



Sustainable Finance

“My exposure to sustainable investing and environmental, social and governance principles at Otago firstly provided a talking point during my recruitment process. Then an opportunity to look further into how ESG principles can be applied at Forsyth Barr through building our capacity and forming policies.”

Helena Rikiti (BCom)
Graduate at Forsyth Barr

Be the change. Help the world economy transition to a more sustainable future.

The minor in Sustainable Finance is a powerful pairing for anyone trying to contribute to the global transition to a more sustainable economy, as financial decisions impact every aspect of society. The entire financial system, domestically and globally, is shifting quickly to incorporate environmental, social and governance considerations across its investments, services, products, and strategies. This selection of papers will build your sustainable finance skills and act as a strong signal to potential employers that you have developed these highly sought-after capabilities. You will learn how to evaluate climate change strategies and give recommendations to organisations in terms of their sustainability operations, strategy, investments and more.

The skills and knowledge you learn in this minor can be applied across a variety of industries, as each are facing sustainability challenges and interact with finance. Your specialist skill set will be broadly desired.

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Why study Sustainable Finance?

Gain the sought-after sustainable finance skills and knowledge needed to help our organisations and communities transition to a more sustainable future. Upon completion, you will be able to confidently make a difference by securing funding, managing investments sustainably, supporting corporate sustainability strategies and climate reporting, and assessing climate risks and opportunities.

Background required

There are no required subjects for studying Sustainable Finance at Otago, but students who choose Finance usually have an interest in making decisions about raising, managing, and allocating money and capital. It's helpful if you've studied economics, accounting, mathematics or statistics at school, but these are not essential.

Teaching style

All teaching takes place on campus in lectures, labs and tutorials. The Sustainable Finance minor incorporates FINC 320 Sustainable Investments, which has sessions in our Bloomberg Markets Lab. It is one of the largest academic trading labs in New Zealand offering students valuable experience by allowing them to use real-time financial and non-financial data on companies and portfolios – improving data analysis and digital literacy skills.

Students graduate with a greater ability to compete for employment opportunities in the financial industry and other roles in the commercial sector. The skills in sustainable finance and business, built in

this programme, have become highly sought after in recent years as the world economy tries to transition to a more sustainable future. Otago is the first and only New Zealand university offering these skills.

Required papers

BSNS 114 Financial Decision Making

FINC 102 Business Mathematics

FINC 320 Sustainable Investments

MANT 337 Organisations and Sustainability

Plus any one of:

BSNS 112 Interpreting Business Data

STAT 110 Statistical Methods

STAT 115 Introduction to Biostatistics

And either:

FINC 202 Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management

Or both:

ECON 207 Environmental Economics and

one of: EMAN 204 Energy Resources or

ACCT 325 Corporate Sustainability Accounting and Reporting

(Students majoring in Finance must include both ECON 207 and one of EMAN 204 or ACCT 325, and are not permitted to count FINC 202 towards the Sustainable Finance minor. Students not majoring in Finance are required to take FINC 202.)

Career opportunities

Financial institutions are swiftly creating sustainable finance teams and positions, both locally and abroad, so there has been significant growth in the sustainable finance job market. Graduates will be well positioned

to work as and with sustainable finance advisers, investment managers, consultants, analysts, planners and managers for policy, change, development and strategy. These roles cut across industries including financial services, energy, agriculture and government.

For questions about
Sustainable Finance
otago.ac.nz/sustainablefinance



ENDORSEMENTS

Matt Whineray

Chief Executive Officer, NZ Super Fund

"The work that the University of Otago's Climate & Energy Finance Group is doing to help build the base of knowledge for analysing environmental costs and impacts is hugely valuable. A better, shared understanding of the whole economic system will mean investors can de-risk their portfolios by directing resources to businesses and industries that are operating more efficiently and sustainably, providing capital to new opportunities presented by the transition to a low carbon energy system."

Dean Spicer

Head of Sustainable Finance, ANZ

"Globally, capital flows are being rapidly directed to sustainable finance to solve societies most significant environmental and social challenges. Sustainable finance is rapidly becoming mainstream finance. Future business leaders need a solid understanding of how to integrate sustainability into their investment decision-making. I would therefore encourage students to include sustainable finance within their business studies so they are well equipped for their future careers."

