

What Is Sustainable Development?


The concept of sustainable development was first introduced in the Brundtland report, published in 1987, in which it is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Today, the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) embody the many facets—be they environmental, societal, political or economic—that underpin sustainable development.



Source: UN

More Information

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About the “Sustainable Development @ SBSEM” initiative:

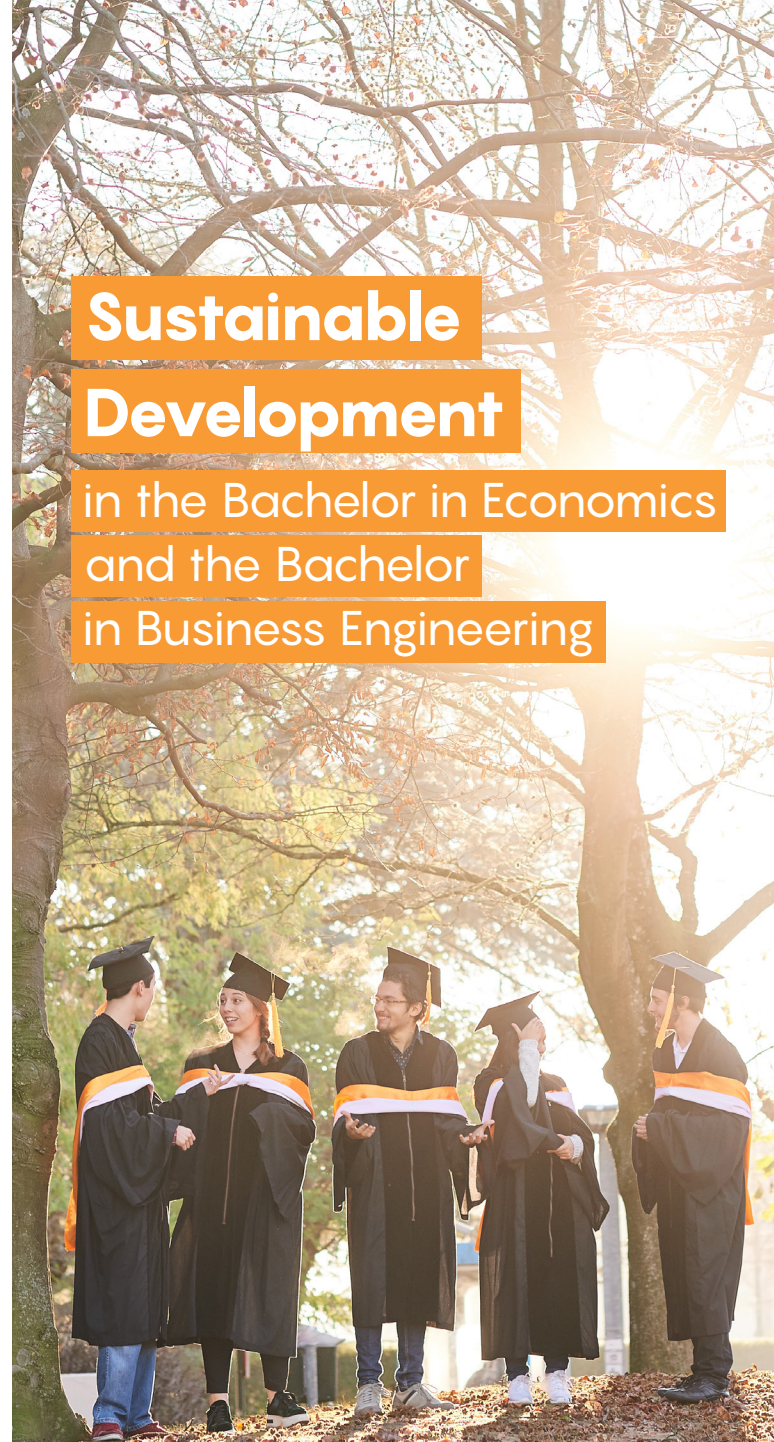
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Sustainable Development

in the Bachelor in Economics and the Bachelor in Business Engineering



Why Teach Sustainable Development?

Our current lifestyles, consumption habits and production methods are not sustainable. We are using more natural resources than the planet can produce, and have already reached several limits of the Earth system. Climate change, the collapse of biodiversity and migrant crises are only a few symptoms.

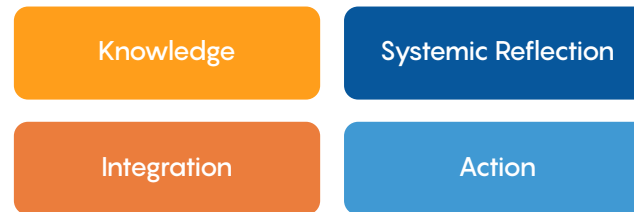
Thankfully, our knowledge of these topics has also significantly increased over the past decades. At a time when we must reinvent our societies, it is essential to provide decision makers of the future with the keys to understanding these challenges and the tools to tackle them and come up with solutions.

Sustainable Development at the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management

In 2017, the Université libre de Bruxelles' Solvay Brussels School launched an initiative called "Sustainable Development @ SBSEM", whose goal is to integrate sustainable development throughout its curricula. This means that sustainable development permeates most, and eventually all, of our courses and programmes, instead of being covered in specific courses and programmes.

Our goal is not only to provide our students with the tools to understand the sustainable development issues relevant to economics and business. But also to develop their ability to engage in critical and systemic reflection, integrate different

perspectives and take action, which are key skills for sustainable development.



"Sustainable Development" pathways

Our teaching approach builds on theme-specific pathways, a set of courses and instructors in a single programme who work together to provide a coherent and integrated learning experience centred on a major theme related to sustainable development, in addition to their basic subjects. These pathways end with capstone courses, where students use what they have learned to solve real-world cases.

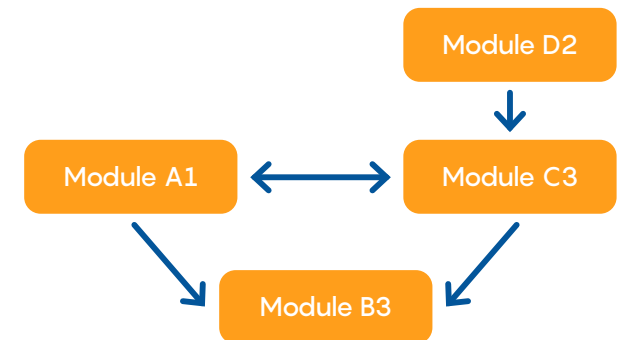
In Practice: Sustainable Development in the Bachelor in Business Engineering

The theme-specific pathways taught as part of the Bachelor in Business Engineering take advantage of this programme's highly multidisciplinary approach. They cover four broad topics: Energy, Circular Economy, Human Development, and Work and People.

Put together, these pathways bring together one third of all courses in the Bachelor programme, with subjects as varied as chemistry, law, econo-

mics, entrepreneurship, human resource management, history, physics, psychology and sociology.

In the third year, a multidisciplinary seminar on management and technologies, as well as group assignments in the "human resource management" and "social and economic development" classes, give students opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world cases.



In Practice: Sustainable Development in the Bachelor in Economics

The sustainable development pathways will be included into the Bachelor in Economics starting in the 2020–2021 academic year. An introductory course on sustainable development, given by four instructors from different disciplines, will provide an entry point into these pathways, in the first year of the Bachelor programme.

The rest of the pathways is under development. Potential themes considered as points of focus in this Bachelor programme are inequality, demographics, the labour market and globalization.