



GMBA814

Be Sustainable

GMBA Term 4 Online 2019

Department of Management

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	3
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	4
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6
<u>Graduate Capabilities</u>	8
<u>Guide to navigating your unit</u>	9

Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

A/Prof Cynthia Webster

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Teaching Assistant

Billy Bruce

Contact via globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Program Director

A/Prof Lan Snell

Contact via globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Credit points

2

Prerequisites

Admission to GMBA

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Trust in business and CEOs is declining around the world. According to the 2017 Edelman Trust Barometer, only 52% of people globally trust business to do the right thing, with the credibility of CEOs falling to just 37%. Large corporate scandals continue to make headlines, and issues such as environmental destruction, corporate tax evasion, and the growing pay gap between executives and employees continue to draw widespread criticism. Why do some business leaders behave unethically? And how might this be prevented? Do corporate scandals have underlying systemic causes? And why, ultimately, should issues of ethics, societal impact and sustainability be of key strategic concern to CEOs? In this unit you will expand your strategic thinking skills beyond a firm's competitive environment to include the company's impact on the broader society. You will be challenged to grapple with the tensions between maximizing financial returns and societal impact in order to be able to manage a sustainable balance between the two.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Investigate the major issues that can threaten a firm's societal license to operate
- Examine sustainable strategies that seek to balance the interests of key stakeholders of the firm
- Demonstrate the ability to critically reflect upon the sources of unethical behaviour in organisations

General Assessment Information

Extensions

Please note that no extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission = 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for [special consideration](#) is made and approved.

For any questions regarding your assignment submission or to apply for special consideration, please send an email to globalmba.support@mq.edu.au.

Formatting instructions

These instructions pertain only to written assignments. In the case of other formats (e.g., slide decks) specific formatting instructions may apply. Written assignments should be in 11 point Arial font with 1.5 line spacing. Each page of the report should be numbered and have at minimum 2.5 cm margins from the left and right edges and top and bottom of the page. The word count is strictly enforced. The actual word length of the document, not including references or appendices, should be clearly stated on the title page of the report. Written assignments should have the following structure:

1. A title page with the question, your student name and student number, word count of the text
2. The body of the report structured with paragraphs and with appropriate headings and citations, with page numbers.
3. Complete reference list of material cited in the text.

Referencing

Please use the American Psychological Association (APA) 6th edition reference style. This means that when referring to an article or book etc, you indicate the author's name followed by the year of publication (Jones, 1989). For multiple authors include all names (Jones, Smith, &

Wilson, 1990). If you use a direct quote put the quoted words in “quotation marks” and include the page number with the reference (Jones, 1989, p. 76). A reference list should be presented in alphabetical order at the end of the paper. Further information on APA style is available at <http://li.bguides.mq.edu.au/content.php?pid=85232&sid=634282>

Submission

You will submit your assessment tasks via your online unit on Coursera.

For individual submissions, please use the following naming convention for your file:

lastname-firstname-GMBAxxx-A1.*

lastname-firstname-GMBAxxx-A2.*

For group submissions, please use the following naming convention for your file:

team-number-GMBAxxx-A1.*

team-number-GMBAxxx-A2.*

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Scoring sustainability	40%	No	15 July 2019, 11:59pm AEST
Addressing global challenges	60%	No	7 August 2019, 11:59pm AEST

Scoring sustainability

Due: **15 July 2019, 11:59pm AEST**

Weighting: **40%**

Length: max 1,000 words (excl. references)

Format: Written report

Task: In this written report, you will be asked to identify and compare two organisations’ sustainability strategies, identifying their strengths and weaknesses. You will need to provide recommendations for the organisations to move forward to meet environment, community, and responsible business imperatives.

Please refer to the section **Course Resources - Assessment Information** in your online unit for detailed information on this assignment as well as the marking criteria. You will be asked to submit your completed task via the Assignment submission link in your online unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Investigate the major issues that can threaten a firm’s societal license to operate
- Examine sustainable strategies that seek to balance the interests of key stakeholders of

the firm

Addressing global challenges

Due: **7 August 2019, 11:59pm AEST**

Weighting: **60%**

Length: max 15-20 minutes

Format: Voice-over/Video presentation

Task: In this assignment, you will be working together in a group. You will choose one of the Sustainable Development Goals to examine. Create a video presentation detailing the innovative ways in which organisations are addressing the issue.

Please refer to the section **Course Resources - Assessment Information** in your online unit for detailed information on this assignment as well as the marking criteria. You will be asked to submit your completed task via the Assignment submission link in your online unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Delivery and Resources

Required text

There is no required textbook for this unit. Please refer to the weekly required readings in your online unit. All readings are available via the Macquarie University library and do not need to be purchased separately.

Delivery method

This unit will be delivered entirely online via the Coursera Learning Management System. Access to a personal computer is required to access the resources and learning materials on Coursera.

Unit Schedule

Unit Schedule

For this unit, Live Events (via the web conferencing software Zoom) will take place on Thursdays from 12.00pm (noon) to 1.00pm (AEST), starting from 4 July 2019 and finishing on the 8 August 2019. The links to the events are available via **Live Events** in the online unit. Students are strongly advised to attend all live events.

Recordings of the live events will be made available within 24 hours of the event and can be accessed via **Course Resources** in the online unit.

Students are expected to complete all asynchronous learning activities (videos, discussion prompts, quizzes and peer-reviews) for that week before the scheduled Live Event in order to successfully participate in the event.

Week	Module
Week 1 Webinar: Thursday 4 July 2019, 12:00 (noon) -1:00pm (AEST)	The nature of sustainability
Week 2 Webinar: Thursday 11 July 2019, 12:00 (noon) -1:00pm (AEST) A1 due: Wednesday 15 July 2019	Concerns with business impacts
Week 3 Webinar: Thursday 18 July 2019, 12:00 (noon) -1:00pm (AEST)	Strategic responses to sustainability
Week 4 Webinar: Thursday 25 July 2019, 12:00 (noon) -1:00pm (AEST)	The difficulty of being ethical in organisations
Week 5 Webinar: Thursday 31 July 2019, 12:00 (noon) -1:00pm (AEST) A2 due: Wednesday 7 August 2019	New and emerging sustainable business strategies
Week 6 Webinar: Thursday 7 August 2019, 12:00 (noon) -1:00pm (AEST)	Taking sustainable strategy forward

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)

- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Investigate the major issues that can threaten a firm's societal license to operate
- Examine sustainable strategies that seek to balance the interests of key stakeholders of the firm
- Demonstrate the ability to critically reflect upon the sources of unethical behaviour in organisations

Assessment tasks

- Scoring sustainability
- Addressing global challenges

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Examine sustainable strategies that seek to balance the interests of key stakeholders of the firm
- Demonstrate the ability to critically reflect upon the sources of unethical behaviour in organisations

Assessment tasks

- Scoring sustainability
- Addressing global challenges

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Investigate the major issues that can threaten a firm's societal license to operate

Assessment tasks

- Scoring sustainability
- Addressing global challenges

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Investigate the major issues that can threaten a firm's societal license to operate
- Examine sustainable strategies that seek to balance the interests of key stakeholders of the firm
- Demonstrate the ability to critically reflect upon the sources of unethical behaviour in organisations

Assessment tasks

- Scoring sustainability
- Addressing global challenges

Guide to navigating your unit

Each term is six weeks long which means we are up and running in week 1. Make sure you stay on top of the required work each week so that you do not fall behind. Here is a guide on how to

navigate this unit.

0. Assessment

For all the details on the assessment in this unit, please go to Resources in the main navigation of your unit and click on Assessment Information.

Each week contains several elements

1. Lesson

(a) Video lectures

These brief lectures cover core concepts and fundamentals.

(b) Core readings and further resources

There are required readings for most lessons that provide more depth to each of the topics. The majority of these readings are available only through the Macquarie University Library, and we have linked most of them for easy access. You will require your MQID in order to login to the Library. There is usually at least required reading per topic. You can also choose to dive deeper into a topic of interest by exploring the optional further resources that are available.

Tip: Make sure to work through the Library resources in Onboarding to familiarise yourself with the techniques to use the Library most efficiently and productively.

2. Live Events

A live event will be run every week. While attendance is not mandatory, we strongly encourage students to attend as part of the enriching learning experience. All live events will be recorded for those unable to attend. Make sure you work through the week's materials before you attend. There may also be specific instructions for preparation. You can access the Live Events tab via the main unit navigation. The more you prepare for these events, the more you will get out of them.

Recordings will be available via the Resources tab in the main unit navigation. You will also have the opportunity to discuss content questions with your unit convenor via the Weekly Discussion Forum.

3. Weekly Discussion Forum

Use the Weekly Discussion Forum to engage with your peers and with the weekly topics. Share and grow with your peers in the unit. The unit convenor and the teaching assistant will monitor the forum(s) and engage where appropriate.

4. Practice

The Practice section provides plenty of opportunities to check your understanding of the topic. Practice makes permanent! The section is optional, and it is really up to you how much you want to engage with the exercises in the Practice section.

(a) Recall and practice quizzes

Recall and practice quizzes can be attempted multiple times. The questions are based on the

video lectures and readings. Feedback is embedded to direct you back to specific resources to help you improve. Short recall activities have been shown to improve long-term retention of core concepts and fundamentals. The results of these practice quizzes are not assessed and therefore not part of the final grade for the unit.

(b) Practice tasks and challenges

Some weeks contain practice tasks and challenges. These are a great opportunity for you to apply what you have learned that week in different contexts, reflect on key questions about the topic and familiarise yourself even further with the week's topic. Similar to the recall and practice quizzes, the practice tasks and challenges are not assessed and therefore not part of the final grade for the unit.

5. Habit Corners

We are what we repeatedly do. What daily practices should you work towards to improve yourself personally and professionally? The habit corner brings research and practice together and is designed to help develop applied best practices.