Course Descriptions None 2020-2021

Course Title	Sustainable and Responsible Investments
Course Code	EBC4212
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
4	1-2-2021	26-3-2021	X		X		

Level	Advanced
Coordinator	Paul Smeets For more information:pm.smeets@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	
Goals	The goals of this course are to discuss sustainable and responsible investments in the context of stock-market listed firms and other classes, through both an academic and practitioner's lens. Students first learn how environmental, social, and governance factors as well as fundamental financial factors can affect the decisions of equity investors who seek for a specific return/risk profile of their portfolios. Subsequently, students learn beyond the issue of return-risk optimization how important it is to understand the financial and nonfinancial preferences of investors, and concepts such as trust and cheating, all of which have practical implications for the successful development investment products that cater to specific groups of clients.
Description	PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHOD(S) USED IN THIS COURSE IS WITH RESERVATION. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HERE IS BASED ON THE COURSE SETUP PRIOR TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE CRISIS, COURSE COORDINATORS MAY BE FORCED TO CHANGE THE TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS USED. THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEACHING/ASSESSMENT METHOD(S) WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE COURSE SYLLABUS. This course fully focuses on the theory and practice of sustainable investments. It demonstrates how sustainability issues affect the development of financial products and may influence the performance of investment strategies. The first part of the course explains how sustainable investing translates to the management of investment portfolios in traditional asset classes, such as the optimization of return/risk characteristics of equity portfolios, but also fixed-income portfolios, by means of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Factors. Subsequently, the course explains how analysing the (non-) financial preferences and behavioural characteristics of prospective clients/customers are important in developing and successfully marketing sustainable financial products. Students can also get a basic understanding of sustainable investments that are explicitly intended to have positive sustainable-development impact in emerging markets, such as 'impact investments' and 'microfinance'.
Literature	The course is taught by the use of a collection of top-ranked academic and high-impact practitioner-oriented articles, and cases that help students to confront theory with practice.
Prerequisites	Students are expected to understand the key basic concepts in investment analysis and portfolio theory (such as CAPM, Modern Portfolio Theory, and investment performance evaluation). Analytical skills, statistics, and an advanced level of English are required.
Keywords	
Teaching methods	PBL / Presentation / Lecture / Assignment / Papers
Assessment methods	Participation / Written Exam
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Master Business Research - No specialisation	Year 1 Disc - IB Sustainable Finance
Master Business Research - Operations Research	Year 1 Elective Course(s)
Master Business Research - Operations Research	Year 2 Elective Course(s)
Master Economics and Strategy in Emerging Markets	Elective Course(s)
Master International Business - Sustainable Finance	Compulsory Course(s)
SBE Non Degree Courses	Master Courses