

M13: Sustainability and Ethics in Banking and Finance

General Information		
Module Code	W.MSCBF_SE02.23	
Programme	Master of Science in Banking and Finance	
Type of Module	Core module in focus programme	
Level of Module	Specialisation	
ECTS Credits / Workload	3 ECTS Credits (90 hours)	
Module Dependencies		
Pre-requisites	The students have a bachelor degree with a major in Banking and Finance. The basics of strategic management are familiar to them.	
Follow-up modules		
Module Aims		
<p>The students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- are able to describe and reflect on ethical and sustainability issues in banking and finance.- are able to identify and evaluate moral issues in the financial services industry based on different ethical theories.- know and are able to apply different methods and frameworks for assessing corporate sustainability profiles.		
Learning Outcome 1		
<p>1. Good basic knowledge of ethical theories and how to apply them in a financial services context.</p> <p>2. Understand the CFA Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct; discuss potential issues.</p> <p>3. Knowledge and ability to explain and reflect on sustainability criteria and UN Sustainable Development Goals as well as their relevance in a banking and finance context.</p> <p>4. Understand and interpret corporate ESG ratings and ist methods.</p> <p>5. Ability to apply frameworks to assess the sustainability profiles of corporates.</p>		
	Importance	Relevant NQF-Descriptors
Subject knowledge and skills: Students are aware of ethical issues and know professional conducts such as the CFA Code of Ethics; Students learn to critically reflect and apply different ethical theories and sustainability criteria and to assess their impact on financial institutions and society.	high	knowledge; application; judgement
Methodology: Students are able to transfer the ethical and sustainability approaches to present-day challenges in the financial services industry.	medium	application; judgement
Content Outline		
Topics include:		
<p>Ethics in Banking: a deal-breaker or an opportunity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key stakeholders of banks and their interests• Normative and descriptive business ethics: Classical ethical theories (e.g., virtue ethics, utilitarianism) and challenges of application in the financial services industry		
CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct (Code and Standards)		

- Introduction to the CFA Program and the CFA and Standards by an Alumni and CFA charterholder
- Game-based ethical decision-making program by the CFA institute
- Discussion of potential issues and challenges in banking and asset management

Sustainability in Banking and Finance

- Fundamental concepts and principles of sustainability
- Methodologies and frameworks for evaluating the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance of corporations
- Practical approaches (case study) to assessing and analyzing corporate ESG profiles using established frameworks, tools, and metrics

Applications in Banking and Finance

Teaching and Learning Methods

Contact Hours	lecture; coaching; discussion; group work
Directed Study	group work

Workload

Contact Hours	24 lessons / 18 hours (20%)
Directed Study	60 lessons / 45 hours (50%)
Private Study	27 hours (30%)

Assignments and Assessments

Assessment Type	Quantity	Weight	Form	Evaluation Type	Time
Written examination		60%	report	grades	during semester
Written group assignment		40%	report	grades	during semester