



**COUNCIL on  
BUSINESS & SOCIETY**  
*An alliance with a purpose*

# The CoBS Advanced International Certificate in Responsible Business Practices

**CSR-Sustainability-ESG**

**2025**



भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान बेंगलूर  
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT  
BANGALORE



## WHAT IS THE CoBS?

The Council on Business & Society (CoBS), founded in 2011, is an alliance of leading international business schools dedicated to promoting responsible leadership and business.

It's 12 member schools are present on 6 continents and in 15 countries. Together, they count 21 campuses, 49,000 students, and 482,000 alumni.

- ESSEC Business School, France, Singapore, Morocco
- FGV-EAESP, Brazil
- School of Management Fudan University, China
- IE Business School, Spain
- Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, India
- Keio Business School, Japan
- Monash Business School, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia
- Olin Business School, USA
- Smith School of Business, Queen's University, Canada
- Stellenbosch Business School, South Africa
- Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
- Warwick Business School, United Kingdom.

## WHAT IS THE CoBS ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES?

**The CoBS Advanced International Certificate is a two-path master's and MBA-level course designed to:**

- Offer students unique exposure to an international studies dimension, knowledge, and network.
- Provide students with the necessary skills and enablers to open up meaningful and impactful careers.
- Deliver a premium-branded certificate from leading business schools reputed for their commitment to responsible leadership and business practices.



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In the midst of a complex era characterized by multiple crises and rapid and profound change, companies, organizations, and their leaders must play a pivotal role in addressing the challenges that lie ahead. To achieve sustainable performance over the long term, a responsible approach to business will be essential for making sound decisions. The CoBS certificate provides aspiring leaders with the cutting-edge knowledge and tools they need to become fully equipped for responsible leadership.

**Prof. Vincenzo Vinzi,  
Dean of ESSEC Business School**



The CoBS deals with topics that are becoming increasingly important in understanding the global context and this importance is reflected in the number of schools that recently joined the alliance. Topics such as democracy, sustainability, poverty, and governance among others are present in every company strategy. For this reason, the 2025 CoBS Intensive Week will debate sustainable leadership according to a different perspective: the rainforest. This new context considers a different type of leader – indigenous, riverine, and women's cooperative leaders, among others, in what we hope will be a transformative experience for the students of the CoBS-member schools.»

**Prof. Luiz Brito, Dean of FGV EAESP**



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© PH Real

Through the CoBS Advanced International Certificate, our schools and students will reach a much higher level of collaboration and partnership. Moreover, the certificate will enable knowledge to flow – and to grow – between our master's and MBA

populations within the alliance.

**Deputy Dean Tales Andreassi, FGV-EAESP**



© Noir sur Blanc

I believe the CoBS Advanced Certificate offers students a unique, comprehensive and truly international CSR and sustainability learning experience. It's the kind of learning journey I would have loved to participate in as a student!

**Prof. Adrian Zicari, ESSEC Business School,  
Academic Director of the Council on Business & Society**

# PURPOSE

## The CoBS Advanced International Certificate: Purpose

If you believe in bringing positive impact to your future career, organisation, society, and planet. If you are passionate about working across frontiers and adding meaning through a career in the fields of CSR, ESG, and Sustainability. And if you wish to top up your current studies with a dedicated focus on responsible leadership to trigger your understanding and practice.

Join your peers from 12 leading international business schools and gain a unique global, regional and local perspective to enlighten your path to lead positive impact.



## WHY CHOOSE THE CoBS ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE?

- REASON 1** **COMPLEMENT YOUR STUDIES AND FUTURE CAREER CHOICE WITH DEDICATED CSR, ESG, AND SUSTAINABILITY KNOWLEDGE**  
Feel enlightened, feel inspired, be actionable. Learn and practice with top faculty, practitioners and researchers from one of the founding parents of responsible leadership: The Council on Business & Society
- REASON 2** **ACQUIRE A TRULY WORLD VIEW THAT TAKES IN GLOBAL, LOCAL AND REGIONAL STAKES**  
Learn, compete, visit and co-develop with faculty and student peers from leading business schools present on 6 continents: Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America.
- REASON 3** **COMBINE TOP-LEVEL KNOWLEDGE AND TAKE ON PRACTICAL CHALLENGES IN A DIVERSE, MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT**  
Challenging, stimulating, friendly, relevant are words to describe the CoBS Advanced Certificate experience – from flexible, study-alone modules to business simulation teamwork to student cohort workshops and case studies.
- REASON 4** **EXPAND THE DIVERSITY OF YOUR CONTACTS AND BUILD AN INTERCONTINENTAL NETWORK**  
Interact with faculty, researchers and student peers from CoBS member schools through online forums, competitions, workshops and corporate and cultural visits.
- REASON 5** **EARN A PREMIUM ADVANCED CERTIFICATE AND ADD AN INTERNATIONAL JOB ENABLER TO YOUR STUDIES**  
Meet and debate with local and regional community leaders and entrepreneurs committed to sustainability and social impact, and take part in an innovative and transformative learning experience in the Amazon rainforest, Brazil.

# THE PROGRAM

## The 3 Modules of the CoBS Advanced International Certificate

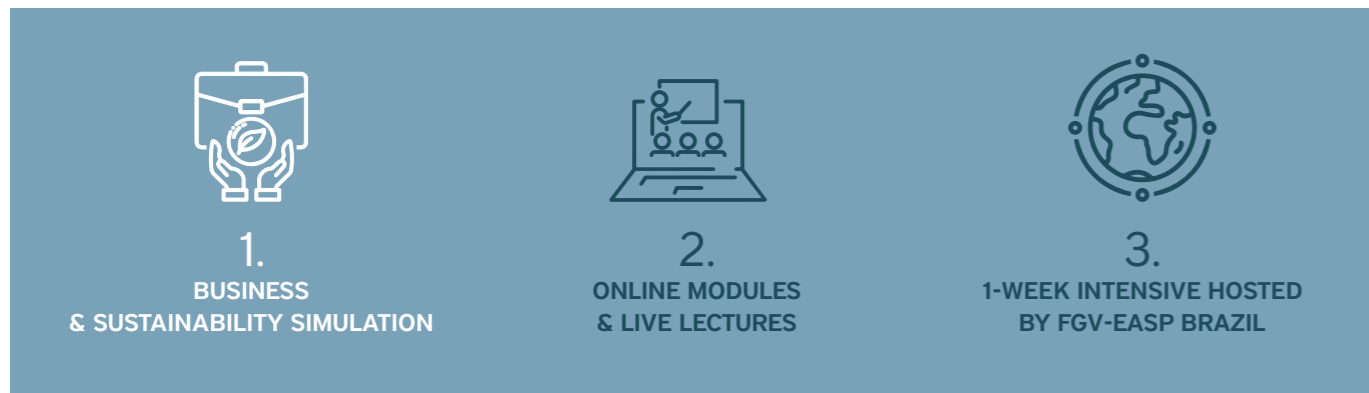


- **Build and develop your own company** taking into account sustainability and CSR variables via a challenging business simulation (module 1).
- **Study practical and relevant online modules** crafted by leading international faculty from the CoBS providing global, regional and local contexts and issues in responsible business practices (module 2).
- **Participate in lectures and coaching sessions** delivered by a subject matter expert and top faculty researcher (modules 1-3).
- **Discover a territory of high complexity and relevance to the SDGs**, particularly those relating to climate change and biodiversity – the Amazon (module 3).
- **Visit and open dialogue with a diversity of leaders** including indigenous, riverine, women’s cooperative and business leaders (module 3).

Students earn 1 CoBS Responsible Leadership Certificate per module. Students completing all 3 modules will receive a CoBS Full Advanced International Certificate.



# THE PROGRAM: MODULE 1



## 1. BUSINESS & SUSTAINABILITY SIMULATION: 22<sup>ND</sup>-25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2025

- Taking into account sustainability variables, build and develop your company in a competition that pitches you against other master's and MBA student teams from the schools of the Council on Business & Society.
- 2.5 days introduction to the scenario and simulation, practice against the computer, coaching and feedback from CoBS faculty
- In teams: 2.5 days in competition mode from 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> April, competing against other teams in the CoBS student cohort, adjudication by a jury including business change makers.
- €1,500 prize money for the winning team plus certificates for all participants.

Please check with your home school whether they grant credits for this module.

“ This business simulation, spearheaded by the CoBS, showcases the commitment of top business schools to cultivate future leaders equipped to tackle the complexities of responsible business practices and sustainability. Our team won the simulation and this triumph is not just about winning games: it symbolizes our collective effort, resilience, and determination.

**Aurélien Frisé,**  
ESSEC Master in Management student

# THE PROGRAM: MODULE 2



## 2. ONLINE MODULES: JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

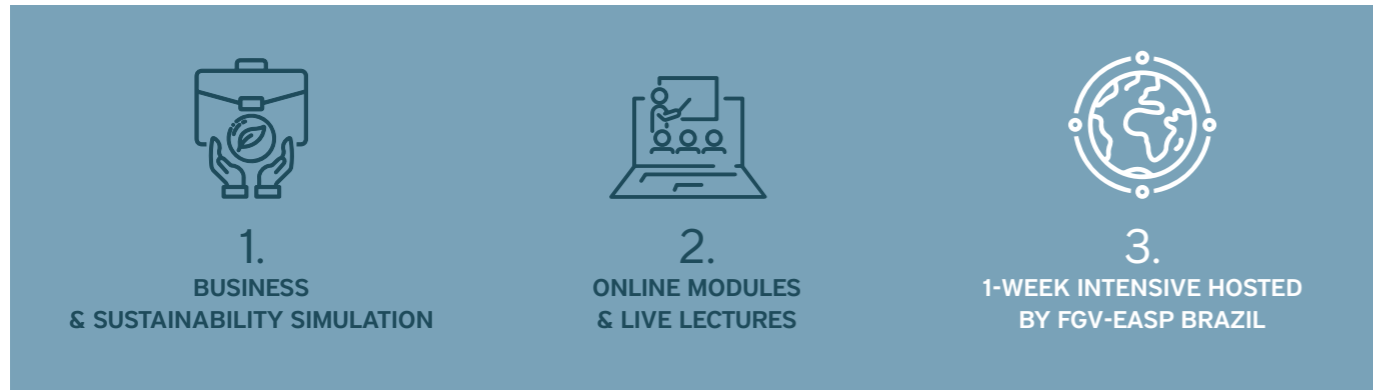
- Follow 3 online modules depending on your knowledge gaps, areas of interest, and career aspirations. Modules are CSR, ESG, and Sustainability-focused. Each one has been developed by a leading faculty-research member of a CoBS member school and based on the “CoBS 3 Pillars of Responsible Leadership”: Ethical Leadership, Responsible Governance, Measuring and Guiding Impact. Total online time: 3 hours video time to be followed when you want, where you want.
- One online live lecture of 1 hour: Date and time to be determined.
- Certificate of completion.

Please check with your home school whether they grant credits for this module.

“ Over the past month, I've explored essential topics like Sustainability Reporting by Prof. Adrian Zicari, Ethics & Compliance by Prof. Ligia Maura Costa, CSR in China by Prof. Qinqin Zheng, and Business & Climate Change by Prof. Frederik Dahmann. This pilot program has been a transformative learning experience, providing me with the knowledge and skills to champion responsible business practices.

**Vidisha L. Vidisha,**  
Warwick Business School MIM

# THE PROGRAM: MODULE 3



## 3. INTERNATIONAL INTENSIVE WEEK: JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 THE FGV EAESP-CoBS INTENSIVE PROGRAM 2025

For MBA students and master’s students with work/internship experience

- This UN PRME award-winning learning experience focuses on the theme of *Sustainable Leadership: The rainforest perspective*.
- A week’s intensive organised by FGV-EAESP onboard a riverboat in the Amazon.
- Taking students to a territory of high complexity and relevance to the SDGs, particularly those relating to climate change and biodiversity – the Amazon.
- It includes field trips and meetings with indigenous, riverine, and women’s co-operative leaders among others.
- Upon completion, students will be delivered a double certificate FGV EAESP and CoBS Responsible Leadership Certificate.
- Students completing the full learning path of 3 modules will earn the Advanced International Certificate featuring the FGV EAESP logo, your home school logo, and the Council on Business & Society member schools banner.

Note: Students will be asked to arrive 2 days prior to boarding the riverboat.

Please check with your home school whether they grant credits for this module.



# THE INTENSIVE WEEK 2025: INSIGHTS

An intensive week for MBA and master’s-level students with work/internship experience, exclusively open to students from the 12 CoBS member schools.



## 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2025: THE FGV EAESP-CoBS INTENSIVE WEEK IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST, BRAZIL.

Theme: Sustainable Leadership: The rainforest perspective.

- This one-week, award-winning program (UN PRME 2024 Program & Faculty Teaching Awards) enables students to deconstruct the concept of leadership taught in mainstream management education by discovering the context, communities and stakeholders who inhabit the Amazonian rainforest.
- Travelling on a riverboat up the Amazon River to meet with indigenous, riverine and local entrepreneurs, participants observe and understand different perspectives of leadership, conceptualizing what it means to lead for sustainability
- Students observe and identify the systemic impacts and influences of decisions / actions of public, private and NGOs, as well as individuals, for local and global sustainability.
- This program enables participants to understand the importance of articulation and dialogue in the search for convergence of interests between the different actors involved in a given context.
- Students mobilize and carry out actions to incorporate sustainability into their reflections and practical actions.



**Professor Fernanda Carreira, Academic Director and Field Trip organiser at FGV EAESP**

**Period: 30<sup>th</sup> June-5<sup>th</sup> July with a mandatory online preparatory class one week before the trip.**

- Costs:** €1.5K per student, including
- Flight from São Paulo to Santarém (Amazonia)
  - Regional boat
  - Hotel in Tapajos region for the first and last nights
  - Food and beverages
  - Bus travel
  - Taxes paid to the communities.

The trip is entirely operated by Community-Based Tourism, not only as a way of generating local income, but also to give a voice to the Amazonians, to the local population, so that we do not repeat a colonizing model of knowledge.

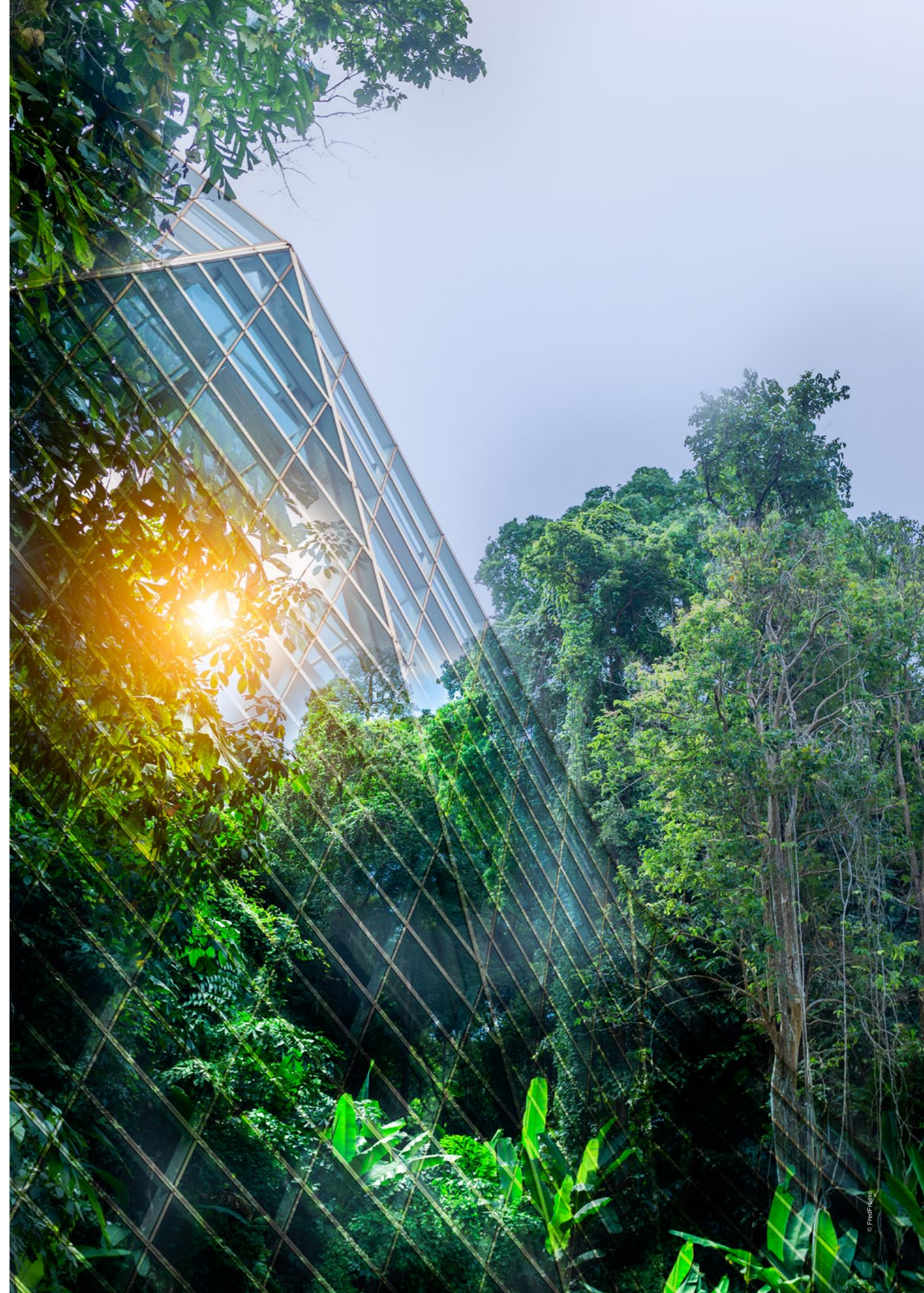
**Important:** Airfare from the students’ country of residence to São Paulo, Brazil is to be either paid fully by the student, part-subsidized by the student’s school, or fully integrated into the student’s program tuition fees (depending on the student’s home school policy).

Students should factor in 1 night hotel stay in Sao Paulo on the 29<sup>th</sup> June and 1 night on July 6<sup>th</sup> at their cost.



## THE INTENSIVE WEEK 2025: CURRICULUM

DAY 1 SANTARÉM / BELTERRA	DAY 2 COOMFLONA/ SANTARÉM / RIOS TAPAJÓS E ARAPIUNS	DAY 3 COMUNIDADE DE URUCURÉÁ E ALDEIA INDÍGENA DO LAGO DA PRAIA	DAY 4 PONTA GRANDE / COMUNIDADE DE COROCA / RIOS ARAPIUNS E TAPAJÓS	DAY 5 TRILHA DO PIQUIÁ (FLORESTA PRIMÁRIA)/ COMUNIDADE DE JAMARAQUÁ (FLONA TAPAJÓS)
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Morning</b>
Flight from Sao Paulo to Santarem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breakfast on hostel</li> <li>- Bus trip to COOMFLONA</li> <li>- Visit to timber management initiative of COOMFLONA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breakfast on board</li> <li>- Visit to the Community of Urucureá, along with conversations with the Turiarte's female leaders about their handcraft work</li> <li>- Visit to Lago da Praia Indigenous Village – COITECOG</li> <li>- Boat to Ponta Grande</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breakfast on board</li> <li>- Early morning at the beach Ponta Grande do Arapiuns</li> <li>- Visit to Coroca Community or a discussion session with leaders, focusing on challenges, threats, and economic initiatives related to turtle management, beekeeping, and Tucumã straw crafts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Boat to Tapajos River</li> <li>- Lunch on board</li> <li>- River bath during late afternoon at Ponta do Maguari</li> <li>- Dinner and overnight on board</li> </ul>
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrival at Santarem airport around 2pm</li> <li>- Bus trip to Belterra</li> <li>- Visit to historic sites and museum</li> <li>- Group meeting for general presentation about the trip</li> <li>- Dinner and overnight at local hostel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bus trip to Santarém</li> <li>- Boarding the regional boat</li> <li>- Navigation to the Tapajós, Amazonas and Arapiuns River</li> <li>- Dinner and overnight on board</li> </ul> <p>Note: During the next 4 days baths will be in the river Tapajós, and the meals and overnights will be on board.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lunch and river bath at Ponta do Toronó</li> <li>- Visit to the village and meeting with the chief and leaders of the territory</li> <li>- Navigation along the Arapiuns River to Ponta Grande do Arapiuns</li> <li>- Special dinner (Piracaia) and overnight on board at Ponta Grande do Arapiuns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Boat to Tapajos River</li> <li>- Lunch on board</li> <li>- River bath during late afternoon at Ponta do Maguari</li> <li>- Dinner and overnight on board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disembarkation and check-in at Hotel Borari</li> <li>- Options: free time at the village with visit to the art store and Araribá handcraft or/ and river bath</li> <li>- Vivênciade Carimbó-cultural activity with closing conversations about the trip and farewell</li> <li>- Dinner and overnight at the hotel</li> </ul>





## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

We seek and encourage students and participants with the following attributes to apply for the Advanced International Certificate:

Rigorous, open-minded, international in mindset, resilient, respectful of diversity, creative-innovative, ethical, action-oriented, objective, analytical, curious, enlightened, involved, solutions-oriented, willing to go the extra mile, quality-driven, professional in attitude and execution.

**As a general guideline, students must already have completed classes in (either or all) marketing, management, strategy, and finance.**

**Students must be in good health to participate in the Amazon experience.**

### FOR MASTER'S STUDENTS WISHING TO FOLLOW ONLINE MODULES + BUSINESS SIMULATION + INTENSIVE WEEK:

You must be currently enrolled in a program at master's level in one of the CoBS member schools (see list on page 2).

Ideally, master's level students should have work or internship experience, demonstrate good grades throughout their academic journey in their home school, and show a passion for the areas the advanced international certificate covers.

You must provide a letter of motivation explaining your passion and interest for the CSR, ESG, Sustainability fields. What you understand by responsible leadership. Your career aspirations. Your work/internship experience. Your CV.

As a general rule, each school will approve participating students according to the minimum requirements each school will set for them.

### FOR MBA PARTICIPANTS WISHING TO FOLLOW ONLINE MODULES + BUSINESS SIMULATION + INTENSIVE WEEK:

You must be currently enrolled in a program at MBA level in one of the CoBS member schools (see list on page 2).

You must have at least 4-5 years of full-time work experience and professional achievement.

You must provide a letter of motivation explaining your passion and interest for the CSR, ESG, Sustainability fields. What you understand by responsible leadership. Your career aspirations.

As a general rule, each school will approve participating students according to the minimum requirements each school will set for them.

Visit the CoBS  
Advanced International  
Certificate web page





The brand new CoBS certificate provides students with a fantastic learning opportunity to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of faculty and students across the 11 business schools in this alliance. Understanding how and why companies

must engage in important and urgent issues and debates about the role of business in society, ethics and sustainability is essential for all students studying business and preparing for their future careers. The certificate offers you the opportunity to be part of an exciting and innovative global learning collaboration!

**Prof. Frederik Dahlmann, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick**



Working with the CoBS member schools to develop this learning offer has been an incredible experience of cooperation, innovation and commitment to the student and CSR-Sustainability experience it hopes to provide. I can only begin to imagine the amazing

benefits and opportunities it will bring students from these superb schools to meet, learn and work together – now and in the future.

**Tom Gamble, Executive Director, Council on Business & Society**



The CoBS certificate is designed to provide students with a unique opportunity to learn about the intersection of business and society, with experts from 11 leading institutions in the world. The certificate embodies our values of diversity of perspectives,

innovation in pedagogy, responsible leadership education, and humanistic spirit that motivates the empathetic understanding of business and society challenges that undoubtedly have implications for individuals, groups, and communities at large. Enriching their domain expertise and business skills with the CoBS Certificate allows our students not only to elevate the conversations on responsible business, but also to turn ideas into real action as future leaders and agents of transformation.

I am proud of the teams that created and curated the CoBS Certificate. And as our students embrace this opportunity I am excited for what comes next, knowing that they will not only broaden their horizons but also leave an indelible mark on the world!

**Prof. Aarti Ramaswami, Executive Vice President, Dean of Pre-Experience Programs, ESSEC Business School**



There is no question that the role of business in society is changing. I'm excited for the opportunity that students will have via the Certificate to equip themselves with the latest thinking and know-how in this new normal.

**Prof. Elspeth Murray, Smith School of Business, Queen's University**





**COUNCIL on  
BUSINESS & SOCIETY**

# Getting involved

**Business, society, planet**

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*A singular presence  
with a global mission*

## REACH US

The Council on Business & Society website:  
[www.council-business-society.org](http://www.council-business-society.org)

The Council Community blog:  
<https://cobsinsights.org/>

 [the-council-on-business-&-society](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-council-on-business-&-society)

 [@The\\_CoBS](https://twitter.com/The_CoBS)