication, co-operation, ethics and conflict) both within teams and from leadership positions.
- **Management ethics:** the role of the individual in organisational processes; ethical investment; transparency; corporate social responsibility; social enterprise; reputation amongst employees, clients, customers; relationship with suppliers, traders and contractors; supply chain management.
- **Use of technology:** sustainable e-business; eco-innovation and environmentally friendly technology; use of technology to manage and foster relationships with the public.
- **Globalisation:** global trade; challenges of supply chain management on a global scale; cultural awareness of diverse customer backgrounds; trade, labour and corporate citizenship considerations in a globalised world.
- **Resourcefulness:** the future of business needs to be low-carbon and cost-effective; use of resources in response to the challenge of sustainable development.
- **Public engagement:** engaging with and investing in local communities; partnership with Third Sector organisations.

Key skills for business and management graduates which sustainability teaching cultivates: ability to debate; oral and written communication; teamwork; leadership; empathy; time-management; self-management; problem-solving; presentation skills

Find out more: Contact Julia Kendal (j.kendal@soton.ac.uk) for more information including case studies on teaching sustainability in this area.