Graduate Education
Insight, influence, impact
The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) is a globally influential Institute developing leadership and solutions for a sustainable economy.

Our *Rewiring the Economy* framework shows how the economy can be ‘rewired’, through focused collaboration between business, government and finance institutions, to deliver positive outcomes for people and environment in pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For over three decades we have built individual and organisational leadership capacity and capabilities, and created industry-leading collaborations, to catalyse change and accelerate the path to a sustainable economy. Our *Rewiring Leadership* framework sets out our model for the leadership needed to achieve this.
Introduction

Leaders today are making decisions in a world which is more volatile, complex and uncertain than ever before. Many organisations are recognising the need to respond to and, where possible, inform the changing context in which they operate.

At the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, we focus on building the capacity to effectively tackle the world’s most critical social and environmental challenges. We operate within the 800-year old University of Cambridge, providing world-class research and teaching that business can apply to solving today’s problems.

Our graduate programmes are designed for those working in full-time employment, based on a blended approach of short residential workshops and virtual learning. The structure of the courses makes them ideal for international students.

We offer content that is specifically designed to provide students with the opportunity to focus on transferable practical solutions, with the purpose of enhancing business value for their organisation, alongside increasing their value to society.
# Overview of graduate programmes

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<th>Cambridge qualification</th>
<th>Master of Studies Degree</th>
<th>Postgraduate Certificate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of programme</td>
<td>Full Master’s degree</td>
<td>Postgraduate qualification equivalent to 1/3 of a Master’s degree. Progression to IDBE Master’s is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>180 CATS points at level M</td>
<td>60 CATS points at level M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who would benefit?</td>
<td>Professionals with a minimum of 3 years’ experience who are involved in the commissioning, design, construction or management of projects in the built environment, who are looking to expand their understanding of global challenges and opportunities facing the industry.</td>
<td>Mid-career level professionals involved in all aspects of the built environment who are practitioner focused and not in a position to undertake a research dissertation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration and format</td>
<td>Part time over 2 years, 6 week-long residential workshops in Cambridge</td>
<td>Part time over 10 months, 11 days residential in Cambridge via 2 workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course emphasis</td>
<td>Equipping built environment professionals for strategic decision-making, inventive problem solving and evidence-based design in interdisciplinary design teams.</td>
<td>Equipping built environment professionals to work better in interdisciplinary teams and respond to sustainability challenges through the design of projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progression routes</td>
<td>n/a.</td>
<td>Apply to continue to the Master of Studies in Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment.</td>
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</table>
## Master of Studies Degree

**Sustainability Leadership** *(Business perspective)*

- Full Master’s degree
- 180 CATS points at level M
- Mid-career, current and aspiring leaders who want to develop their capacity to drive the business response to sustainability challenges, drawing on the research excellence of the University of Cambridge.

  - Part time over 2 years
  - 4 week-long residential workshops in Cambridge

Specific leadership responses to complex sustainability challenges and opportunities in a business context, and building leadership capacity to think creatively, holistically and systemically.

Continuation option for PG Certificate in Sustainable Business alumni.

## Postgraduate Diploma

**Sustainable Business**

- Postgraduate qualification equivalent to 2/3 of a Master’s degree. Progression to Master’s in Sustainability Leadership is under development.
- 120 CATS points at level M
- Mid-career professionals who wish to enhance their existing knowledge and gain a higher qualification through practical assignments rather than a research dissertation.

  - Part time over 1.5 to 3.5 years
  - 15 days residential in Cambridge via workshops and Labs

Provides an opportunity to take a ‘deeper dive’ into topical and emergent leadership responses to sustainability in a business context.

Continuation option for PG Certificate in Sustainable Business alumni.

## Postgraduate Certificate

**Sustainable Business** *(Organisational or Value Chains stream)*

- Postgraduate qualification equivalent to 1/3 of a Master’s degree. Progression to PG Diploma or Master’s in Sustainability Leadership is available.
- 60 CATS points at level M
- Mid-career professionals who wish to gain a broad and action-oriented introduction to sustainability in a strategic business context, and apply either within their organisation (Organisational stream), or across their organisation’s value chain (Value Chains stream).

  - Part time over 10 months
  - 8 days residential in Cambridge via 2 workshops

Equipping individuals to respond to sustainability challenges and opportunities in mainstream business practice and ‘real-life’ contexts, or by organisations seeking to embed sustainability principles across their value chains.

Apply to continue to the Postgraduate Diploma or Master’s in Sustainability Leadership.
Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment (IDBE)

The IDBE is offered as a part-time two year Master’s or a ten-month Postgraduate Certificate, delivered by the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and supported by the Departments of Architecture and Engineering.

The IDBE courses are structured around how individual professionals can better work in interdisciplinary teams to engage with emerging trends, opportunities and challenges within the built environment. Modules cover: sustainability and resilience; innovation and technology; leadership and interdisciplinary practice; design thinking, and research skills.

“I was used to examining work issues through my own particular, narrow, lens but now I was able to see things from a range of other people’s perspectives, which I found fascinating… studying the IDBE has been instrumental to my recent career progression.”

Gary Cass, Regional Operations Manager, Aedis Regulatory Services Ltd
Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership

The Master of Studies (MSt) in Sustainability Leadership is a full Master’s degree, delivered part-time for working professionals.

The two-year programme aims to empower individuals and help develop the leadership capacity to drive the business response to critical sustainability challenges and opportunities. It is fully accredited by the University of Cambridge, and is delivered as an interdisciplinary programme by the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, in association with the Departments of Architecture, Engineering, Geography, Land Economy and the Cambridge Judge Business School.

“The Master’s in Sustainability Leadership at CISL has made a major contribution to my career progression; not only through the direct learning, but also through the connection to an outstanding network of sustainability professionals.”

Jeremy Harrison, Director Market Development, Forest Stewardship Council
Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Business

The Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Business (PG Dip) is a Master’s-level graduate programme. It is a flexible, practically-applied option for continued professional development, exploring innovations in sustainable business.

Fully accredited by the University of Cambridge, it is equivalent to two-thirds of a Master’s. This course is delivered via a blended learning approach, with face-to-face and virtual components.

Students can take from 18 months to three years to complete this course. Part 1 involves completing either the organisational or the value chains stream of the Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Business. Part 2 provides participants with the opportunity to take a ‘deep dive’ into emergent innovations and levers for change in a business context. Learning is highly collaborative and practical, underpinned by academic rigour.

“...The PGDip has provided me an excellent opportunity to build on my Postgraduate Certificate course, offering flexibility to balance a full time role in sustainability with ongoing learning. Recently moving from a business role to sustainability, the course combined with the broad networking opportunities have been invaluable to build and expand my knowledge. Critically for me it has significantly increased my confidence and credibility to talk about the key sustainability opportunities and challenges, how other organisations are dealing with them, as well as develop, propose and drive sustainable solutions for Gore Fabrics. ”

Carole Anne Wilkinson, W.L.Gore & Associates (UK) Holding Company
Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Business

The Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Business (PCSB) is a ten-month programme. It is offered with two streams meaning that the course is tailored to the student’s professional interests and caters for an individual’s learning requirements.

Organisational Stream

This stream is designed to equip participants with a robust knowledge of global social, environmental and economic trends, helping them to develop the critical skills and confidence to communicate sustainability-related messages effectively, and to embed sustainability into business action.

“To progress the sustainability agenda, you not only need the passion and commitment to do it, but also the knowledge. CISL has given me the fundamentals and latest understanding in the field through access to an overwhelming array of academic resources and the best learning ambience.”

Mayu Avila, Regional Director Corporate Sustainability, HSBC Latin America

Value Chain Stream

This stream aims to provide participants with exposure to a range of established and emergent approaches, tools and techniques for developing resilient and sustainable value chains. Formerly known as PCSVC, the programme equips students with the knowledge and skills to argue the business case for embedding sustainability across value chains, putting insight into action.

“There are many sustainability courses, but the Postgraduate Certificate is unique. The Cambridge setting, the faculty’s knowledge, the people you meet, the social and personal experience. This programme will remain a highlight in my educational career.”

Sascha Reimann, Head of Logistics Contract Management, Airbus
Residential short courses

Our two-day immersive Sustainability Leadership Labs focus on pressing issues and emerging opportunities, with real application to your organisation.

With access to cutting-edge insight, best practice and peer learning, you will experience an engaging ‘masterclass’ in a specific sustainability topic. The workshops are designed to support your continued professional development, and equip you with the knowledge and tools to return to your organisation with a clear direction and plan to implement change.

The topics and themes of our Labs include:

- Leadership
- The Circular Economy
- Business Model Innovation
- Embedding Natural Capital

"The leadership Labs are the place to meet like-minded people, to discuss the changes that are so needed. The Lab is a safe environment to share and learn about business success and failure."

Galina Shishkova, Project Manager, Global Sustainability, C&A
Online tutor-assisted short courses

Available entirely online, anywhere in the world, our flexible, tutor-assisted part-time courses empower individuals to lead and drive change.

Business Sustainability Management Online

The eight-week part-time course is designed to help participants devise their own action plan for integrating sustainable practices into their business strategy. The course will equip you with well-rounded knowledge and the confidence to argue the business case for sustainability.

High Impact Leadership Online

The eight-week part-time course is for future-focused current and aspiring business leaders who want to pioneer meaningful change in any context. You’ll be equipped with versatile leadership skills and develop leadership strategies relevant to a changing business world.

“...The course gave me a holistic understanding of sustainability leadership and how leveraging sustainability can create new market opportunities, fuel innovation and be the catalyst for power partnerships that increase your competitive advantage."

Jayne Harvey, Founder and CEO, Lily & Mortimer, Thailand
The CISL Network

We are proud of the CISL Network which includes alumni of our graduate programmes, participants from our executive education programmes, members of our business platforms and expert faculty and contributors to our work.

Sustainability leadership requires deep knowledge and understanding. It requires progressive, ambitious, courageous leadership. And it requires collaborative action.

Members of our Network enjoy access to ongoing professional development, networking events including reunions, gala dinners and roundtable discussions, and access to the latest thinking, action and research from CISL and the University of Cambridge.

We provide opportunities to connect with alumni and members who share an interest in sustainability leadership. Our regional CISL ambassadors who champion our work manage groups of common interest in countries worldwide.

We have active alumni groups in Asia, Australia, Europe, Middle East and the USA.
A snapshot of some of our work

We work with more than 250 major organisations each year. For example:

**African Development Bank:** Equipped key individuals in mainstream roles with the knowledge and skills to integrate climate change into existing policies and operations.

**Anglo American:** Built the knowledge and understanding of executives to enhance the company’s contribution to social development in the regions in which it operates.

**DEWA:** Provided one-day programme for the top management and the senior leadership team and a two-day programme for the senior managers, exploring international leadership and organisational excellence, in order to support DEWA’s vision as a world-class sustainable utility and the implementation of ambitious sustainability goals.

**Guangdong Province, China:** Equipped Mayors and senior departmental leaders from across the Province with insight into innovative technological, regulatory and commercial approaches to achieve sustainable economic growth and urbanisation.

**Interface:** Helped leading carpet manufacturer Interface engage suppliers on sustainability in order to reduce CO₂ and accelerate performance towards the circular economy.

**Jaguar Land Rover:** Engaged specific functions to translate sustainability goals into science-based targets and develop a strategy to decouple business environmental impact from business growth.

**Nedbank:** Supported one of South Africa’s largest financial institutions with the development of a strategy framework for sustainable development finance innovation, which has resulted in integrating sustainability considerations into the bank’s decision criteria.

**The Tata Group:** Assisted Chief Executives and Managing Directors from the main operating companies to build organisational resilience to climate change and a growth strategy in a low carbon economy.

Other organisations we work with include:

Supporting collective action towards a sustainable economy

We bring together business, government and finance groups to tackle challenges they could not solve alone.

CISL’s business and policy leaderships groups give a collective voice to business, government and finance leaders, enabling them to influence policy and practice. We unite partners around problems of shared interest and work, helping them to identify solutions and advocate change. In doing so we foster an exchange of ideas across traditional boundaries to generate new, actionable thinking.

These groups include:

**The Prince of Wales’s Corporate Leaders’ Group**
A cross-section of European business leaders that advocates forward-looking solutions on climate change to policymakers and business peers.

**Banking Environment Initiative**
Some of the world’s largest banks working to lead their industry in directing capital towards sustainable economic development.

**EU Green Growth Platform**
Facilitating business and EU ministers to address the economic challenges and opportunities involved in the transition to a sustainable economy.

**ClimateWise for the insurance sector**
A global network of insurers who share a commitment to reducing the impact of climate change on society, as well as the insurance industry.

**Natural Capital Impact Group**
A global network of companies working collaboratively, to determine how business can sustain the natural world and its resources through its strategies and operating practices.

**Investment Leaders Group**
Managers and asset owners focused on shifting the investment community towards responsible, long-term value creation.
What are the benefits of our programmes?

Our programmes are designed to:

- build new knowledge and insight into critical challenges and leading-edge responses
- strengthen leadership skills
- create strategies for action
- enhance the ability and motivation to translate new knowledge and awareness into practice
- enable participants to think systemically in order to engage with the interconnected nature of our social, environmental and economic systems.

Our Network is made up of over 8,000 senior leaders, executives and sustainability practitioners from around the world. Many of our relationships are multi-year engagements where we support different teams and divisions across major organisations. In this way, real impact is achieved by embedding sustainability into the decisions and operations of key functions.

Find out more

For more information about our graduate programmes, please contact us at:

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