



ESG Academy

At last, sustainability – or ESG in modern parlance – is high on the political, social and corporate agenda and it will become even more important in the years to come. The growing risks of climate change and the emergence of national and international regulation are fuelling the urgency of ESG transformation. Organisations worldwide are implementing necessary transformations to ensure ESG is firmly embedded in their strategy, processes and culture. Moreover, they are preparing to include ESG in their accounting and reporting processes, stimulated by recent and upcoming regulation such as the European Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). Audit firms are pondering how to formulate substantiated opinions on the reliability of ESG reports, where greenwashing emerges as a serious risk. In order to be able to tackle these challenges, a firm grasp of ESG fundamentals is essential.

The ESG Academy offers you a learning experience with the objective to get a firm grasp of ESG fundamentals on the one hand and become proficient in ESG accounting, reporting, auditing and assurance on the other, so you can contribute to realising the ESG goals of your organisation and society at large.

After completing the programme, you will have knowledge and skills in key ESG areas and you will have further developed your capabilities in the following:

- Explaining the key ESG areas and the interrelationships between E., S. and G.
- Advising higher management on ESG issues, transformation and strategy.
- Taking informed actions as an ESG leader.
- Designing, coordinating, implementing and evaluating ESG reporting in accordance with relevant regulation.
- Contributing to internal ESG audits or external assurance on ESG reporting.

Practical information

Start of programme	8 September 2023
Duration	10 months (part-time)
Tuition fee	€17,500
Admission requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed Master's degree in a relevant field• (Ambition to start) working in ESG• English language proficiency• Maximum of 2 people per organisation

Why choose the ESG Academy?

In the ESG Academy, we bring together the best teachers from academia and practice to provide a thorough and thought-provoking learning experience using modern teaching approaches. Unique in its kind, the ESG Academy lays a solid foundation before diving into more specialist topics. At the same time, our teachers focus on building 21st century ESG capabilities and skills in the areas of transformation, stakeholder management and communication.

- Study part-time – Classes are on Friday and take place at the Amsterdam Business School in the heart of Amsterdam. As an ambitious professional, you can pursue the programme alongside your regular employment.
- Helps you grow as an ESG leader – Become a knowledgeable ESG expert, with the practical skills and capabilities to partake in ESG policy making, transformation, accounting, reporting and auditing.
- Strong team and network orientation – We assure full interaction with our lecturers, who are all reputable academics and experienced practitioners from the ESG field. You will be able to benefit from this network after completing the programme.
- Personalised approach with small classes – With a size of a maximum of 30 students, we keep our classes small and personal. This ensures your learning curve is steep and that interactions with fellow students and lecturers are stimulating as well as engaging.
- Study trip – The programme includes a study trip by train, with site visits and an assignment.

For whom?

The ESG Academy is developed for ambitious professionals who are or will be working in the ESG field.

Pedagogy

The ESG Academy is designed to combine rigour and relevance. Rigour is achieved by relying on scientific methods and techniques taught in the programme, while applying these techniques in a practical context ensures relevance. To assure that the acquired knowledge is learned and remembered it is necessary that participants keep working with the technologies throughout the programme. The programme is structured into different teaching units consisting of lectures, workshops, and seminars that cover core theoretical concepts and their application. These are accompanied with blended learning components that ensure that students have the chance to constantly work on exercises and assignments according to their individual preferences and work requirements.

Programme structure

The ESG Academy has a modular structure. Each module comprises 1 semester, with classes on Friday. Currently, the following modules are offered as a combined 1-year package: ESG Fundamentals and ESG Reporting & Assurance.

Modules on ESG Strategy, Leadership, Transformation and Communication are under development.

Career prospects

Completing the ESG Academy will provide you with the knowledge, skills and capabilities necessary to develop your career as a knowledgeable ESG professional and contribute to realising ESG goals for your organisation and society at large.

Learning objectives

Upon completion of the programme, you will have updated your knowledge and skills in the following key ESG areas:

- Fundamentals: planetary boundaries, societal and economic developments, ethics, SDGs.
- Environmental: energy efficiencies, carbon footprints, greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, biodiversity, climate change and pollution mitigation, waste management and water usage.
- Social: labour standards, workplace and board diversity, racial justice, human rights, community relations, privacy and data protection, health and safety.
- Governance: corporate board composition and structure, strategic sustainability oversight and compliance, organisation and execution, transformation, bribery and corruption.
- Interrelationships between E., S. and G.
- ESG Accounting & Reporting: business risks of climate change; biodiversity loss; human rights violations; legal aspects and stakeholder needs, methods, techniques, tools for ESG accounting and reporting; relevant regulation (CSRD, SFDR, TCFD, ISSB, EU taxonomy, US framework); Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), impact measurement and true pricing, carbon accounting; materiality matrices; voluntary versus mandatory ESG disclosures; ESG fraud and internal controls on ESG; practical applications; future developments.
- ESG Auditing & Assurance: ESG and Internal Audit; the IIA 'three lines' model; ESG and external audit/assurance; relevant standards (ISAE 3000, 3410, NV COS 3810N); ESG audit skills.

Contact

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