



UK

SYLLABUS 2025-2026

Ethics, Corporate Governance, and Responsible Banking

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Module Code	2526_DFC_2_EN_033 / 2526_DFC_3_EN_017
Campus	Oxford
Department(s)	Law, Finance and Control
Level / Semester	Masters Year 2 (M2); Equivalent to FHEQ level 7 Semester 10
Language of Instruction	English
Teaching Method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-person (face-to-face) <input type="checkbox"/> Distance learning (live online) <input type="checkbox"/> e-Learning (asynchronous) <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid: _____
Pre-requisite(s)?	None
ECTS <i>Reminder: 1 ECTS = between 20 and 30hr- student workload</i>	3
Equivalent FHEQ credits	6
Study Hours	100 hours which comprise of 28 directed learning and 72 independent learning/assessment hours

MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module Aims	<p>This module explores the principles of ethical decision-making and the importance of strong corporate governance in the banking sector. Students will examine the role of financial institutions in promoting responsible banking practices, ensuring transparency, and maintaining trust with stakeholders. The module covers key topics such as ethical frameworks, regulatory compliance, risk management, and the impact of corporate governance on financial stability and long-term growth. By the end of the module, students will be equipped to navigate the</p>
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	complex ethical challenges faced by banks and financial institutions in today's global economy.
Teaching Arrangement	The module will be delivered through lectures, seminars, and workshops.
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this module, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically assess ethical frameworks and their application in banking and finance. 2. Evaluate the role of corporate governance in promoting transparency, accountability, and long-term value creation. 3. Analyse the impact of ethical decision-making on stakeholders, including customers, employees, and shareholders. 4. Examine the regulatory environment and its influence on responsible banking practices and compliance. 5. Develop strategies for managing ethical risks and implementing responsible banking practices in real-world scenarios. 6. Apply principles of corporate governance to enhance financial stability and sustainable growth in banking institutions.
Competency Goals <i>(Knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills)</i>	PGE_M_CG05 - To be aware of corporate social responsibility issues <hr/> PGE_M_CG01 - To be equipped with efficient business skills
Alignment with Programme Learning Goals	PGE_M_CG05_LO01 - To understand the concepts of sustainable development and ethics and what is at stake for the organisation <hr/> PGE_M_CG01_LO01 - To apply appropriate financial skills <hr/> PGE_M_CG01_LO05 - To identify the appropriate methodology to solve a problem <hr/> PGE_M_CG01_LO06 - To apply knowledge in order to meet the expectations of the professional world <hr/> PGE_M_CG05_LO01_I01 - To be aware of the economic responsibility of the organisation <hr/> PGE_M_CG05_LO01_I02 - To be aware of the responsibility of the firm towards its employees and society

SESSION TOPICS / MODULE SCHEDULE

(Please note, a session/sequence may be more than one scheduled class)

Session 1: Introduction to Ethics in Banking and Finance

Last reviewed: 25/07/2025

Content:

- Understanding ethical principles and moral philosophy
- Ethical dilemmas and decision-making in banking
- Role of values and integrity in financial services

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 2: Corporate Governance Frameworks

Content:

- Principles of corporate governance
- Governance structures in financial institutions (e.g. board of directors, executive management)
- Accountability, transparency, and stakeholder management

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 3: Regulatory Environment and Compliance

Content:

- Overview of key financial regulations (e.g. Basel III, MiFID II, Dodd-Frank)
- Role of regulators and supervisory bodies
- Compliance, audits, and internal controls

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 4: Responsible Banking Practices

Content:

- Social responsibility and environmental considerations in banking
- Ethical lending, investments, and financial products
- Banking's role in promoting sustainable development and financial inclusion

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 5: Risk Management and Ethical Challenges

Content:

- Ethical issues in risk management and financial crises
- Managing conflicts of interest and fraud prevention
- Case studies of corporate governance failures (e.g. Lehman Brothers, Wells Fargo)

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 6: Impact of Corporate Governance on Financial Stability

Content:

- Corporate governance's role in maintaining stability and mitigating systemic risk
- Corporate culture and its influence on ethical conduct
- Effective board leadership and oversight

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 7: Sustainable Banking and the Future of Ethical Finance

Content:

- The growing importance of sustainable finance and the ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) factors
- Innovations in responsible banking (e.g. green bonds, impact investing)
- Role of technology in promoting ethical banking practices

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

KEY TEXTS

1. Kokkinis, A. and Miglionico, A. (2021) *Banking law: Private transactions and regulatory frameworks*. Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge.
2. Griffiths, P.D.R. (2021) *Corporate governance in the knowledge economy: Lessons from case studies in the finance sector*. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

1. Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Continuous Assessment (40%)	Case study analysis
Final Exam (60%)	Research paper

MODULE DESIGN TEAM

- Author: *Mitra Arami*
- Reviewer: *Paul Griffiths*
- External Reviewer: *Tahsin Ozalan*