

HWR Berlin Summer School 2026

Sustainability Challenges: Transforming Systems, Shaping Futures

Overview

This course is in tune with the times and adopts an interdisciplinary approach to current sustainability challenges, such as climate change, resource depletion, biodiversity loss and pollution. Students will analyze the role of economics, politics, legal systems, technological and social innovation and the social sciences in contributing to a more sustainable future. The course period includes occasional full-day block seminars and combines short lectures with discussions, group work, field trips and expert input.

Dates

23 June – 4 July: Virtual Reading Period
5 – 18 July: On-site classes in Berlin

Course Content

- Sustainability Challenges and its aspects
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Circular Economy
- Corporate Social Responsibility

The course programme also includes:

- Study visits to companies and institutions
- Module on German culture and society from an intercultural perspective

Course Language

English. Proof of English proficiency (TOEFL iBT 90 or equivalent) is required.

Prerequisites

Upper undergraduate students (after two years of study) or graduates with good standing from different disciplines (e.g. business, engineering, environmental background, IT, social science)

Number of Participants

25

Course Fees

€ 950 (without accommodation)

This includes tuition and programme fees, health, accident and liability insurance, study visits, culture and leisure time programme.

Credits

150 hours workload / 6 ECTS credits include

- 50 contact hours business course
- 10 contact hours German culture and society
- Reading Period incl. monitored self-tests
- Excursions and company visits

Accommodation

- Student hotel (double occupancy)
- Arrival 5 July (move-in), departure 18 July (move-out)
- Optional booking upon request

Culture and Leisure Time Programme

The Summer School team offers participants a wide variety of optional cultural and social events in Berlin and surrounding area (e.g. museums, boat trip, palaces, trip to Potsdam and Sachsenhausen) about twice a week

Registration Deadline

- 1 April 2026
- 15 March 2026 for nominated students from partner universities
- Early-Bird 10% by 10 March 2026

Contact, Enquiries and Registration

HWR Berlin Summer and Winter School

Email: summer@hwr-berlin.de

www.hwr-berlin.de/summerschools

For a more detailed syllabus, please email
summer@hwr-berlin.de

Syllabus

Lecturers

Prof. Dr. Silke Bustamante, Prof. Dr. Markus Wissen, Laura Wagner, Matthijs van Lente, Prof. Dr. Christine Gockel, Dr. Stephan Sina, Prof. Dr. Uta Stäsche, Prof. Dr. Caroline Rudzinska, Dr. Stefan Paulus, Prof. Dr. Alexander Adrowitzer, and others

3	• Recap Session • Field Trip
4	• Circular Economy
5	• Poster Presentation

Part 1

Virtual Reading Period

The virtual reading period aims at gaining a comprehensive understanding of sustainable development and its multifaceted challenges and opportunities. The readings cover key aspects such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Altogether, students are asked to study papers and answer associated questions (monitored self-tests).

Part 2, Week 1

On-site Programme in Berlin

Students gain a deep understanding of the current sustainability challenges and take a closer look at its different dimensions, such as politics, legal systems and finance. A first field trip and corporate talk promise expert insights.

Day	
1	• Setting the Scene/ Vision & Objectives: SDG Game
2	• Microeconomic Foundations of Sustainability • Contested Transformation Strategies • Global Climate Change Politics
3	• Psychological Aspects of Sustainability • Sustainability and Ethics
4	• Relevant Legal Systems • Emission Trading Systems • Reporting Obligations • Field Trip
5	• Sustainable Finance • Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship • Future Workshop

Weeks 2–3: Cultural Module

German Culture and Society: Intercultural Perspectives

- Students will be exposed to various aspects of German culture and society through a series of site visits and reflective papers
- The reflective papers (one per study week) should be related to an aspect of German culture and society and/or students' intercultural experience

* Course content/lecturers may be subject to change

Exemplary Schedule Outline:

Time	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning	9 AM - 1.30 PM	9 AM - 13.45 pm
	9 AM -11.15 PM "Using Psychology for a Sustainable Future"	9 AM - 10.30 AM "Sustainable Finance"
	11.30 AM -13.30 PM "Sustainability & Ethics"	10.30 AM - 12 PM "Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship"
Lunch		
Afternoon	14.30 - 17 PM	13 PM - 17 PM
	14.30 PM - 17.30 PM "Climate Change Politics"	13 PM - 14.30 PM „Reporting on Human Rights“
		15 PM - 17 PM Field Trip: Futurium

Last but not least: Get more out of your Summer School experience!

Combine this programme with our on-site add-on "Cross Cultural Management: Culture, Diversity and Sustainability" (28 June – 3 July 2026)

Week 2

On-site Programme in Berlin

The second week on-site focuses on circular economies and the basics of Corporate Social Responsibility. A future workshop and a field trip will allow students to explore the topics in more depth. The programme concludes with the poster presentation, an interdisciplinary analysis of selected sustainability challenges.

Day	
1	• Corp. Responsibility & Sustainability Management • Communication for Transformation
2	• AI and Sustainability • Corporate Talk