

The CoBS Advanced **International Certificate** in Responsible Business





























WHAT IS THE COBS?

The Council on Business & Society (CoBS), founded in 2011, is an alliance of leading international business schools dedicated to teaching and promoting responsible leadership and business practices.

It's 12 member schools are present on 6 continents and in 15 countries. Together, they count 21 campuses, 50,000 students, and 507,000 alumni.

- ESSEC Business School, France, Singapore, Morocco
- FGV-EAESP, Brazil
- · School of Management Fudan University, China
- IE Business School, Spain
- Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, India
- · Keio Business School, Japan
- Monash Business School, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia
- · Olin Business School, USA
- · Smith School of Business, Queen's University, Canada
- Stellenbosch Business School, South Africa
- Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
- · Warwick Business School, United Kingdom.

WHAT IS THE CoBS ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES?

The CoBS Certificate brings together master's and MBA students in a course designed to:

- Offer students unique exposure toan international studies dimension, knowledge, and network.
- Provide students with the skills and enablers to open up meaningful and impactful careers.
- Deliver a premium-branded certificate from leading business schools reputed for their commitment and expertise in CSR, sustainability, social impact, and ESG.



In the midst of a complex era characterized by multiple crises and rapid and profound change, companies, organizations, and their leaders must play a pivotal role in addressing the challenges that lie ahead. To achieve sustainable performance over the long term, a responsible approach to business will be essential for making sound

decisions. The CoBS certificate provides aspiring leaders with the cutting-edge knowledge and tools they need to become fully equipped for responsible leadership.

Prof. Vincenzo Vinzi, Dean of ESSEC Business School



The CoBS deals with topics that are becoming increasingly important in understanding the global context and this importance is reflected in the number of schools that recently joined the alliance. Topics such as democracy, sustainability, poverty, and governance among others are present in every company strategy.

For this reason, the 2025 CoBS Intensive Week will debate sustainable leadership according to a different perspective: the rainforest. This new context considers a different type of leader – indigenous, riverine, and women's cooperative leaders, among others, in what we hope will be a transformative experience for the students of the CoBS-member schools.

Prof. Luiz Brito, Dean of FGV EAESP



The CoBS Advanced International Certificate Program is more than an academic program; it is a commitment to the future. The challenges we are facing today and tomorrow will be borderless – from climate change to social inequity – and they require a unified response.

This CoBS Advanced International Certificate equips tomorrow's managers with the knowledge and practices necessary to drive responsible business, provides the tools to work collaboratively and innovatively, and fosters a mindset that looks beyond borders and barriers. Students will learn to balance economic performance with social and environmental stewardship, ensuring their decisions to leave a positive impact on the world.

Prof. Xiongwen Lu, Dean of School of Management Fudan University

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I believe the CoBS Advanced

Certificate offers students

and truly international CSR

and sustainability learning

experience. It's the kind of

have loved to participate in

learning journey I would

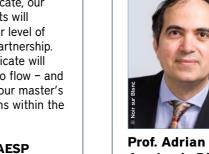
as a student!

a unique, comprehensive



Through the CoBS Advanced International Certificate, our schools and students will reach a much higher level of collaboration and partnership. Moreover, the certificate will enable knowledge to flow – and to grow – between our master's and MBA populations within the alliance.

Deputy Dean Tales Andreassi, FGV-EAESP



Prof. Adrian Zicari, ESSEC Business School, Academic Director of the Council on

Business & Society



In an era marked by complexity, rapid transformation, and deeply interwoven global challenges, the imperative for responsible leadership has become more pronounced than ever. The CoBS Advanced International Certificate offers a truly transformative opportunity for students to collaborate,

innovate, and lead with purpose. Far beyond being a conventional academic credential, this program delivers a comprehensive international learning environment. Participants acquire the strategic and ethical competencies necessary to reconcile robust economic performance with social responsibility and environmental stewardship, thereby ensuring that their decisions yield enduring, positive contributions to the global community.

Prof. Qinqin Zheng, School of Management Fudan University



Multiculturalism allows our social interactions to return to the most authentic state. Although our time together was brief, the connections we formed were incredibly genuine. When people from different countries come together to discuss the same topic from various

perspectives, I feel the charm of diversity and inclusiveness. These small moments are the most joyful and brilliant highlights of our week.

Menghan Li, ESSEC MiM student

PURPOSE

The CoBS Advanced International Certificate: Purpose

If you believe in bringing positive impact to your future career, organisation, society, and planet. If you are passionate about working across frontiers and adding meaning through a career in the fields of CSR, ESG, and Sustainability. And if you wish to top up your current studies with a dedicated focus on responsible leadership to trigger your understanding and practice.

Join your peers from 12 leading international business schools and gain a unique global, regional and local perspective to enlighten your path to lead positive impact.



WHY TAKE THE COBS ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE?

COMPLEMENT YOUR STUDIES AND FUTURE CAREER CHOICE WITH DEDICATED CSR, ESG, AND SUSTAINABILITY KNOWLEDGE

Be enlightened, feel inspired, be actionable. Learn and practice with top faculty, practitioners and researchers from one of the founding parents of responsible leadership: The Council on Business & Society.

EASON

REASON

ACQUIRE A TRULY WORLD VIEW THAT TAKES IN GLOBAL, LOCAL AND REGIONAL STAKES

Learn, compete, visit and co-develop with faculty and student peers fromfrom the CoBS business schools present on 6 continents: Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, North America, South America.

EASON EASON

COMBINE TOP-LEVEL KNOWLEDGE AND TAKE ON PRACTICAL CHALLENGES IN A DIVERSE, MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Challenging, stimulating, friendly, eye-opening, and relevant are words to describe the CoBS Advanced Certificate experience – from flexible, study-alone modules to business simulation teamwork in competition mode and cultural awareness, to student cohort workshops and case studies.

EASON

EXPAND THE DIVERSITY OF YOUR CONTACTS AND BUILD AN INTERCONTINENTAL NETWORK

Interact with faculty, researchers and student peers from CoBS member schools through online forums, competitions, workshops and corporate and cultural visits.

SEASON

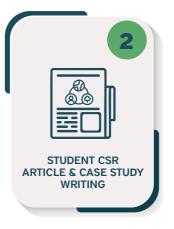
EARN A PREMIUM ADVANCED CERTIFICATE AND ADD AN INTERNATIONAL JOB ENABLER TO YOUR STUDIES

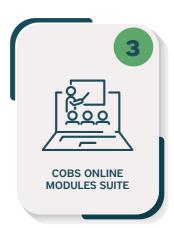
Choose to participate in one of two truly transformative intensive weeks: Leadership from the Rainforest Perspective (Sao Paulo / Amazonia) and ESG & Responsible Entrepreneurship in China (Shanghai).

THE PROGRAM

The 4 Modules of the CoBS Advanced International Certificate









Students earn 1 CoBS Responsible Leadership Certificate per module.

Students completing all 4 modules will receive a CoBS Full Advanced International Certificate.



- Build and develop your own company taking into account sustainability and CSR variables via a challenging business simulation (module 1).
- Interview leader-practitioners and learn about their work and companies renowned for their CSR and sustainability track record (module 2).
- Study practical and relevant online modules crafted by leading international faculty from the CoBS providing global, regional and local contexts and issues in responsible business practices (module 3).
- Participate in lectures and coaching sessions delivered by a subject matter expert and top faculty researcher (modules 1 and 3).
- Discover a territory of high complexity and relevance to the SDGs, particularly those relating to climate change and biodiversity – Amazonia (module 4).
- Discover one of the world's leading hubs in sustainability innovation, entrepreneurship, and financial impact – Shanghai (module 4).



Please check with your home school if they grant credits for this module.

MODULE 1

BUSINESS & SUSTAINABILITY SIMULATION

5TH - 9TH JANUARY, 2026

- Taking into account sustainability variables, build and develop your company in a competition that pitches you against other master's and MBA student teams from the schools of the Council on Business & Society.
- 2.5 days introduction to the scenario and simulation, practice against the computer, coaching and feedback from CoBS faculty
- In teams: 2.5 days in competition mode from 7th-9th January, competing against other teams in the CoBS student cohort, adjudication by a jury including business change makers.
- €1,500 prize money for the winning team, €500 for the runners-up, and certificates for all participants.
- Student guide provided.



Please check with your home school if they grant credits for this module.



STUDENT CSR ARTICLE & CASE STUDY

2nd March to 30th April 2026

- Team up with a fellow student from your school and select a company or organisation in your region or abroad known for its high standards in CSR, sustainability, ESG, or social impact.
- Interview a leadership figure in that organisation and write an article on how the organisation actively contributes to responsible leadership & business practices
- Create a video where you present the case of your chosen organisation.
- The winning article & case study in each CoBS member school wins €500, Finalists receive goodies, and all participants receive a CoBS Certificate.
- Winning articles & videos will be published in the CoBS Global Voice magazine and will appear on the CoBS Insights platform.
- Student guide provided.



The CoBS Business & Sustainability Simulation was both a challenging and exciting experience. Our team improved in collaboration, delegation of responsibilities, time management, and communication, quickly adapting to changing circumstances based on other teams' performance.

One key challenge was understanding the direct link between the non-financial and financial performance of the firm and its impact on its long-term success.

This involved intense strategic discussions within our team, which I found highly valuable for developing our skills in maintaining a constructive dialogue and advocating for our positions, especially when it comes to such complex issues as sustainable development of a business.

Veronika Volodina (PGT), Warwick Business School





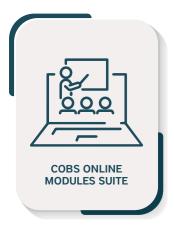






Over the past month, I've explored essential topics like Sustainability Reporting by Prof. Adrian Zicari, Ethics & Compliance by Prof. Ligia Maura Costa, CSR in China by Prof. Qinqin Zheng, and Business & Climate Change by Prof. Frederik Dahlmann. This pilot program has been a transformative learning experience, providing me with the knowledge and skills to champion responsible business practices.

Vidisha L. Vidisha, Warwick Business School, MiM



Please check with your home school if they grant credits for this module.

MODULE 3

ONLINE MODULES SUITE

13TH MAY TO 12TH JUNE, 2026

- Follow 5 online modules out of choice of 9 depending on your knowledge gaps, areas of interest, and career aspirations. Each one has been developed by a leading facultyresearch member of a CoBS member school
- The Modules are: Sustainability Reporting, Ethics & Compliance, CSR in China, Circular Economy, Diversity Disability in the Workplace, Inclusive Business Models, Cross-Cultural Management, Companies & Climate Change, Diversity & Integration.
- Total online time, including self-assessments: 5 hours to be followed when you want, where you want. Additional readings are optional.
- Students having completed a minimum of 5 modules and their self-assessments will receive a CoBS International Certificate.
- Student guide provided.



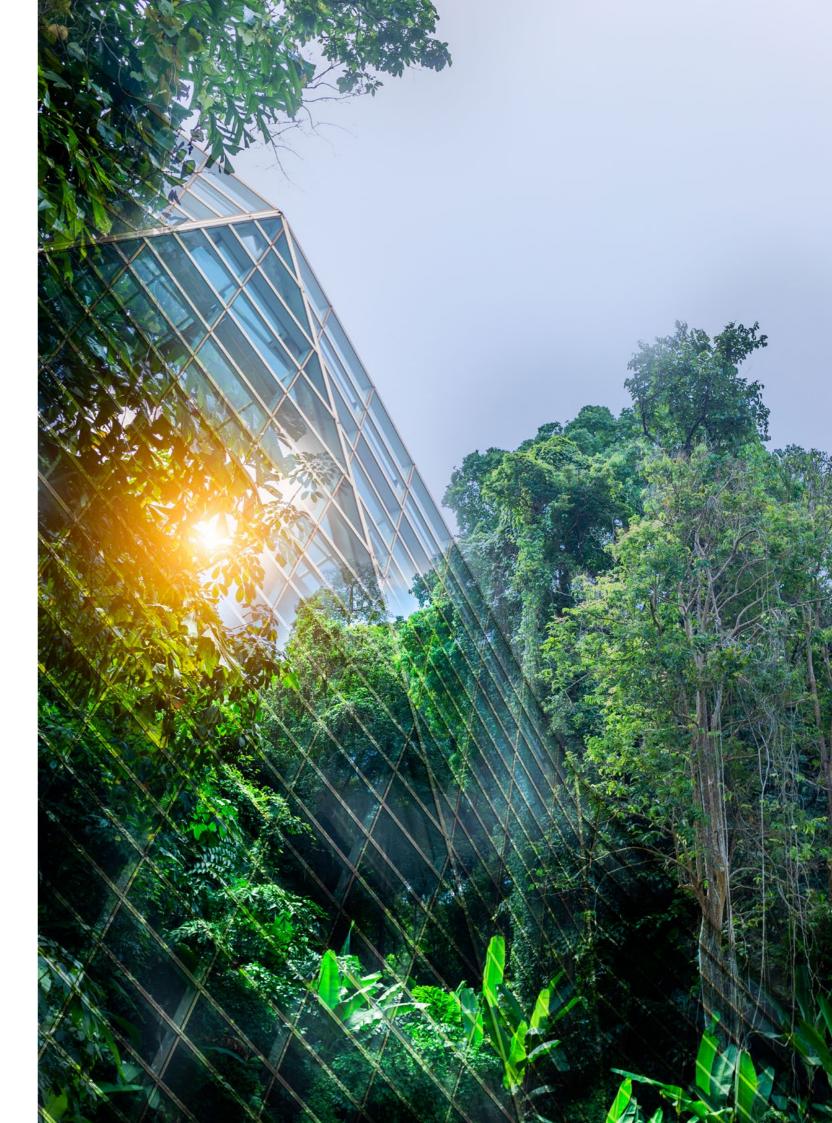






Over the past weeks, I've had the opportunity to deepen my knowledge on key topics shaping responsible leadership today. These topics are more relevant than ever, and I am looking forward to applying what I've learned to promote positive impact, sustainability, and responsible business practices in my work. A special thank you to The CoBS and all the partner institutions for making this learning journey possible.

Thelma Jaffré, Imperial College London-ESSEC Business School exchange student





MODULE 4

OPTION 1

INTENSIVE WEEK 6TH TO 11TH JULY 2026: THE FGV EAESP-COBS INTENSIVE WEEK IN AMAZONIA, BRAZIL

Please check with your home school if they grant credits for this module.

- This United Nations PRME award-winning learning experience focuses on the theme of *Sustainable Leadership: The rainforest perspective*.
- A week's intensive organised by FGV-EAESP Prof. Fernanda Cassab Carreira onboard a riverboat in Amazonia.
- Students journey to a territory of high complexity and relevance to the SDGs, particularly those relating to climate change and biodiversity Amazonia.
- The week includes field trips and meetings with indigenous, riverine, and women's co-operative leaders among others.
- Upon completion of an assignment, students will be delivered a double certificate FGV EAESP and CoBS Responsible Leadership Certificate.

Note: Students will be asked to arrive 2 days in Sao Paulo prior to boarding the riverboat and allow for 1 day after the week for debriefing.

Cost: €1,500 that includes a 50% reduction for CoBS students, airfare from Sao Paulo to Amazonia, teaching, meals, visits, meetings, riverboat costs. Unless included in their program fee, students must pay for their airfare from their country to Sao Paulo and 3 nights' hotel.



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Most of all I liked the small businesses, the people using the natural resources around them to produce products such as honey or handicrafts. And I also enjoyed seeing women taking a leading role and for me that was very inspiring.

Jablan Mkatcha, Stellenbosch Business School What I liked most was the interaction with the indigenous people living and working in Amazonia. I came to understand their situation of their lives, their way of life, the threats they are facing and the progress they're making. It's really very impressive.

Bao Han, School of Management Fudan University

INTENSIVE WEEK OPTION 1: CURRICULUM

6th to 11th July 2026: THE FGV EAESP-CoBS INTENSIVE WEEK IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST, BRAZIL.

Open to MBA students and master's students with work/internship experience.

DAY 1 SANTARÉM / BELTERRA	DAY 2 COOMFLONA/ SANTARÉM / RIOS TAPAJÓS E ARAPIUNS	DAY 3 COMUNIDADE DE URUCUREÁ E ALDEIA INDÍGENA DO LAGO DA PRAIA	DAY 4 PONTA GRANDE / COMUNIDADE DE COROCA / RIOS ARAPIUNS E TAPAJÓS	DAY 5 TRILHA DO PIQUIÁ (FLORESTA PRIMÁRIA) / COMUNIDADE DE JAMARAQUÁ (FLONA TAPAJÓS)
Morning	Morning	Morning	Morning	Morning
Flight from Sao Paulo to Santarem	- Breakfast on hostel - Bus trip to COOMFLONA - Visit to timber management initiative of COOMFLONA	- Breakfast on board - Visit to the Community of Urucureá, along with conversations with the Turiarte's female leaders about their handcraft work - Visit to Lago da Praia Indigenous Village - COITECOG - Boat to Ponta Grande	- Breakfast on board - Early morning at the beach Ponta Grande do Arapiuns - Visit to Coroca Community or a discussion session with leaders, focusing on challenges, threats, and economic initiatives related to turtle management, beekeeping, and Tucumã straw crafts	- Boat to Tapajos River - Lunch on board - River bath during late afternoon at Ponta do Maguari - Dinner and overnight on board
Afternoon	Afternoon	Afternoon	Afternoon	Afternoon
- Arrival at Santarem airport around 2pm - Bus trip to Belterra - Visit to historic sites and museum - Group meeting for general presentation about the trip - Dinner and overnight at local hostel	- Bus trip to Santarém - Boarding the regional boat - Navigation to the Tapajós, Amazonas and Arapiuns River - Dinner and overnight on board Note: During the next 4 days baths will be in the river Tapajós, and the meals and overnights will be on board.	- Lunch and river bath at Ponta do Toronó - Visit to the village and meeting with the chief and leaders of the territory - Navigation along the Arapiuns River to Ponta Grande do Arapiuns - Special dinner (Piracaia) and overnight on board at Ponta Grande do Arapiuns	- Boat to Tapajos River - Lunch on board - River bath during late afternoon at Ponta do Maguari - Dinner and overnight on board	- Disembarkation and check-in at Hotel Borari - Options: free time at the village with visit to the art store and Araribá handcraft or/and river bath - Vivênciade Carimbó-cultural activity with closing conversations about the trip and farewell - Dinner and overnight at the hotel



MODULE 4

OPTION 2

INTENSIVE WEEK 6TH TO 11TH JULY 2026: THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT FUDAN UNIVERSITY INTENSIVE WEEK IN SHANGHAI, CHINA.

Please check with your home school if they grant credits for this module.

- A 35-hour intensive week at on the School of Management Fudan University campus in Shanghai, China, focusing on the theme of ESG and Responsible Entrepreneurship in China and Asia-Pacific
- Includes: Welcome dinner, interactive lectures, case study competition, company and cultural visits, and business change-maker encounters.
- Upon completion, students will be delivered a Fudan Certificate, thereby becoming Fudan Alumni, and a CoBS International Certificate.
- Note: Students will be asked to arrive 2 days in Shanghai prior to starting the course.

Cost: Kindly offered free for CoBS students by School of Management Fudan. Unless included in their program fee, students must pay for their airfare from their country to Shanghai. Student accommodation is available on campus at reduced prices. Students wishing extra comfort outside of campus must pay their own hotel fees.



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The thing I appreciate most is the multicultural experience, meeting friends and colleagues from all over the world and from different places – sharing experiences and knowledge. And of course the lectures we're having are very well done and prepared. So, I feel that I'm going back to my country with my luggage full of insights, knowledge, and friends for life.

Mariana Pulide de Carvahlo, FGV EAESP



4. Intensive Week Option 2

6TH TO 11TH JULY 2026: THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT FUDAN UNIVERSITY INTENSIVE WEEK IN SHANGHAI, CHINA.

Open to MBA students and master's students with work/internship experience.

DAY 1 MONDAY, JULY 15	DAY 2 TUESDAY, JULY 16	DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, JULY 17	DAY 4 THURSDAY, JULY 18	DAY 5 FRIDAY, JULY 19
Dean's Welcome Prof. Zhiwen Yin 08:30-08:50				
Program Overview Academic Director 08:50-09:00	CSR and business ecosystems Part 1	Chinese customer insights and new marketing practices in ethical consumption	Disruptive Innovation of China's Digital Pioneers Part 1	Case Presentation 09:00-11:00
Chinese Economy Overview: Towards a Sustainable Growth Part 1 Prof. Xiaozu WANG 09:00-10:30	09:00-1ŏ:30	Prof. Mengran XU 09:00-10:30	Prof. Xueqi WEI 09:00-10:30	
Coffee-break 10:30-10:45	Coffee-break 10:30-10:45	Coffee-break 10:30-10:45	Coffee-break 10:30-10:45	Coffee-break 11:00-11:15
Interactive Lecture Chinese Economy Overview: Towards a Sustainable Growth: The impact of UN SDGs on Chinese companies and business transformation Part 2 Prof. Xiaozu WANG 10:45-12:00	Interactive Lecture CSR and business ecosystems: Can peer pressure further CSR? Part 2 Prof.Xintong ZHAN 10:45-12:00	Interactive Lecture Chinese customer insights and new marketing practices in ethical consumption Prof. Mengran XU 10:45-12:00	Interactive lecture Disruptive Innovation of China's Digital Pioneers: Future trends in using digital tools to promote responsible innovations and business growth in China and Asia Pacific Part 2 Prof. Xueqi WEI 10:45-12:00	Reflection Session Fudan Certificates Handing-out & Group Photos 11:15-12:00
Lunch 12:00-13:30	Lunch 12:00-13:30	Lunch 12:00-13:30	Lunch 12:00-13:30	Lunch 12:00-13:30
Company Visit 1 (tbc) Meet and debate with a business change-maker CSR winning companies 13:30-16:30	Cultural Experience Taichi Lesson 13:30-14:30 Fudan Campus Tour 14:30-15:30	Case Study Break-out Room Discussion and Preparation 13:30-16:30	Company Visit 2 Freshippo (tbc) 13:30-16:30	Shanghai City Tour (lead by students from Fudan) 13:30-16:30
Welcome Dinner 17:30-19:00	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Program Closing



























ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS



We seek and encourage students and participants with the following attributes to apply for the CoBS Advanced International Certificate:

Rigorous, open-minded, international in mindset, resilient, respectful of diversity, creative-innovative, ethical, action-oriented, objective, analytical, curious, enlightened, involved, solutions-oriented, willing to go the extra mile, quality-driven, professional in attitude and execution.

As a general guideline, students must already have completed classes in (either or all) marketing, management, strategy, and finance.

Students must be in good health to participate in Module 4 intensive weeks.

FOR MASTER'S STUDENTS WISHING TO FOLLOW EITHER ONE, SEVERAL OR ALL 4 MODULES IN THE CERTIFICATE:

You must be currently enrolled in a program at master's level in one of the CoBS member schools (see list on page 2).

Ideally, master's level students should have work or internship experience, demonstrate good grades throughout their academic journey in their home school, and show a passion for the areas the advanced international certificate covers.

Eligibility for the Certificate Modules must be obtained from your school's CoBS representative upon expression of interest for CSR, sustainability and ESG, work/internship experience, and motivation.

As a general rule, each school will approve participating students according to the minimum requirements each school will set for them.

FOR MBA PARTICIPANTS WISHING TO FOLLOW EITHER ONE, SEVERAL OR ALL 4 MODULES IN THE CERTIFICATE:

You must be currently enrolled in a program at MBA level in one of the CoBS member schools (see list on page 2).

You must have at least 4-5 years of full-time work experience and professional achievement.

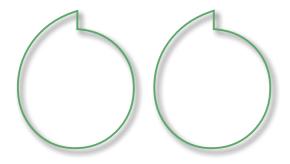
Eligibility for the Certificate Modules must be obtained from your school's CoBS representative upon expression of interest for CSR, sustainability and ESG, work experience, and motivation.

As a general rule, each school will approve participating students according to the minimum requirements each school will set for them.

Visit the CoBS Advanced International Certificate web page









The brand new CoBS certificate provides students with a fantastic learning opportunity to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of faculty and students across the 11 business schools in this alliance. Understanding how and why companies

must engage in important and urgent issues and debates about the role of business in society, ethics and sustainability is essential for all students studying business and preparing for their future careers. The certificate offers you the opportunity to be part of an exciting and innovative global learning collaboration!

Prof. Frederik Dahlmann, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick



Working with the CoBS member schools to develop this learning offer has been an incredible experience of cooperation, innovation and commitment to the student and CSR-Sustainability experience it hopes to provide. I can only begin to imagine the amazing

benefits and opportunities it will bring students from these superb schools to meet, learn and work together – now and in the future.

Tom Gamble, Executive Director, Council on Business & Society



The CoBS certificate is designed to provide students with a unique opportunity to learn about the intersection of business and society, with experts from 11 leading institutions in the world. The certificate embodies our values of diversity of perspectives,

innovation in pedagogy, responsible leadership education, and humanistic spirit that motivates the empathetic understanding of business and society challenges that undoubtedly have implications for individuals, groups, and communities at large. Enriching their domain expertise and business skills with the CoBS Certificate allows our students not only to elevate the conversations on responsible business, but also to turn ideas into real action as future leaders and agents of transformation.

I am proud of the teams that created and curated the CoBS Certificate. And as our students embrace this opportunity I am excited for what comes next, knowing that they will not only broaden their horizons but also leave an indelible mark on the world!

Prof. Aarti Ramaswami, Executive Vice President, Dean of Pre-Experience Programs, ESSEC Business School



There is no question that the role of business in society is changing. I'm excited for the opportunity that students will have via the Certificate to equip themselves with the latest thinking and know-how in this new normal.

Prof. Elspeth Murray, Smith School of Business, Queen's University



The CoBS International
Certificate is a wonderful
opportunity for students to
get a global perspective on
pressing issues of our times.
The eminent faculty and an
international cohort from
the network schools delivers
a multidimensional learning
experience that will be

invaluable for the students in their career.

Prof. and Dean of faculty Sourav Mukherji, IIM Bangalore





Getting involved

Business, society, planet

A singular presence with a global mission

REACH US

The Council on Business & Society website: www.council-business-society.org

Thought Leadership at the CoBS: https://cobsinsights.org/



For enquiries, please send an e-mail to tom.gamble@essec.edu























