

Fundamentals of ESG Training Course: Reporting, Ratings & Risk Management

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Introduction:

Fundamentals of ESG training explains environmental, social and governance ESG principles: the criteria investors, regulators, customers, employees and communities use to judge how an organisation manages its impacts, its people and its oversight. This practical five-day course is designed for sustainability and ESG professionals, risk and compliance professionals, finance and investment professionals, corporate governance specialists, business leaders, reporting professionals, and professionals responsible for ESG strategy, reporting, stakeholder engagement and risk management. It provides a practical understanding of ESG principles, business importance, ESG standards and frameworks, reporting, stakeholder engagement, ESG ratings and indices, and ESG risk management, and focuses on applying ESG principles to business decision-making, reporting, risk management, stakeholder communication and organisational strategy. Particular emphasis is placed on the Global Reporting Initiative GRI, SASB, TCFD, ESG transparency, ESG ratings, risk assessment, mitigation strategies, stress testing and scenario analysis.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand ESG principles, fundamentals, and their importance in business.
- Explain the evolution of ESG standards, frameworks, and market expectations.
- Apply major ESG reporting frameworks, including GRI, SASB, and TCFD.
- Improve ESG reporting, transparency, stakeholder engagement, and communication.
- Understand ESG ratings, rankings, and indices and assess ESG performance.
- Identify, assess, and prioritise material ESG risks.
- Integrate ESG risks into enterprise risk management processes.
- Develop practical ESG risk mitigation strategies.
- Apply ESG stress testing and scenario analysis.
- Assess the potential financial, operational, strategic, and reputational impacts of ESG risks.

Target Audience:

- Sustainability and ESG professionals
- Risk and compliance professionals
- Finance and investment professionals
- Corporate governance specialists
- Business leaders
- Reporting professionals
- Professionals responsible for ESG strategy, reporting, stakeholder engagement and risk management

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Course Outline:

Day 1: ESG Principles, Fundamentals & Business Importance

- Introduction to ESG and the Environmental, Social, and Governance Pillars
- ESG Principles, Fundamentals, and Evolution
- ESG versus Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility
- Importance of ESG in Modern Business and Investment Decisions
- ESG and Corporate Strategy, Performance, and Value Creation
- ESG Expectations of Investors, Regulators, Customers, Employees, and Communities
- Materiality, ESG Priorities, and Practical ESG Business Case Exercise

Day 2: ESG Frameworks, Standards, Reporting & Transparency

- ESG Reporting Landscape and Evolution of ESG Standards
- Understanding ESG Disclosure Requirements and Reporting Principles
- Global Reporting Initiative GRI
- Sustainability Accounting Standards Board SASB
- Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures TCFD
- ESG Data, Metrics, Materiality, and Reporting Processes
- Transparency, Credibility, and Practical ESG Reporting Exercise

Day 3: Stakeholder Engagement, Communication, Ratings & Indices

- ESG Stakeholder Identification, Mapping, and Prioritisation
- Understanding Stakeholder Expectations and Information Requirements
- Strategies for Effective ESG Stakeholder Engagement
- ESG Communication, Performance Disclosure, and Communication Risks
- Understanding ESG Ratings, Rankings, and Assessment Methodologies
- ESG Indices, Scores, Performance Gaps, and Improvement Opportunities
- Practical Stakeholder Engagement, Communication, and ESG Rating Exercise

Day 4: ESG Risk Identification, Assessment & Management

- Understanding ESG Risks and Their Business Implications
- Environmental, Social, and Governance Risk Categories Across the Value Chain
- ESG Risk Identification, Mapping, and Materiality Assessment
- ESG Risk Likelihood, Impact, Prioritisation, and Monitoring
- Integrating ESG Risks into Enterprise Risk Management
- ESG Governance, Accountability, and Risk Mitigation Strategies
- Practical ESG Risk Assessment and Mitigation Exercise

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A graphic of a chessboard with several chess pieces. A gold king piece is prominent in the foreground, with a silver pawn and a gold pawn nearby. The board is white and grey, with concentric circles in the background.

Day 5: ESG Stress Testing, Scenario Analysis & Integrated ESG Masterclass

- Principles and Applications of ESG Stress Testing and Scenario Analysis
- Developing ESG Scenarios and Assessing Risk Assumptions
- Evaluating Financial, Operational, Strategic, and Reputational ESG Impacts
- Testing Organisational Resilience Against ESG Risks
- Developing ESG Risk Mitigation and Response Strategies
- Integrating ESG Reporting, Ratings, Stakeholder Engagement, and Risk Management
- Integrated ESG Case Study, Action Planning, Group Discussion, and Course Review

Skills You Will Gain:

- ESG Materiality Assessment
- GRI, SASB and TCFD Reporting
- ESG Stakeholder Mapping
- ESG Ratings and Indices Interpretation
- ESG Risk Prioritisation
- Enterprise Risk Management Integration
- ESG Stress Testing
- ESG Scenario Analysis

Why Attend This Course: Gains & Losses

Gains

- Develop a strong understanding of ESG principles and business relevance.
- Strengthen knowledge of GRI, SASB, TCFD, and ESG reporting practices.
- Improve ESG transparency, disclosure, and communication.
- Strengthen stakeholder engagement and ESG communication capabilities.
- Understand ESG ratings, rankings, and indices.
- Improve ESG risk identification, assessment, and mitigation capabilities.
- Integrate ESG risks into enterprise risk management.
- Develop practical ESG stress testing and scenario analysis capabilities.
- Improve ESG-related strategic and business decision-making.
- Apply ESG concepts through case studies, exercises, and group discussions.

Potential Losses

Without sufficient ESG knowledge and capabilities, organisations may face:

A graphic of a chessboard with several chess pieces (a king, a queen, and a pawn) in the foreground. The text 'UK Training' is in a smaller font above the word 'PARTNER' in a large, bold, black font.

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- Limited understanding of ESG principles and their business implications.
- Inconsistent or incomplete ESG reporting and disclosure.
- Weak transparency and credibility in ESG communications.
- Poor stakeholder engagement and communication.
- Difficulty responding effectively to ESG ratings and assessments.
- Limited visibility of material ESG risks.
- Weak integration of ESG risks into enterprise risk management.
- Ineffective ESG risk mitigation strategies.
- Limited ability to assess ESG risks through scenario analysis and stress testing.
- Increased exposure to financial, operational, strategic, and reputational ESG risks.

Conclusion:

Over five days, this course provides a practical understanding of ESG principles, business relevance, reporting frameworks, stakeholder engagement, ESG communication, ratings, indices, and risk management. The course combines ESG fundamentals with practical applications covering GRI, SASB, TCFD, ESG reporting and transparency, stakeholder engagement, ESG ratings, risk assessment, mitigation, stress testing, and scenario analysis.

Participants will develop the ability to understand ESG expectations, assess material ESG issues, improve reporting and transparency, engage stakeholders, interpret ESG ratings, integrate ESG risks into risk-management processes, and support stronger ESG-related business decisions. Practical learning is supported through case studies, scenarios, exercises, group discussions, reporting examples, and applied ESG activities throughout the course.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

Who is the Fundamentals of ESG training course designed for?

Sustainability and ESG professionals, risk and compliance professionals, finance and investment professionals, corporate governance specialists, business leaders, reporting professionals, and professionals responsible for ESG strategy, reporting, stakeholder engagement, and risk management.

Is the Fundamentals of ESG training course practical?

Yes. The course includes case studies, exercises, group discussions, ESG scenarios, reporting examples, risk assessment activities, and practical ESG applications.

Does the course cover ESG reporting frameworks?

Yes. The course covers GRI, SASB, and TCFD, including their purpose, structure, application, and relevance to ESG reporting.

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Does the course cover ESG ratings and indices?

Yes. Participants examine ESG ratings, rankings, indices, assessment criteria, and approaches to identifying ESG performance gaps.

Does the course cover ESG risk management?

Yes. The course covers ESG risk identification, assessment, prioritisation, integration into enterprise risk management, monitoring, and mitigation.

Does the course cover stakeholder engagement and communication?

Yes. Participants learn how to identify and prioritise stakeholders, understand their expectations, and develop effective ESG engagement and communication strategies.

Does the course cover ESG stress testing and scenario analysis?

Yes. The course covers ESG stress testing, scenario development, organisational resilience, and assessment of potential financial and operational impacts.

Does the course include an official exam or practical equipment?

No. The course does not include an official examination, laboratory work, or physical equipment. Practical learning is delivered through case studies, exercises, scenarios, discussions, and applied ESG activities.

What is the duration of the course?

Five days, four hours per day, for a total of 20 training hours.

Is the course delivered by one trainer?

Yes. The entire training course is designed to be delivered by one trainer throughout the five days.

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