



Stellenbosch

UNIVERSITY
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UNIVERSITEIT

SPL

School for Public Leadership
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Skool vir Publieke Leierskap

ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Grounding students in **sustainability** and
entrepreneurship for **impact investment**
and **ethical innovation**

School of Public Leadership | Stellenbosch University
Faculty of Economic & Management Sciences

diploma@sun.ac.za | 021 881 3952 | www.maties.com



This one-year hybrid programme is ideal for graduates and working professionals who want to equip themselves to create just and sustainable futures in the digital age.



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WHERE WE FIT IN

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

School of Public Leadership

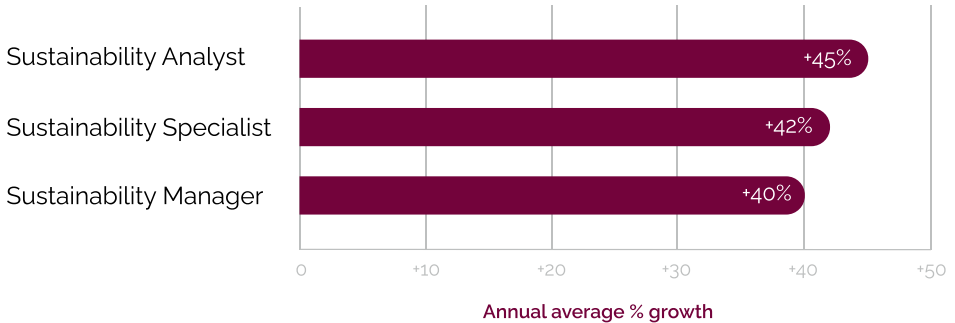
Advanced Diploma in Sustainable Development
(NQF 7, 1 year)

SKILLS FOR A GREEN ECONOMY

According to the World Economic Forum Future of Jobs Report 2023, **the fastest growing roles relative to their size today are driven by technology, digitalization and sustainability.**

Green jobs, and a workforce with the skills to fill them, are essential for meeting climate targets. Drawing on data provided by LinkedIn, Future of Jobs Report 2023 assesses how employers and employees are responding to the green transition. Employers have increased green job hiring rates, with year-on-year green job growth exceeding the overall hiring rate growth every year since 2019. **This has resulted in sustainability jobs making up three of the top ten fastest growing roles on the LinkedIn platform over the last four years, including Sustainability Analysts, Sustainability Specialists, and Sustainability Managers.** The proportion of the labour force reporting green skills is rising to meet the increased demand, growing by almost 40% since 2015, from 9% to 13%.

Fastest growing job postings on LinkedIn 2018-2022



Source: World Economic Forum: Future of Work Report 2023

Whether you aspire to launch your own enterprise, make a meaningful impact as an employee, or provide sustainability consultancy services to businesses, this programme will equip you with the necessary skills to align your ideas with CRISA principles and meet the expectations of impact investors.

As we transition to a green economy, there is also a growing need for responsible investing. The Advanced Diploma aligns with the Code for Responsible Investing in South Africa (CRISA). CRISA encourages integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into investment decisions.

HYBRID LEARNING

Discover a flexible and dynamic learning experience with our hybrid programme. Benefit from self-directed learning, complemented by daily synchronous sessions and three immersive in-person contact sessions throughout the year. This unique blend ensures you have the flexibility to shape your learning journey while growing a valuable professional network through real-world experiences.

Online learning

Most of your learning will take place online. You should allow for approximately 120 hours per month, February – November. Self-directed learning (at your own pace) accounts for about 70% of your online learning. As you work through pre-recorded lectures and interesting readings, there are online activities that help you track your understanding and progress. Each module has a range of formative assessments that test your ability to apply the theory covered (no exams or tests).

There are daily synchronous meetups so that you do not get lost in the virtual learning space. Synchronous activities account for approximately 30% of your online learning. These meetups allow you to ask questions, connect with peers and make sure you are on track.

Immersive in-person learning

There are three immersive in-person contact sessions throughout the year, ranging from 3 to 5 days each. The in-person contact blocks set this programme apart - these are the moments that will truly ignite your passion for sustainable development. You will be able to connect with community activists and researchers who drive real change in the field of sustainability. These experiences allow you to gain practical skills and insights that you can apply directly to assessments and your work experience outside of the programme.

Integrated learning

The modules in the Advanced Diploma are presented as an integrated learning experience.

Semester 1:

In "*Sustainability in the Digital Age*" you will explore the sustainable potential of digital technology, impact investment, and responsible leadership. The "*Research Approaches*" module focuses on transformative and collaborative research, enabling you to identify social issues, collect data, and test the impact of your solutions. In "*Business Plans and Strategies*," you'll learn how businesses can be catalysts for social change, exploring for-profit enterprises, social enterprises, and responsible investment.

Semester 2:

The "*Entrepreneurship Incubator*" module empowers you to design innovative projects by applying sustainable technology and critical thinking to real-world challenges.



Sustainability in the Digital Age

Research
Approaches

Business Plans
& Strategies

Entrepreneurship
Incubator

Embrace the opportunity to reimagine our world through sustainable development.



SUSTAINABILITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

How can digital technology help us achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?

WHY THIS MODULE MATTERS

This module is a pre-requisite for Entrepreneurship Incubator 151.

This module explores how digital technology, impact investment and leadership in the digital space can help us to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this module, you will examine relevant technologies that drive the 4th Industrial Revolution and interrogate which technological developments and trends are truly sustainable. You will learn about values, ethics, and leadership in the digital space with a focus on responsible investment, and this will provide a conceptual basis from which you will imagine, ideate, and innovate in the Entrepreneurship Incubator module.

MODULE OUTCOMES

After the successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

- Describe various interpretations of sustainable development in local and global contexts.
- Explain current technologies that drive the 4th Industrial Revolution.
- Identify the role technology can play in sustainable business, social justice, and positive environmental impact.
- Discuss the ethical considerations of technological advances from a sustainable development perspective, with specific reference to new digital divides.
- Describe basic principles of responsible investment, and relevant policies in the local context (e.g., CRISA).
- Describe the relationship between technology and sustainable development, with reference to responsible investing.

30 credits, Term 1 and Term 2



RESEARCH APPROACHES

How might we do research in transformative and collaborative ways?

WHY THIS MODULE MATTERS

This module is a pre-requisite for Entrepreneurship Incubator 151.

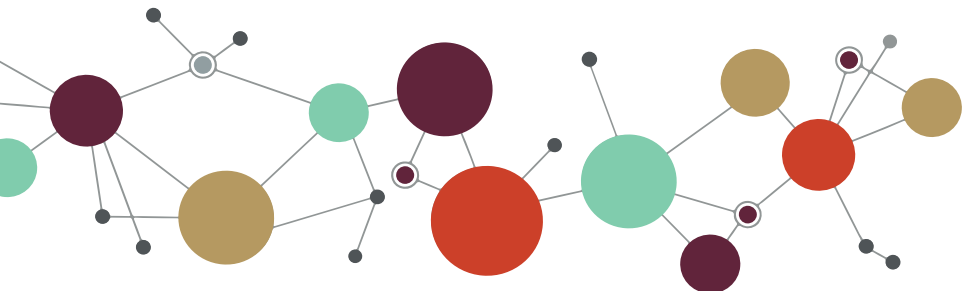
This module explores how we might do research in transformative and collaborative ways to deeply understand social issues and community needs. You will be guided in identifying problems worth solving, collecting and capturing data together with your research participants, and using a variety of approaches to test the impact of your solutions. You will also practice critical thinking and build your writing skills to formulate persuasive arguments for social change.

MODULE OUTCOMES

After the successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

- Describe transdisciplinary and participatory action research approaches in relation to defined case studies.
- Identify appropriate research designs, including specific data collection and analysis methods for defined case studies.
- Develop and communicate ideas and opinions in a well-formed argument.

15 credits, Term 1





BUSINESS PLANS AND STRATEGIES

How can Business be a vehicle for positive change?

WHY THIS MODULE MATTERS

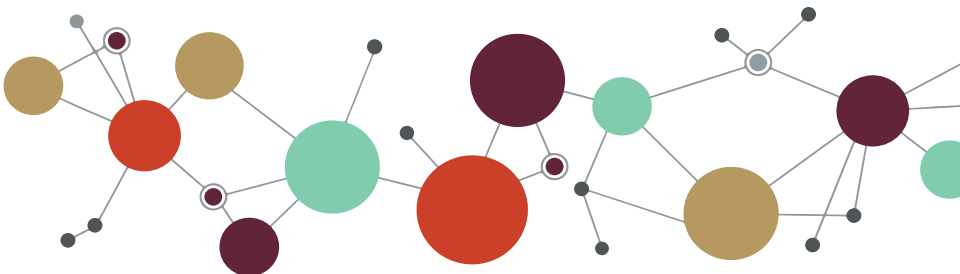
This module explores how business can be a vehicle for social change. By recognising the value of doing business differently through for-profit enterprises, social enterprises, 'knowledge commons' enterprises and social campaigns underpinned by social enterprises, you will formulate a business plan aimed at responsible investment. The theoretical knowledge you gain in this module can then be applied to a new business venture in the Entrepreneurship Incubator module.

MODULE OUTCOMES

After the successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

- Describe conventional for-profit enterprises, social enterprises, social campaigns underpinned by social enterprises and 'knowledge commons' enterprises.
- Apply relevant business principles with reference to a particular set of case studies.
- Identify key requirements of business plans for impact investing.

15 credits, Term 2





ENTREPRENEURSHIP INCUBATOR

Ask courageous questions. Create meaningful answers.

WHY THIS MODULE MATTERS

This module encourages you to ask courageous questions and then to create meaningful answers to these questions by designing your own innovative project. To achieve this, you will be taken through cycles of divergent and convergent thinking to deepen your understanding of resilient ideas for a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) context.

The theoretical content and practical skills you have gained during the first semester will be applied here in experiments, simulations, debates and scenario plans to explore the ways in which sustainable technology can be used for a significant cause.

MODULE OUTCOMES

After the successful completion of this module, you will be able to do the following in relation to a start-up enterprise, whether your own or that of an existing case study:

- Demonstrate the entrepreneurial values of innovation, experimentation, determination, relationship-building, and cooperation through a design-thinking process, and reflect these values in practice.
- Apply appropriate research methods and approaches to data collection.
- Understand why prototyping is an integral part of the design thinking process.
- Formulate and present a business case and business plan that details critical aspects of developing a successful business.
- Prepare and present an investor-ready business pitch that clearly explains your business idea.

60 credits, Term 3 and 4

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Advanced Diploma (NQF level 7, 120 credits)

One-year, full-time programme

Hybrid learning approach:

- Self-directed online learning at your own pace, **with**
- Synchronous online sessions throughout the programme, **and**
Approximately 120 hours per month (30% for synchronous engagement, 70% self-directed learning).
- One compulsory in-person learning journey per term (5 days each).

View the provisional dates and programme costs [online](#).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A Diploma (NQF level 6) or Bachelor's degree (NQF level 7) from a recognised tertiary institution in subjects/fields aligned with the focus of the Advanced Diploma, e.g. sustainable development, entrepreneurship, business studies, economics, innovation.
- Access to a computer and reliable internet.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Apply via **[Stellenbosch University's online portal](#)**.
- Follow the **[programme selection instructions](#)**.
- Application deadlines and selection processes are available in the **[EMS Faculty Yearbook](#)**.
- The number of applications who are interested to register for this programme in a particular year will determine whether this programme is offered or not.
- Contact **diploma@sun.ac.za** if you have any questions.

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Advanced Diploma enquiries: diploma@sun.ac.za

General Enquiries: info@sun.ac.za | +27 (0)21 808 9111

Bursaries: <https://finaid.sun.ac.za/>

Bursaries & Loans: General +27 (0)21 808 4627

Division Student Fees: +27 (0)21 808 4913/4519/4521;

www.sun.ac.za/english/maties/fees/study-fees

Division Student Records: +27 (0)21 808 4575

Faculty Student Support: emsinfo@sun.ac.za

International Students: interoff@sun.ac.za; +27 (0)21 808 2565



