

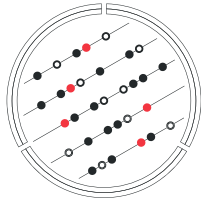
**CAS** CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

# Sustainable Finance

h e g

Haute école de gestion  
Genève

**Hes·SO** GENÈVE  
Haute Ecole Spécialisée  
de Suisse occidentale



## INTRODUCTION

The Geneva School of Business Administration (Haute école de gestion Genève – HEG) of the HES-SO University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland is offering the first **online Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Sustainable Finance** (12 ECTS) to help finance professionals seize growing opportunities offered by responsible investment.

This course received the prize for Best Pedagogical Innovation at the [FIR-PRI Finance & Sustainability Awards 2019](#).



Today, responsible investment represents more than 25% of all professionally managed assets, according to the Global Sustainable Investment Review. **For finance professionals, sustainability represents new opportunities** in terms of jobs and markets. It is also a source of innovation in financial products and services. The interest for sustainable finance is increasing rapidly among private investors (millennials), as well as among institutional investors.

**Designed by professionals for professionals**, this programme is mainly organized through online teaching in English and it is well grounded in the Swiss tradition of excellence. Seasoned sustainable finance experts from the financial, banking, international organisations and academic domains have contributed to this CAS. A final week in Geneva is devoted to networking, live presentations, discussions and visits at expert organisations, enabling participants to dive into the rich local sustainability ecosystem.

## OBJECTIVES

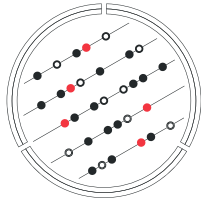
This course will enable participants to understand the drivers and characteristics of the sustainable finance movement and to build their own responsible investment strategy whether it be as a corporate actor, an investor, an asset manager, or as an active shareholder.

At the end of the programme, the participant is able to:

- Justify why sustainability is relevant to the financial sector
- Combine the constraints of risk, return, and impact
- Conduct ESG analyses and select responsible investment products
- Understand active ownership and engage with companies on sustainability issues
- Report on a full responsible investment process

## TEACHING METHODS

The structure of the course combines theory, concepts, industry expert interviews, and practical exercises, and is supported by mandatory and optional readings in addition to video material and tests. The practical dimension of this programme will allow participants to endorse different roles relevant to a full responsible investment process.



For example, students will act as the CEO of a bank and as an asset owner defining their values and investment guidelines. They will also play the role of an analyst defining ESG criteria and applying the guidelines, and of an asset manager in charge of selecting the right investment funds. As virtual shareholders, students will exercise their voting rights and engage with companies on certain themes. Finally, participants will discuss the steps of their investment process during the last week of the course in Geneva.

Experts from the following organisations have been interviewed for this course: Conser Invest, de Pury Pictet Turrettini & Cie, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), ethos, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Impact Finance Management S.A., International Labour Organization, Lombard Odier, Nest Fondation collective, Oberson Abels, PeaceNexus Foundation, Pictet & Cie SA, Quadia, SGS, Sustainable Finance Geneva, Swiss Sustainable Finance, Symbiotics, UNEP Finance Initiative, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), University of Oxford, and University of Geneva.

## PROGRAMME

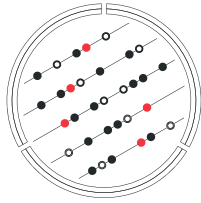
The CAS Sustainable Finance will be open for 26 weeks: students will have 25 weeks maximum to follow the 9 steps of the online education part of the programme, from 13 January to 11 July 2025; the programme includes four days in Geneva, 24 January (kick-off meeting), 4 April and from 5 to 6 June 2025.

### Online

- Step 1: Sustainability and you - From capitalism to sustainable development
- Step 2: Be a bank CEO - Sustainability, business & finance
- Step 3: Define your investment charter - The role of asset owners
- Step 4: Set practical investment guidelines - ESG criteria
- Step 5: Implement ESG assessments - Responsible investment
- Step 6: Submit an investment idea - SDG, thematic and impact investing
- Step 7: Select the right funds - Responsible investment process
- Step 8: Be an active shareholder - Corporate governance & engagement
- Step 10: Formulate your investment process - Walking the path of sustainable finance

### In Geneva

- Kick-off meeting: 24 January 2025
- Meet the experts: 4 April, 5-6 June 2025



## ORGANISATION

### Co-directors



Assistant professor of sustainable finance, Haute école de gestion de Genève



Antoine Mach, co-founder and managing partner of Covalence SA, an ESG rating agency

### Educational design



Jean Laville, partner at Conser, an independent consultancy firm dedicated to sustainable finance.

### Facilitator



Kookie Habtegabrer is a development economist.

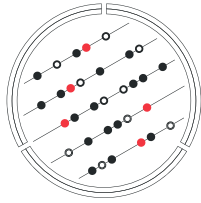
## DIPLOMA

Participants who will successfully complete the online course and the final week in Geneva will receive a Certificate of Advanced Studies (12 ECTS).

Participants attending the distance learning classes only will receive a certificate of attendance.

## PROFILE

**The online Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Sustainable Finance** is targeting a local and international audience of finance professionals willing to take the next turn in their career by mastering the theory and practice of this growing field: financial analysts, portfolio managers, independent wealth managers, client advisors, and junior ESG analysts.



## CONDITIONS AND APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications will be treated on a «first-come first-served» basis and will be restricted for pedagogical reasons. In addition to the signed application form, the application must include the followings: curriculum vitae, recent picture, copy of highest diploma, and motivation letter.

Applications should be submitted to the HEG Executive education office no later than 6 January 2025.

## LOCATION AND SCHEDULE

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## COST

For the complete programme (distance learning & Geneva on-site classes): the programme fee is CHF 6'000.-. It does not include potential travel and hotel expenses in Geneva.

For the distance learning ONLY (steps 1-9): the programme fee is CHF 4'000.-.

## INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS

Formation continue HEG-Genève  
fc.heg@hesge.ch / Tél. +41 22 388 18 83  
Rue de la Tambourine 17, CH-1227 Carouge

[www.hesge.ch/heg/sf](http://www.hesge.ch/heg/sf)

## PARTNER

Supported by the Cyberlearn HES-SO e-learning center, a reference for online programs

