Module Specification

Sustainable Business and Computing

Version: 2026-27, v4.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Sustainable Business and Computing

Module code: UFCFLM-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Computing and Creative Technologies

Partner institutions: None

Field: Computer Science and Creative Technologies

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module helps students to develop a structured understanding of the ways in which businesses and IT have environmental, social and economic impacts – for good and for bad. Computing is a powerful lever of change in the world and the module will discuss how to use these tools responsibly. The module will also discuss how this contributes to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) by promoting responsible innovation, sustainable economic growth, and improved social and environmental outcomes.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module will give students an introduction to how businesses can be sustainable – economically, environmentally and socially.

Students will learn about how computing can have damaging impacts on sustainability.

Students will explore some of the ways in which Information and Communications Technology (ICT) can deliver significant sustainability benefits.

The module will make significant use of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (sometimes called the Global Goals) as a way to structure our thinking about Business, Computing and the ways in which we can address the needs of the world and our local communities.

Outline syllabus: The topics covered will include but not be limited to:

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as global and national statements of sustainability.
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reporting – the syllabus will reflect the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) sustainability reporting standards as they are the most widely used for company reporting.
Economic sustainability – (the GRI 200 series topic standards) including economic performance, anti-corruption
Environmental sustainability – (GRI 300 series topic standards) inc materials, emissions
Social sustainability – (GRI 400 series), inc forced labour, supplier social assessment, marketing and labelling.
Green IT
IT for Sustainability (sometimes referred to as Tech4Good)
The harms of IT systems (Tech4Bad)

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will be delivered through weekly lectures in the first semester, each covering key topics towards the learning objectives. The module will use UWE's virtual learning environment to publish teaching materials. Independent learning time is expected to be used by students to master the concepts and for assignment preparation, both formative and summative.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of the concepts and competing definitions of a sustainable business

MO2 Evaluate companies' sustainability using the Global Reporting Initiative framework

MO3 Discuss and critically evaluate organisational case examples of the positive and negative impacts of ICT on sustainability

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Staff-guided learning = 36 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ufcflm-15-3.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: A defended poster exploring how business and computing are contributing to the achievement of one of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Students will be offered the opportunity to practice a defended poster presentation as a formative assessment on a topic relating to Corporate Social Responsibility reporting.

The resit strategy is the same as for first sit.

Assessment tasks:

Poster (First Sit)
Description: Individual defended poster presentation (15 mins)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Poster (Resit)
Description: Individual defended poster presentation (15 mins)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Business Computing {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Business Computing [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Business Computing [Frenchay] - WITHDRAWN BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Business Computing {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Business Computing {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Business Computing {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Business Computing [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Business Computing {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Information Technology {Top-Up} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Business Computing {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Business Computing [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25