OXFORD ROYALE®

Sustainability & the Environment

Syllabus Guide
For Ages 13-15 / Ages 16-18

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Programme Overview

Do you see yourself confronting global challenges in a high-impact career? Are you passionate about counteracting climate change before it's too late?

You'll delve into the structure and function of major organ systems, learn about pathology through real-life case studies, and explore technological innovations and research. Meanwhile, you'll cultivate essential practical skills such as physical examinations, learning to assess and diagnose acutely unwell patients. Guided by world-class academics and medical practitioners, you'll get access to university-level teaching, developing an understanding of medical research and contemporary ethical debates that will prepare you to excel in this field as an undergraduate student.

Who It's For

Encompassing a variety of disciplines and their relationship to global leadership and climate action.

This programme is ideal for ambitious students of social sciences, STEM, law, and business who are interested in a high-impact career making positive change, as well as those who aspire to be international leaders or changemakers in politics and/or climate change. Extending themselves far beyond the school curriculum, our students are encouraged to work together while they cultivate their individual passions and strengths, participating in mock climate summits, debating sessions, and research projects that will stand out on any application to higher study. Studying alongside like-minded individuals from over 175 countries, you'll gain rare early insight into the importance of dynamic international collaboration when confronting global challenges.

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> *"I have enjoyed this course so much. It was a really great way for me to learn new things about ecological parts of the world, and also just know what's going on and what we need to face to become better humans. I learnt new ways of thinking and it has pushed me to study something in this field."*
>
> Maks, Poland
> **Racing Extinction alumnus**

Upon completion of this programme at Oxford Royale, you will:

1. Understand the complexity and interdisciplinary nature of issues affecting the global community

2. Have developed analytical and presentation skills and feel comfortable critically analysing media sources

3. Have developed your ability to work independently and as part of a team and be comfortable challenging, presenting, and discussing your ideas

4. Be familiar with key global issues, and be able to analyse their causes, challenges, and possible solutions

5. Be able to engage in meaningful discussions, express opinions clearly, and support them with relevant information

6. Understand current issues in relation to climate and sustainability

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During the programme you will also develop a number of core skills:

1. **Critical Thinking:**
   Assess environmental challenges, analyse data, and evaluate sustainable solutions with logical reasoning.

2. **Collaboration & Leadership:**
   Work effectively in teams and lead initiatives to drive positive environmental change.

3. **Global Awareness:**
   Understand the interconnectedness of global ecosystems, economies, and societies in sustainable development

4. **Communication & Advocacy:**
   Clearly express ideas, engage in debates, and promote sustainability through informed discussions.

5. **Innovation & Problem-Solving:**
   Develop creative, practical solutions for climate resilience, conservation, and sustainable resource management.

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How You'll Learn

Our Sustainability & the Environment programme transcends traditional classroom learning, offering a blend of seminars, case-based learning, problem-based learning, and simulation.

You'll participate in debating sessions, group projects, and mock international summits, gaining a flavour of what it's like to influence change as part of an international organisation such as the United Nations.

Teaching methods include:

1. Case study analysis

2. Academic workshop

3. Debating and public speaking coaching

4. Mock summit simulation

5. Written and practical assignments

6. Lectures from sustainability, climate science, and global politics experts

7. Seminars

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Module 1:

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Throughout this module, you will learn about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), 17 guiding principles which provide a blueprint for a healthier, more equal planet Earth. You'll learn to critically examine what global sustainability is, and research some examples of global policies that have been created to promote global sustainability. You'll begin work on a project to develop your own 'Sustainability Accord', cultivating your critical thinking and project management skills as you study design thinking methodologies along the way.

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Module 2:

Hunger and Food Security

One of the UN SDGs is the commitment to 'Zero Hunger'. In this module, you'll deepen your understanding of what this means to the UN, analysing the progress made towards achieving this goal on a global scale. You'll master key terms in this area, while coming to understand the impact of socioeconomic factors on nutrition, and comparing conventional and alternative farming methods. Finally, after gaining an overview of corporate social responsibility, you will structure a bid proposal for a business initiative that seeks to further the elimination of food deserts.

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Module 3:

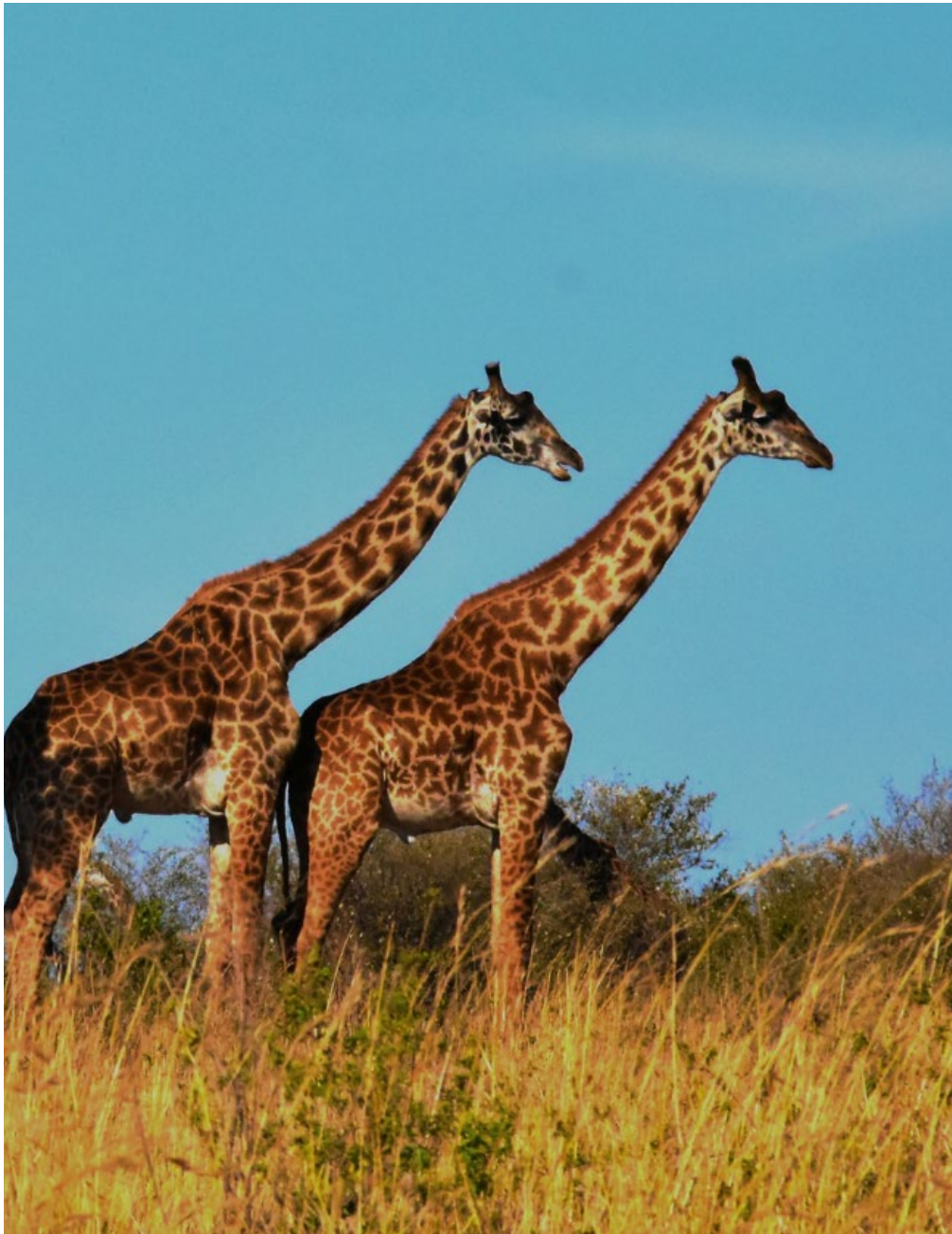# Corporate Social Responsibility and Ethical Practices

Throughout this module, you'll delve deeper into the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR), considering what it means for companies to take sustainable action. You'll consider the role of ethics in governing individual and collective behaviour, analysing examples of ethical fair trade and evaluating why this practice is good for the environment. You'll then go on to apply these concepts to public relations (PR) scenarios.

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Module 4:

Clean Energy and Sustainability

Concentrating on the UN SDG of universalising 'affordable and clean energy', your teacher will walk you through the different types of clean energy and the challenges of making them available to all. You'll study sustainable consumption and production in global supply chains, learning to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the transportation of goods by various means, the challenges in changing consumer habits, and how companies can become more sustainable. You'll gain an in-depth understanding of the concept of a circular economy, learning to critique its benefits and drawbacks, before proceeding to analyse the EU's Emissions Trading System and the challenges of regulating companies carbon emissions. Then, returning to the UN SDGs, you'll focus on Goal 11, achieving 'sustainable cities and communities', cultivating an understanding of what makes a sustainable city or community. Finally, you'll apply your understanding of sustainable practices to real-world scenarios, using the concept of ecotourism to design a sustainable holiday resort.

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Module 5:

Wildlife and Environmental Impact

In this module, you'll analyse the effect of humans on wildlife and the environment, homing in on the destruction of the Aral Sea and the Amazon Rainforest, before investigating the impacts of deforestation and its alternatives. You'll look at the race against animal extinction, getting to grips with the classification of endangerment, analysing successful missions to save species, and studying the role of insects in sustaining human life. Finally, you'll inspect the role of conservationists and climate entrepreneurs in seeking and innovating solutions to conserve the natural environment, including new horizons in environmental technology.

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Module 6:

Water and Marine Resources

Throughout this module, you will study the importance of water and marine systems. You'll begin by diving into the impact of daily consumption of water on the environment, as well as how extreme precipitation events such as floods and droughts lead to water and sanitation crises. You'll continue to look at the UN's 13th SDG: namely, conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. You'll examine the detrimental impact of garbage patches in the ocean, using your creative problem-solving skills to innovate solutions to this critical sustainability challenge.

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Module 7:

Political Theories and Leadership

Climate change is a heavily politicised issue in our current media environment, as political parties vying for influence shape the general public's perception of the issue. This module will help you identify the characteristics of different political theories and how these inflect a variety of stances on climate change. You'll get to grips with some of the key international policies on climate change, learning to incorporate sociopolitical research into your analysis of current affairs. Considering how you would wield power and influence to tackle climate change yourself, you will cultivate skills for leadership, putting together a manifesto containing novel political policies and learning about what makes a successful campaign strategy.

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Manifestos for Change

Bringing together the skills you have learnt throughout the course, you will work together with peers on a project for Challenge Day. Collaborating in small groups to create a political party with sustainability at the core of its ideology, you will create a manifesto, and campaign strategy, culminating in giving a 10-minute speech at a mock press conference where the party will face questions from 'journalists' (the rest of the class).

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All information correct at the time of publication.