

## M13: Sustainability and Ethics in Banking and Finance

### General Information

<b>Module Code</b>	W.MSCBF_SE02.23
<b>Programme</b>	Master of Science in Banking and Finance
<b>Type of Module</b>	Core module in focus programme
<b>Level of Module</b>	Specialisation
<b>ECTS Credits / Workload</b>	3 ECTS Credits (90 hours)

### Module Dependencies

<b>Pre-requisites</b>	The students have a bachelor degree with a major in Banking and Finance. The basics of strategic management are familiar to them.
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### Follow-up modules

### Module Aims

The students

- 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

1. Good basic knowledge of ethical theories and how to apply them in a financial services context.
2. Understand the CFA Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct; discuss potential issues
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.
4. Understand and interpret corporate ESG ratings and its methods
5. Ability to apply frameworks to assess the sustainability profiles of corporates

	<b>Importance</b>	<b>Relevant NQF-Descriptors</b>
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:

Ethics in Banking: a deal-breaker or an opportunity?

- 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

- Environmental, social and governance issues. How to identify, measure and manage them?
- Corporate (social) responsibility (CSR): a moral necessity or a marketing gag?
- Mapping UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to financial services issues

#### Corporate sustainability

- Evaluation of sustainability rating methods (ESG-ratings)
- Application of sustainability assessments for companies

#### Applications in Banking and Finance

### Teaching and Learning Methods

<b>Contact Hours</b>	lecture; coaching; discussion; group work
<b>Directed Study</b>	group work

### Workload

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

### Assignments and Assessments

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