

Sustainable Business for Planetary Health

Toolkit for supporting sustainable innovation and business practices

21st July to 1st August 2025

Summer School Overview

The **Sustainable Business for Planetary Health** summer school is an intensive 10-day programme designed to explore the pressing challenges of the circular economy, green innovation, sustainable food systems, and regulation - empowering private and public sectors to drive the transition towards a greener economy. Led by the **Centre for Health Economics & Policy Innovation (CHEPI)** and Faculty from across Imperial College Business School and the Grantham Institute of Climate Change, the programme equips students with the knowledge and skills to develop sustainable business strategies that promote planetary health.

The topics covered are transdisciplinary, with a strong emphasis on their interconnectedness, providing a holistic perspective on complex global challenges. This summer school offers a unique opportunity to address these issues through a global and interdisciplinary lens. The programme is particularly suited for individuals interested in how businesses and organisations can tackle climate change and transition toward a sustainable economy, with specific case studies on food security, global health challenges and climate policies.

The programme consists of **in-depth lectures** with hands-on **consultancy projects** where students collaborate in teams to develop strategic solutions to real-world business challenges aligned with global environmental priorities. The final day will feature **group presentations** to a panel of academics and industry professionals.

Topics Covered

Climate Science and Corporate Responsibility

- Explore the latest scientific evidence on climate change and its implications for business.
- Assess climate-related risks and opportunities in corporate strategy.
- Quantify carbon-neutral business models and net-zero corporate strategies
- Examine the role of sustainable energy transitions and green finance
- Implement circular economy principles to minimise waste and environmental impact

Circular Economy and Food Systems

- Analyse the environmental and social consequences of global food production
- Explore sustainable agriculture practices and the potential of alternative proteins
- Examine supply chain innovations and food waste reduction opportunities
- Evaluate investment in ethical and regenerative food businesses

Health, Wellbeing and Planetary Health

- Investigate the intersection of climate change and global health crises
- Define corporate responsibility in promoting public health and environmental justice
- Assess sustainable healthcare models and the transformative role of technology
- Design urban environments that foster sustainability, resilience, and wellbeing

Innovation, Policy, and the Role of Government

- Explore strategies for accelerating the transition to a sustainable economy

- Understand the role of government policies, incentives, and regulations in driving corporate sustainability
- Analyse public-private collaborations that foster green innovation and systemic change
- Develop business strategies that align with global sustainability goals and regulatory frameworks

Target Audience

The primary audience for the summer school would be undergraduate students with an analytical mindset who seek to deepen their understanding of the environmental challenges faced by corporations and explore possible solutions. An economics background is not required, and students from interdisciplinary fields, including science, engineering, and public health, are encouraged to attend. The programme is also well-suited for aspiring entrepreneurs and future business leaders looking to integrate sustainability into their career paths.

By the end of the programme, students will have gained a solid foundation in sustainable business strategies, innovation, and impact assessment, equipping them with the tools to drive meaningful change in their future careers.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how businesses can drive solutions to climate change, sustainable food systems, and planetary health challenges.
- Develop innovative business models that balance environmental responsibility, social impact, and profitability.
- Apply sustainability assessment tools and impact measurement frameworks.
- Strengthen critical thinking, teamwork, and entrepreneurial problem-solving skills.

Group work: Sustainability Consultancy Project

Students will act as **sustainability consultants**, working in teams to provide strategic recommendations for a real-world business challenge related to **climate, food, or health**. Each team will analyse a company's sustainability issue and propose an actionable, innovative business strategy that aligns with planetary health goals.

Entry Requirements

All students are expected to be studying an undergraduate degree, preferably in the final two years of their undergraduate studies, in any subject discipline.

English requirements:

All students are required to have a good command of English, and if it is not their first language, they will need to satisfy the College requirement as follows:

- a minimum score of IELTS (Academic Test) 6.5 overall (with no less than 6.0 in any element) or equivalent.
- TOEFL (iBT) 92 overall (minimum 20 in all elements)
- CET- 4 (China) minimum score of 550
- CET- 6 (China) minimum score of 520

Students will be asked to bring along their computer for project work.

Teaching Faculty



The summer school is directed by

Dr Jack Olney

Executive Director, Centre for Health Economics & Policy Innovation

Jack Olney is the Executive Director of the Centre for Health Economics & Policy Innovation at Imperial College Business School, where he drives the Centre's strategic vision, funding growth, and operational leadership. He plays a pivotal role in expanding the Centre's influence within the Business School and beyond, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration at the intersection of health, economics, and policy.

Before joining the Business School, Jack earned a PhD in Infectious Disease Epidemiology from Imperial College London. His doctoral research focused on developing advanced mathematical models of HIV dynamics to optimize investment strategies in resource-limited settings, as part of the Gates-funded HIV Modelling Consortium. His expertise lies in leveraging quantitative approaches to inform global health policy and drive impact at scale.