

QUEEN'S BUSINESS SCHOOL PRME SHARING INFORMATION ON PROGRESS SUMMARY 2024



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

**QUEEN'S
BUSINESS
SCHOOL**

PRME

Principles for Responsible
Management Education

an initiative of the



CONTACT INFORMATION

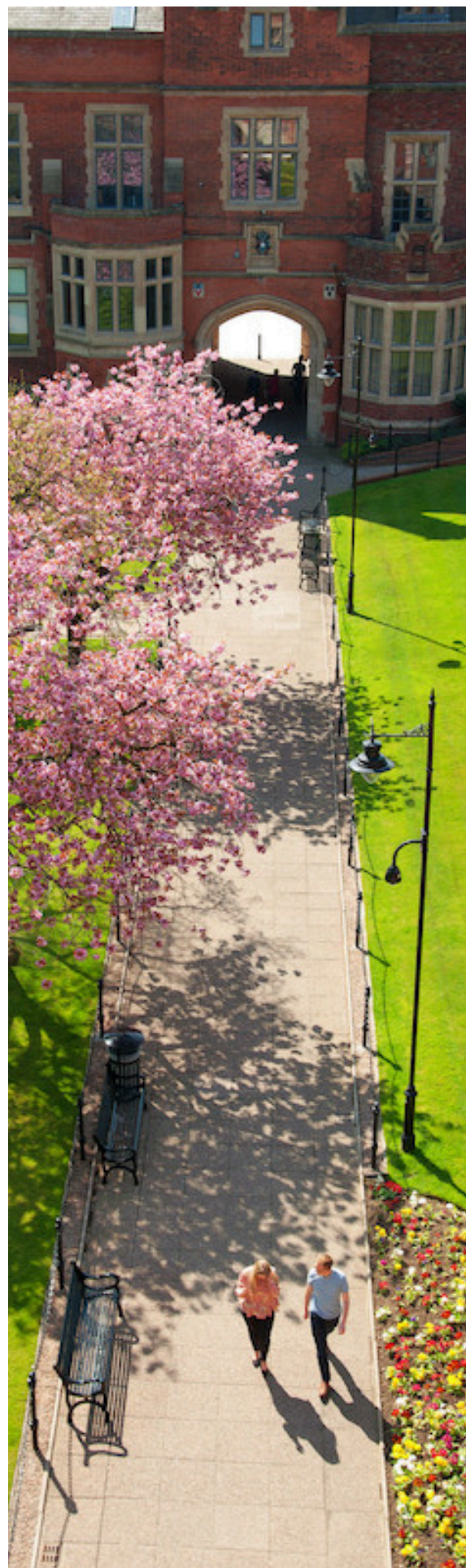
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CONTENTS

Letter from the Dean of Queen's Business School	1
Introduction to our Sharing Information on Progress Summary	2
About Queen's University Belfast	3
About Queen's Business School	4
About PRME	6
Principle 1: Purpose	7
Principle 2: Values	8
Principle 3: Teach	9
Principle 4: Research	10
Principle 5: Partner	11
Principle 6: Practice	12
Principle 7: Share	13

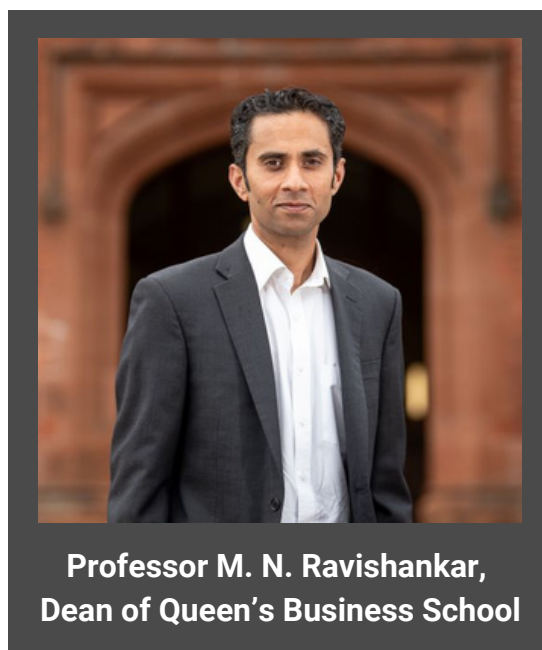




To our stakeholders,

The purpose of this letter is to reaffirm the commitment of Queen's Business School (QBS) to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). The accompanying Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) report describes our ongoing efforts to integrate the Principles of PRME across our curricula, research, partnerships, and organisational practices. In addition, the SIP highlights our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and support for the UN Global Compact. Since 2020, the School has served as a PRME Champion institution, demonstrating thought and action leadership through the development of a series of international SIP writing workshops, the creation of an 'onboarding' initiative for new PRME Leads, active promotion of the PRME i5 pedagogy, organisation of the PRME Chapter UK and Ireland Innovative Pedagogy Seed Funding Competition with Lincoln International Business School, and leadership of the PRME Island of Ireland Local Network in collaboration with Cork University Business School.

We engage with a wide range of stakeholders and foster dialogue on sustainability-related issues through internal and external events, including conferences and symposia, articles in academic and practitioner journals, reports for government and industry bodies, and consultancy projects. Since 2021, we have mapped our research and scholarship outputs against PRME and the UN SDGs. This exercise has allowed us to identify areas of particular strength, including SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being; SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; and SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. In 2022, we embedded the SDGs into our module review process, allowing us to obtain regular, detailed data in relation to the curriculum.



Professor M. N. Ravishankar,
Dean of Queen's Business School

We are cognisant of our impact on and responsibility to both people and the planet. In 2023, we appointed a Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). With the support of the DEIB Committee, the Director of DEIB works to ensure that these issues are embedded across all of our activities. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and contributing to Queen's University's efforts to become a 'Net Zero University' by 2040. In September 2023, we formally opened our new Student Hub located on the Queen's Business School campus at Riddel Hall. Sustainability has been at the forefront throughout the design process and the building integrates a number of green features, including a geothermal energy system. We hope to welcome many of you to our new facilities in the coming year, including at the 2025 PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference, which we are delighted to host.

Finally, we wish to extend our gratitude to the individuals and organisations who have directly and indirectly contributed to our PRME SIP report, including staff within Queen's Business School, the wider University, and various businesses who share our commitment to responsible and sustainable management. We look forward to continuing to work together to advance the 17 Global Goals.

Professor M. N. Ravishankar
Dean of Queen's Business School

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INTRODUCTION TO OUR PRME SHARING INFORMATION ON PROGRESS SUMMARY

A core commitment of all signatories to the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is the regular preparation and publication of a Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) report. The SIP report is an important accountability and transparency mechanism, demonstrating the institution's efforts to implement the Principles of PRME. In addition, it can help to facilitate stakeholder dialogue and engagement, as well as support mutual learning amongst current and potential PRME members. Our previous SIP reports can be downloaded via our [website](#).

In 2024, the PRME Commons, an innovative digital platform, was launched. The Commons serves as a self-reporting database for business schools to monitor the transformation of their teaching, research, and thought leadership in alignment with the PRME Principles. SIP reports were also revised alongside the launch of the Commons. At the foundation of the new SIP is a questionnaire designed to assess each school's commitment to the PRME Principles. Queen's Business School (QBS) was pleased to participate as an 'Early Adopter' of the new SIP reporting framework in 2023, trialling the questions and providing feedback to the PRME Secretariat.

Our 2024 SIP report is available to view via the PRME Commons. In addition, we have created this 'SIP Summary', which provides a high-level overview of the content, drawing readers' attention to key information and offering insights from Queen's Business School faculty and professional services staff.

The SIP Summary begins by providing an overview of Queen's University Belfast (QUB), before introducing Queen's Business School. It is then structured in accordance with the Seven Principles of PRME, namely:

1. **Purpose**
2. **Values**
3. **Teach**
4. **Research**
5. **Partner**
6. **Practice**
7. **Share**

Reflecting our commitment to continuous improvement and self-reflection, throughout our SIP report and this accompanying Summary document we have sought to showcase our successes, whilst also identifying areas for development. We hope you find the content informative and inspiring.



ABOUT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Queen's University Belfast is a public institution, the 9th oldest university in the United Kingdom (founded in 1845), and ranked in the top 200 in the world for impact and sustainability (THE Impact Rankings 2024/QS World University Rankings 2024: Sustainability). Queen's is a member of the Russell Group comprising 24 leading UK universities which are committed to undertaking high-quality research. The University has approximately 24,000 students and 4,400 staff, with 15 schools organised across three faculties. Queen's Business School (QBS) is situated within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (AHSS).

In July 2021, Queen's University launched Strategy 2030, which sets out our ambition to 'Shape a Better World' through life-changing education and research. Strategy 2030 was developed through extensive engagement with staff, students, and external stakeholders at a time of unique global crisis—the COVID-19 pandemic. Strategy 2030 is centred around our people with four Strategic Priorities, namely: Education and Skills; Research and Innovation; Global Reputation and Partnerships; and Social and Civic Responsibility and Economic Prosperity. These build on our rich heritage of innovation, both economic and social, and focus on global challenges aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Strategic Priorities are underpinned by four enablers—Our People, Financial Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Technology—to ensure we have the optimum environment, resources, and systems needed to deliver our vision.

As a global institution, we understand that we have a major part to play in making a positive impact in our environment. Strategy 2030 sets out how we will embed the SDGs across all our activities, from research and education to adopting a leadership role in the promotion of the SDGs, and leading by example in areas such as equality, diversity and inclusion, sustainable procurement, and a commitment to divestment from fossil fuels. Queen's is a signatory to the SDG Accord, which recognises the key role that global universities have in nurturing a culture of sustainability and advancing the Global Goals through research and education. In February 2023, Queen's University Belfast and University College Cork (UCC) established Ireland's first all-island network dedicated to delivering on the SDGs. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network Ireland (SDSN Ireland) works with local authorities, NGOs, civil society organisations, and policymakers to bring the latest research and best practice to bear on producing solutions for the SDGs. In October 2023, we launched our Net Zero Plan, committing to achieving net zero emissions across our scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions by 2040. Further information about our work related to sustainability, including updates on our progress towards net zero, is available [here](#).



ABOUT QUEEN'S BUSINESS SCHOOL

Queen's Business School offers world-class undergraduate, postgraduate, and executive education. The School has six core academic departments and one institute: the Departments of Accounting; Economics; Finance; International Business, Entrepreneurship, and Marketing (IBEM); Information Technology, Analytics, and Operations (ITAO); Organisation, Work, and Leadership (OWL); and the William J. Clinton Leadership Institute. The School is accredited by EQUIS, AMBA, Small Business Charter, and has served as a PRME Champion institution since 2020. In addition, as a member of the Global Business School Network (GBSN), the School is connected through strategic partnerships across the world. Our MBA programme was recently ranked in the top 40 globally by Corporate Knights as part of its 2023 Better World MBA ranking which assesses the extent to which business schools integrate sustainability-related content within their curriculum.

As outlined within our PRME SIP report, the School is committed to advancing the sustainability agenda through our curriculum, research, and partnerships, as well as ensuring that we 'walk the talk' in terms of our own organisational practices. Our work related to Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability (ERS) is led by our Director of ERS & PRME Lead, Dr. Laura Steele. In 2023, we appointed a new Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), Prof. Shuang Ren. Prof. Ren chairs the DEIB Committee, which is taking forward the work of the School's established Gender Equality Team. In 2022, a Wellness and Sustainability Committee was established comprising professional services and academic staff from across the School. The Committee has a wide remit, encompassing matters related to health, safety, and well-being, as well as sustainability.

In September 2023, we formally opened our new Student Hub, pictured above. The building sits alongside the listed red-brick Riddel Hall and serves as the base for a vibrant student and staff community, providing an enhanced social and educational experience. A commitment to sustainability, bio-diversity, and protecting the natural environment was at the centre of the design and construction of the Student Hub, for example:

- The building integrates photovoltaic and geothermal technologies, with the latter representing the largest project of its kind to date in Northern Ireland;
- A wildflower meadow covers the lower roof, to encourage biodiversity;
- We incorporated 'swift bricks' and a swift calling system, to help swifts, a bird that has been placed on the 'red list' of conservation concern in the UK, locate a safe place to nest; and
- Staff have access to bike parking, showers, and lockers to encourage sustainable travel to work.

We look forward to sharing this space with our stakeholders over the coming years and using it to facilitate high-quality teaching, research, and civic engagement focused on ethical, responsible, and sustainable business and management.



OUR MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

OUR MISSION

The School's mission is to educate and explore for the benefit of business and society.

OUR VISION

The School's vision, in alignment with [Queen's Strategy 2030](#), is to:

- Be pivotal in developing principled and effective leaders;
- Expand research-led dialogue and engagement with business, civil society, and government; and
- To grow international stature and esteem.

OUR VALUES



INTEGRITY

Leaders who hold themselves and others to account, and are mindful of their ethical, social, and environmental responsibilities.



CONNECTIVITY

Leaders who play an active role in global society whilst embracing the unique history and culture of the region.



AMBITION

Leaders who pursue personal development, embrace challenges and seek opportunities to shape business and society.



RESPECT

Leaders who act with humility and inspire others to create positive change in society.



EXCELLENCE

Leaders who pursue excellence and draw on the region's rich industrial and entrepreneurial heritage to pursue cutting-edge solutions to business and societal problems.

ABOUT PRME

The Principles for Responsible Management Education is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 as a platform to raise the profile of sustainability in business schools around the world, and to equip today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. In 2017, Queen's Business School proudly became a signatory to PRME and, since 2020, we have served as a PRME Champion institution. This reflects our commitment to demonstrating thought and action leadership on responsible management education in the context of the UN sustainable development agenda.

As a Signatory, we commit to uphold PRME's Seven Principles:

- 1 PURPOSE**
We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.
- 2 VALUES**
We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.
- 3 TEACH**
We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.
- 4 RESEARCH**
We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.
- 5 PARTNER**
We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.
- 6 PRACTICE**
We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.
- 7 SHARE**
We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

The School is actively involved in the UK and Ireland Chapter of PRME. This has included developing and delivering an 'onboarding' initiative for new PRME Leads, organising a series of workshops designed to support Signatories in preparing their PRME SIP reports, and establishing a Seed Funding Competition for Developing Innovative Pedagogic Approaches and Teaching Practices in PRME with colleagues from Lincoln International Business School and Leeds University Business School. Our Director of Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability & PRME Lead, Dr. Laura Steele, was elected to the PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Steering Committee in June 2022, where she serves as Vice-Chair, Co-Lead for Organisational Learning and SIP Reporting, and Co-Lead for the PRME Island of Ireland (IoI) Local Network, with Dr Karen Neville from Cork University Business School. From 17 to 19 June 2025, we will host the annual PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference at our Riddel Hall campus.

1. PURPOSE

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.

As outlined in the previous section, the School's mission is to educate and explore for the benefit of business and society. PRME is an integral element of our Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability (ERS) Strategy. The ERS Strategy is based on three interconnected pillars, specifically: Education, Research, and Society. Education refers to the integration of ERS across the degree programmes offered at the Business School. Research concerns the School's outputs and activities within the specific areas of ERS. Society reflects our relationships with external stakeholders, including the business community, politicians and policy makers, civil society organisations, schools and colleges, the media, and members of the general public. In addition, our ERS Strategy also requires us to critically evaluate our own organisational practices to ensure that we are 'walking the talk' in relation to ethics, responsibility, and sustainability (something that will be explored further under Principle 6: Practice). The three pillars are strongly interconnected. For example, research conducted within the areas of ethics, responsibility, and sustainability informs the design and delivery of modules within the School. In turn, our educational programmes aim to develop the responsible leaders of tomorrow, who will shape the communities in which they reside. The three pillars bring clarity of focus to our ERS related activities and provide a valuable framework for evaluating and reporting on progress both internally and externally.



"The topics of ethics, responsibility, and sustainability are of an increasingly significant relevance to the research and teaching undertaken in Queen's Business School. It is imperative that these principles permeate all of the School's activities as they reflect a concern for the environment, people, and society. This can facilitate staff and students in promoting ERS standards to organisations and enable organisations to drive their own sustainable success and contribute to a more equitable global economy."

Professor Ciaran Connolly, Deputy Head of School

Director of Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability

In 2017, QBS appointed a Director of Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability & PRME Lead. The Director of ERS is responsible for promoting PRME within the School and, as a measure of the importance we place upon this, significant resources have been allocated for PRME-related work. Our Director of ERS, Dr. Laura Steele, currently serves as the Vice-Chair of PRME Chapter UK & Ireland and Co-Lead of the PRME Island of Ireland (IoI) Local Network. The responsibilities of the Director of ERS include developing the School's ERS strategy and monitoring its implementation; collating and monitoring data on teaching, research, and engagement activities related to ERS and PRME; developing and promoting student focused initiatives related to ERS and PRME; and raising the profile of the PRME i5 pedagogy within the School. The Director of ERS reports to the Dean and Head of School, Prof. M. N. Ravishankar, and the Deputy Head of School, Prof. Ciaran Connolly. The Director of ERS is part of and supported by the School's wider Accreditation Team.

"At Queen's Business School we are committed to integrating responsible and sustainable management within our own organisational practices. We believe it is essential to act as a role model for students, staff, and the businesses we engage with. This includes actively promoting diversity and inclusion, as well as investing resources to enhance the sustainability of our estate."

Sonia O'Hare, School Manager



2. VALUES

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.

We are committed to creating leaders who transform business and society, and who do so in full cognisance of their ethical, social, and environmental responsibilities. In reflection of this, we are striving to fully integrate the Principles of PRME and embed the UN SDGs across our teaching, research, and engagement activities, as well as within our own organisational practices. Our actions are underpinned by our core values, including integrity and respect. These serve as important guiding principles and inform our decision-making.

Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability-Related Education

Responsible management education (RME) is essential for cultivating ethical leaders, promoting sustainability, fostering social responsibility, addressing current and future global challenges, and encouraging innovation for societal good. Our Director of Undergraduate Education, Dr. Chirantan Ganguly, Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Lisa Bradley, and Director of Executive Education, Prof. Ashish Malik are responsible for leading the development and implementation of our strategies related to undergraduate, postgraduate, and executive education, which includes the integration of content related to RME. Further information about our activities related to teaching and learning is contained under Principle 3: Teach.

Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability Related-Research and Scholarship

Research and scholarship related to responsible and sustainable business and management is vital for advancing knowledge, facilitating evidence-based decision-making, influencing policy, supporting innovation, and achieving societal impact. Our Director of Research, Prof. Simon Teasdale, is responsible for developing our research strategy and monitoring its implementation. This includes promoting research and scholarship related to ethical, responsible, and sustainable business and management. Prof. Teasdale is supported by our Director of Research Impact and Engagement, Dr. Michael Aldous, who seeks to develop and facilitate a school-wide ethos of engaging with non-academic audiences and generate impact from research. Further information about our activities related to research is contained under Principle 4: Research.

Engaging with Business and Society on Responsible and Sustainable Business and Management

We seek to engage with a wide range of stakeholders on issues related to ethics, responsibility, and sustainability. Depending on the area of focus, different staff are responsible and accountable; however, they frequently work in collaboration to achieve our institutional aims and objectives. Our Director of ERS, Dr. Laura Steele, is responsible for engagement related to RME in general. Our Director of Business Engagement, Prof. Julie McCandless, leads on business engagement, which often includes activities that address corporate responsibility and sustainability. Our Director of Internationalisation, Dr. Alex Wilson, is charged with developing and maintaining the School's global partnership network. Further information about our activities related to engagement is contained under Principle 5: Partner.

“QBS places ethical, responsible, and sustainable behaviours at the centre of all that we do. It is our obligation to support students to become professionals who can shape a better world. In concert with our research, our programmes provide continuous learning and development towards this aim. This is core to our international partnerships and how we develop education and research activities as a business school.”

Dr Alex Wilson, Director of Internationalisation



3. TEACH

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.

Queen's Business School offers a range of highly regarded programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate, and executive level. The content covered varies widely, including accounting, business analytics, economics, finance, human resource management, international business, marketing, and public management. However, one common thread can be identified throughout—a commitment to integrating responsible and sustainable management theory and practice. As discussed previously, we endeavour to develop leaders who transform business and society, and who do so in full cognisance of their ethical, social, and environmental responsibilities. This process starts with the design of our programmes, continues in the classroom, and—ideally—never ends. We believe that being a responsible leader requires a lifelong commitment to personal and professional reflection and development, and we are available to support students throughout this journey.

Modules and Programmes

As evidenced within our SIP report, the majority of the under- and postgraduate programmes offered by the School address ethics, responsibility, and sustainability within their programme-level learning outcomes. In addition, since 2022, the School has mapped the integration of the SDGs within our modules. This has allowed us to understand our current position, as well as take steps towards increasing the breadth and depth of coverage of the Global Goals. The 2023-2024 mapping exercise revealed that at least 79 of the 153 modules reviewed addressed one or more SDG, with the most frequent being SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. We are committed to increasing the integration of RME and the SDGs within our curriculum through both dedicated modules and by encouraging faculty to consider how RME-related concepts, issues, and challenges may fit within their teaching. To this end, we have sought to provide support in the form of training activities and resources, including two interactive workshops on PRME i5.

Guest Speakers and Showcase Events

Each year, the School is delighted to host a range of guest speakers on topics related to ethics, responsibility, and sustainability during lectures, seminars, and workshops. (A full list of guest speakers is contained within our SIP report). In addition, staff within the School have organised a number of showcase events, including an annual Data for Good Hackathon (June 2023 & June 2024), led by Dr. Bryon Graham; a one-day learning event on Sustainable Food Systems, Accounting, and the UN SDGs (May 2024), organised by Dr. Xinwu He; and Carbon Literacy Training (September 2023), delivered with the support of the Queen's University Belfast Estates Directorate and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.



“Ethical standards in business practice, social responsibility, and environmental sustainability are fundamental imperatives, arguably more so now than ever before. As educators of the future generations of professional practitioners, decision makers, entrepreneurs, and leaders, we recognise our obligation at QBS to foster awareness and critical thinking on these issues. We have accordingly embedded topics related to ERS and the UN SDGs in the curricula across all our undergraduate programmes. As real-world institutions, regulations, and professional practice evolve and as new academic research emerges in response to ERS concerns, so will we strive to continually adapt our curricula to equip our students with the latest knowledge and skills to deal with these issues.”

Dr Chirantan Ganguly, Director of Undergraduate Studies

4. RESEARCH

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

Research is recognised in the School's mission as a fundamental mechanism through which we can transform business and society. Academics from across the School are actively engaged in research and scholarship that advances the aims of PRME and supports the attainment of the SDGs. Queen's Strategy 2030 aims to further enhance our impact by strengthening our research position and working with industry to broaden our translational impact and increase innovation, ensuring we deliver high-quality, world-leading research, which addresses local and global challenges.

Since 2021, we have mapped the SDGs across our research and scholarship outputs. This has allowed us to identify and leverage areas of strength, as outlined within our SIP. Our most recent analysis, which covered the 2022-2024 period, produced over 230 results, which encompassed all 17 SDGs. The School has particular strengths in relation to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 13: Climate Action; and SDG 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions. Further information on our research is available [here](#).



“At QBS our research emphasis is on creating socioeconomic impact and building inclusive societies. We are strongly committed to engaged research and scholarship. Our research is mapped against relevant UN SDGs, and we are building from particular strengths in the areas of responsible and ethical governance, fair and inclusive workplaces, digital and financial inclusion, social value creation, and sustainable business models. Our processes are driven by the commitment to social and environmental responsibility exemplified by our faculty and PhD students.”

Professor Simon Teasdale, Director of Research

Research Seminars and Conferences

The School regularly holds research seminars related to ethics, responsibility, and sustainability delivered by our faculty and guest speakers. These sessions are important for a number of reasons, including the dissemination of knowledge, feedback and constructive critique, networking, collaboration, and professional development. (A full list of seminars for the 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 academic years is included in our SIP report). Conferences and workshops related to responsible and sustainable business and management are vital for the dissemination of research, feedback and peer review, the sharing of new ideas and approaches, and networking and community building. The School was delighted to have hosted a number of relevant conferences between 2022 and 2024, including the Third Interdisciplinary Conference on Disability and Consumption (12 April 2024) and the CSEAR Ireland Congress on Social and Environmental Accounting Research (8-10 November 2023). The PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Annual Conference will take place at QBS from 17-19 June 2025.

“Our faculty conduct wide-ranging research that is engaged with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As part of the school's vision, we proactively support faculty to conduct research-led dialogue and engagement with business, civil society, and government. This allows our academics' research to have real-world impact, embedding principles of sustainability and ethics within our stakeholders.”



Dr Michael Aldous, Director of Research Impact and Engagement

5. Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

At Queen's Business School we believe that partnership is vital in order to advance the Principles of PRME and achieve the SDGs. Therefore, we are committed to strengthening existing relationships and fostering new ones in order to increase dialogue and encourage collaboration that addresses pressing global economic, social, and environmental concerns. In our 2024 PRME SIP report, we provide an overview and examples of our work related to Informing, Dialoguing, Problem Solving, Acting, and Governance. This includes educational initiatives, research projects, conferences, seminars, workshops, competitions, and awards.



Informing

We view informing—the act of translating and disseminating knowledge—as being a core aspect of our role within business and society. This involves taking our academic research and scholarship and making it accessible, understandable, and useful for our stakeholders, including students, members of the business community, policymakers, and politicians.



Dialoguing

Dialoguing—the process of engaging in meaningful, bidirectional communication with our stakeholders—is a key element of our work. Dialoguing involves collaboration and the sharing of ideas, insights, and experiences. We strive to be open, inclusive, and interdisciplinary in our approach, bringing together diverse viewpoints in order to challenge assumptions and drive positive change.



Problem Solving

Problem solving—the process of identifying, analysing, and finding solutions to challenges and obstacles in order to achieve a specific goal or outcome—is the aim of much of our activities related to ethics, responsibility, and sustainability. Our work encompasses multiple Sustainable Development Goals and involves myriad stakeholders, including individuals and organisations from the private, public, and third/voluntary sectors.



Acting

We act by working collaboratively to bring about positive change locally, nationally, and internationally. Our key partners include individuals and organisations from the private, public, and third/voluntary sectors, other higher education institutions, and our students and alumni.



Governance

The School has robust governance structures in place to ensure that we ‘walk the talk’ in regard to responsible management. We regularly review our policies and processes to promote ethics, accountability, transparency, and organisational sustainability.



“We are focused on creating and maintaining partnerships with businesses of all sizes to share learning on the issues of sustainability and climate change. Through activities such as consulting projects, our students engage directly with local businesses to both drive sustainability innovation and enhance business practices. This collaborative approach enables better understanding of the challenges organisations face and more informed research and business recommendations.”

Professor Julie McCandless, Director of Business Engagement

6. PRACTICE

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

As a global institution, we understand that we have a significant role to play in terms of advancing the sustainability agenda. Queen's Strategy 2030 sets out how the University will embed the SDGs across all our activities, seeking to lead by example through activities such as sustainable procurement, green construction, a commitment to divestment from fossil fuels, and the promotion of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB).

In regard to addressing climate change and promoting environmental sustainability, our Net Zero Plan sets out a road map to how we will reach net zero emissions by 2040. In developing the Net Zero Plan the University undertook a net zero engagement campaign with staff, students and local residents. This enabled our community to have their say on Queen's sustainability ambitions, whilst ensuring they are part of our sustainability journey. To align with government ambitions, we also have an interim target of 45% reduction by 2030 across scope 1 and 2. To achieve these targets, the University has set aside over £6 million in support of our shift to net zero.

Full details of our work related to environmental sustainability, including our Environmental Sustainability Plan (2023-25), Staff and Student Sustainability Engagement Plan, and Sustainable Travel Guidance Document, are contained within our 2024 SIP report.



“At Queen's Business School, we believe that ethics, responsibility, and sustainability are more than just aspirational values—they are the foundation of an inclusive and equitable environment. We are committed to embedding these principles in every action, decision and innovation, fostering a culture where diversity flourishes, equity is upheld, and every individual feels a true sense of belonging. This unwavering commitment shapes not only the leaders we cultivate but also the positive impact we strive to have on society.”

Professor Shuang Ren, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging

We have introduced a range of strategies, policies, and guidelines aimed at enhancing aspects of social sustainability (for example, fair work, equality and social justice, human rights, health and well-being, and access to education) and promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. This includes the Queen's Social Charter, a set of principles aligned to the SDGs which guide and inspire our engagement with local partners, and our Equality Scheme and Action Plan 2024 -2029, which outlines out how the University will continue to sustain an environment that values and celebrates the diversity of our staff and student body. In 2022, QBS established a Wellness and Sustainability Committee and, in 2023, a Director of DEIB, Prof. Shuang Ren. was appointed. Full details of our work related to social sustainability and DEIB is contained within our 2024 SIP report.

“The QBS Wellness and Sustainability Committee, comprising of both academic and professional service staff, PhD students, and representatives from our shared space partners, QUB Campus Food and Drink, has been a driving force behind the building of a sense of community within the School and a champion of sustainability initiatives such as Veganuary and Carbon Literacy Training. It has played a pivotal role in ensuring that responsible and sustainable operational processes are implemented across the QBS Estate, allowing students to see that the School is committed to practicing what we preach outside the classroom.”



Kelly Tagg, Sustainability Champion

7. SHARE

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.



“PRME is underpinned by a spirit of collegiality and collaboration. Signatories are encouraged to strive for continuous improvement, to celebrate their successes while being open about areas for improvement. PRME has had a positive impact on our School, driving change and allowing us to engage with a vibrant global community which shares a collective aim of promoting RME and advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.”

Dr. Laura Steele, Director of Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability

Our 2024 PRME SIP report and this accompanying ‘SIP Summary’ have afforded us the opportunity to share some of our successes in regard to integrating PRME and advancing the UN SDGs at Queen’s Business School. These include:

- The opening of the new Student Hub on our Riddel Hall campus, which integrates a range of sustainability-related features, including geothermal and photovoltaic technologies, a living roof, and ‘swift bricks’ to support the nesting of this endangered bird population.
- The appointment of a new Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), Prof. Shuang Ren, and the establishment of a DEIB Committee to take forward the work of the School’s established Gender Equality Team.
- An increase in the breadth and depth of coverage of the UN SDGs within our modules and programmes. In addition, the SDGs have now been integrated into our module review processes, allowing us to obtain more timely and accurate data.
- The introduction of several new modules addressing ethics, responsibility, and sustainability, including IBEM8005 Sustainability and Social Innovation, ITAO2005 Sustainable Operations Management, and OWL7210 Making Ethical Business Decisions.
- An increase in the number of scholarly outputs aligned with the UN SDGs, as well as a rise in conferences, seminars, workshops, and other events related to ethics, responsibility, and sustainability hosted by the School.

In regard to areas for development, the exercise of compiling our SIP report, which involved collecting and analysing data, communicating with stakeholders, and engaging in critical reflection, resulted in the identification of the following priorities for 2024-2025:

- Improve internal communication regarding PRME and the UN SDGs by creating an internal ‘Sustainability SharePoint’ site to hold key documents, resources, etc.
- Enhance external communication regarding PRME and the UN SDGs by redesigning and updating the relevant pages on the School website.
- Support faculty to integrate PRME and the UN SDGs into their modules and programmes by offering a range of seminars and workshops, as well as collating and disseminating resources.
- Host at least two events for external stakeholders that showcase research conducted by faculty within the School related to the UN SDGs.

We look forward to updating you on our progress in June 2025.

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