

MGT-540

**Advanced sustainable accounting and finance**

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Management, Technology and Entrepreneurship minor	H	Opt.
Managmt, dur et tech	MA3	Opt.
Managmt, tech et entr.	MA1, MA3	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	During the semester
Workload	90h
Weeks	14
<b>Hours</b>	<b>3 weekly</b>
Lecture	2 weekly
Exercises	1 weekly
<b>Number of positions</b>	

**Remark**

MTE-SMT Students : MA3 only

**Summary**

Students will learn tools and techniques to improve society and create value from an accounting and finance perspective. This course will develop the student's critical thinking, problem-solving and presentation skills to assess and understand the problematics linked to ESG investing and reporting.

**Content**

Introduction to ESG and financial statements crash course  
 Shareholder Capitalism vs Stakeholder Capitalism: From Shareholder Primacy to a Stakeholder Centric regime and ESG Reporting: ESG Measurement, Reporting Frameworks, and ESG rating agencies  
 Environmental: Climate Risk, Net-Zero, Stranded Assets and ESG Financing  
 Social: The Challenges of quantifying and reporting social impact  
 Governance: What makes good Governance?  
 The rise of Impact Investing and ESG Portfolio: Incorporating ESG into the investment process  
 ESG S&P 500 Index, ESG score, WEF Davos Framework, and Wrap-up with 360°  
 Feedback

**Keywords**

ESG Reporting, ESG Standards & Frameworks, ESG investment, Net-Zero objectives, ESG Financing, Ethical investing, Accounting and Finance in the Sustainability context, ESG S&P 500 Index

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Recognize the complexity of ESG and ESG Disclosures
- Examine the trade-offs between creating profits and enhancing ESG
- Distinguish "Greenwashing" and true ESG
- Explore recent developments in sustainability accounting
- Analyze and benchmark ESG and sustainability metrics in the corporate annual reports of companies
- Develop critical thinking, analytical and presentation skills

**Transversal skills**

- Give feedback (critique) in an appropriate fashion.
- Respect relevant legal guidelines and ethical codes for the profession.
- Identify the different roles that are involved in well-functioning teams and assume different roles, including leadership roles.
- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
- Demonstrate a capacity for creativity.
- Continue to work through difficulties or initial failure to find optimal solutions.
- Make an oral presentation.
- Access and evaluate appropriate sources of information.

### **Assessment methods**

Group presentations (50% of the grade) and an individual project (25% of the grade), class participation (25% of the grade).

### **Resources**

#### **Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI)**

No

#### **Moodle Link**

- <https://go.epfl.ch/MGT-540>