



Online Academic Summer School 2020
SOAS University of London

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
Course Handbook

Mode of Attendance: Full-time, Online

Duration: 2 weeks

SOAS Accredited: This course is worth 15 UK credits

Programme Description

Since the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, many countries in the world have undertaken parallel efforts to tackle global challenges – from poverty to inequality, from climate change to health, from sustainable cities and communities to peace and justice. The SDGs set ambitious albeit necessary objectives to be reached by 2030, which should be of interest to anyone concerned with the sustainability of production and consumption systems, equitable and inclusive development, and growth and prosperity of future generations. Yet, SDGs should play a more influential role in the policy process than they have actually obtained so far. Issues arise, however, concerning the role and achievement of SDGs in the context of the ‘post-coronavirus Covid-19 world’.

This course aims to provide participants with theoretical knowledge and practical tools to understand the challenges that the SDGs aim to tackle, the role that SDGs play in the policy process, and the strategies that governments can pursue to achieve them. The course will cover topics such as the design and management of stakeholder engagement, the process of strategic planning, the conduct of policy analysis, and the making of policy decisions. It will also include topics such as the role of public financial management systems and of monitoring and evaluation in the pursue of SDGs. By the end of the course, participants would gain a better understanding of strategies for pursuing SDGs in domestic policies.

The course will draw examples and case studies from various countries and different thematic areas including poverty, inequalities, education, healthcare, environmental protection, sustainability, and peace and justice institutions.

The course is of interest to anyone who wants to better understand the concept of SDGs, why they are important and how to achieve them; to undergraduate students interested in policy-making, sustainability and development; policy-makers and policy practitioners; and private (business and non-profit) sector actors who want to contribute pursuing the SDG agenda.

Programme Schedule:

Week 1: Organising, resourcing and controlling the achievement of SDGs

- SDGs and the policy process
- Strategic planning
- Engaging stakeholders
- Developing administrative capacity

- Strengthening public financial management systems

Week 2: Good governance and the achievement of SDGs

- Operating performance management systems
- Monitoring and evaluating interventions
- Partnering with the private sector
- Fostering innovation, science and technology
- A global policy agenda beyond 2030

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand what SDGs are and how they matter for public policy and management
- Explain how the pursue of SDGs affects the policy-making process
- Explain how organisational and financial resources should be aligned to the pursue of SDGs
- Explain how the attainment of SDGs can be measured, appraised and reported

Assessment

Each course is assessed by two online assessments ('e-tivities'*) comprising of 30%, the remaining 70% is formed of a 2,500 word essay. The e-tivities provide formative and summative feedback to students as a means of monitoring their progress and encouraging areas in which they can improve. On successful completion of the assessments, students will receive a transcript confirming the credit awarded. Students that do not require credit are strongly encouraged to take part in the e-tivities, but are not required to complete the assessments.

* An 'e-tivity' is a framework for online, active and interactive learning following a format that states clearly to the students its 'Purpose'; the 'Task' at hand; the contribution or 'Response' type; and the 'Outcome' (Salmon, G. (2002) *E-tivities: The Key to Active Online Learning*, New York and London: Routledge Falmer.)

Course Convenor

Dr Alberto Asquer

Introductory Readings and Sources

- Asquer, A. (2017), *Public Sector Revenue*, London: Routledge.
- Barber, M. (2015) *How to Run A Government: So that Citizens Benefit and Taxpayers Don't Go Crazy*. London, Penguin Books.
- Bryson, J. M. (2011) *Strategic Planning for Public and Nonprofit Organizations*. 4th Edition. San Francisco, John Wiley & Son.
- Cangiano, M. M., Curristine, M. T. R., & Lazare, M. M. (2013). *Public financial management and its emerging architecture*. International Monetary Fund.

- Desai, D., & Schomerus, M. (2018). ‘There Was A Third Man...’: Tales from a Global Policy Consultation on Indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals. *Development and Change*, 49(1), 89-115.
- Flynn, N. and Asquer, A. (2017), *Public Sector Management*, 7th edition. London: SAGE.
- Joyce, P. (2015) *Strategic Management in the Public Sector*. Oxford, Routledge.
- Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen, S., Dahl, A. L., & Persson, Å. (2018). The emerging accountability regimes for the Sustainable Development Goals and policy integration: Friend or foe?. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 36(8), 1371-1390.
- Lu, Y., Nakicenovic, N., Visbeck, M., & Stevance, A. S. (2015). Policy: Five priorities for the UN sustainable development goals. *Nature News*, 520(7548), 432.
- Navarro-Galera, A., and M. P. Rodríguez-Bolívar (2010) “Can government accountability be enhanced with international financial reporting standards?”, *Public Money & Management*, 30(6), 379-384.
- Nilsson, M., Chisholm, E., Griggs, D., Howden-Chapman, P., McCollum, D., Messerli, P., ... & Stafford-Smith, M. (2018). Mapping interactions between the sustainable development goals: lessons learned and ways forward. *Sustainability science*, 13(6), 1489-1503.
- Palfrey, C., Thomas, P., & Phillips, C. (2012). *Evaluation for the real world: the impact of evidence in policy making*. Policy Press.
- Schmidt, H., Gostin, L. O., & Emanuel, E. J. (2015). Public health, universal health coverage, and Sustainable Development Goals: can they coexist?. *The Lancet*, 386(9996), 928-930.
- Stephan, R. M., Mohtar, R. H., Daher, B., Embid Irujo, A., Hillers, A., Ganter, J. C., ... & Sarni, W. (2018). Water–energy–food nexus: a platform for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. *Water International*, 43(3), 472-479.
- Xue, L., Weng, L., & Yu, H. (2018). Addressing policy challenges in implementing Sustainable Development Goals through an adaptive governance approach: A view from transitional China. *Sustainable Development*, 26(2), 150-158.

