



Responsible Business Conduct

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS)
Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich
Centre for Human Rights

CAS in Responsible Business Conduct

Topic

Recent regulatory changes and the growing public awareness of the issues related to Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) further increase the pressure on states and companies to conduct business activities responsibly and sustainably, taking into account related risks for people and the planet.

This CAS is aimed at supporting businesses as well as public institutions and agencies with precise and specialized knowledge that allows them to adequately navigate the intricate web of emerging regulatory requirements at the national, regional, and international level. Raising societal expectations and the dynamic regulatory environment call for a new generation of business professionals with expertise on RBC who can anticipate and assess the impacts of business activities on people and the planet and prioritize measures to prevent, mitigate, and remedy such impacts. These professionals need a sound and comprehensive knowledge of the interdisciplinary field of responsible business conduct as well as the skills to apply this knowledge in their respective fields of work.

To this end the UZH provides a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Responsible Business Conduct (CAS in RBC) which is specifically tailored to professionals and practitioners. The key international concept of RBC which is embedded in the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct (OECD Guidelines) and in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP), will constitute the basis of this course. The concept of risk-based due diligence is at the heart of the CAS, providing participants with tools to analyse current challenges and develop implementation strategies in their specific field of work.

Key points

Duration	6 months (comprehensive of approx. 21 real-time sessions)
Part time attendance	Friday and Saturday (3 hours per day, usually every two weeks)
Format	Online, real time sessions complemented by a self-study component
Language	English
Degree	Certificate of Advanced Studies UZH in Responsible Business Conduct (10 ECTS Credits)
Cost	CHF 7500.– Early Bird Discount: CHF 350.– (limited availability)
Website	www.cas-rbc.uzh.ch



Prof. Dr. Christine Kaufmann
Professor of Constitutional Law and International Law at UZH, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, Program Chair and Faculty Member:

«The regulatory environment for responsible business conduct is changing at high speed and business needs to adapt. With this program practitioners can learn first-hand from international experts from international standard-setting organizations, academia, business, and civil society what it takes to implement responsible business due diligence in their activities.»

Structure

Module title and topics

Module 1 – Foundations

Introduction and analysis of the concept and frameworks for Responsible Business Conduct (RBC)

- UNGP «Protect, Respect & Remedy»
- OECD Guidelines
- Othercurrent regulatory frameworks and developments around the world

Module 2 – Due Diligence

Incorporation of RBC and Human Rights policies in Due Diligence and management stuctures

- Risk identification and impact assessment
- Cease, prevent and mitigate
- Implementation, monitoring, reporting
- Access to remedy

Module 3 – Group Case Study

Collaborative work on RBC key cases

- Part I: Case study intro
 - Part II: Group work
 - Group case study
 - Presentation of group case studies
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Module title and topics

Module 4 – In-depth Study

Investigation of crucial topics such as

- Human Rights
- Finance
- Labour
- Environment
- Bribery and corruption
- Post-conflict reconstruction and development
- Digitalization

Module 5 – Individual Project

Investigation on RBC issues of professional relevance and interest

- Written paper
 - Presentation
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Ron Popper

CEO of the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights, Faculty Member:

«Companies have to conduct business responsibly and there are many negative consequences – legal, financial or reputational – if they get it wrong. Understanding how to carry out effective due diligence in business relationships, including supply chains, is key to getting it right. Participants in the CAS in Responsible Business Conduct will learn key elements needed to conduct practical, risk-based due diligence.»

Program Overview

Admission Criteria The CAS is open to university graduates with a minimum of two-year professional experience or in exceptional cases comparable qualification.

Target Audience Professionals from business, government, civil society, and academia, such as lawyers, compliance officers and risks managers, in charge of responsible business conduct/ corporate governance, sustainability due diligence policies and implementation.

Modules and Assessments The CAS RBC offers a comprehensive virtual program with real-time sessions and self-study components throughout the semester. Real-time sessions take place on approx. 20 days over a one semester period. Online attendance and active participation are mandatory, with each session lasting three hours. At the end of the semester, participants submit an original written project about a topic of their choice related to RBC within their professional context.

Number of Participants Minimum of 12, maximum of 30 participants.

Degree Upon completion participants receive a Certificate of Advanced Studies UZH in Responsible Business Conduct and are awarded 10 ECTS Credits.

Costs CHF 7500.- (covers all fees and materials)

Format, Time, Application The CAS runs for one whole semester and is conducted entirely online to reach participants internationally. Lessons will be conducted on Friday and Saturday, generally following a two-week rhythm. Deadlines and other important information can be found at www.cas-rbc.uzh.ch

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Cathrine Halsaa
Senior Manager for Climate Change and Sustainability Services at EY (Ernst & Young) Norway:

«Due Diligence for Responsible Business Conduct is now a requirement by law in the CS3D. Companies also need to report on their due diligence efforts in the CSRD, and the due diligence efforts are key to understanding the material impact a company can have on people and the environment. Participants in the CAS in Responsible Business Conduct will get an in-depth understanding on how to carry out due diligence.»

Key Benefits

In-Depth Insights and Practical Skills: The CAS RBC provides participants with a thorough understanding of Responsible Business Conduct and risk-based due diligence, directly tackling today's most critical global business challenges.

Flexible and Accessible Learning: Our programme offers a unique blend of online real-time sessions and self-study components, allowing participants to seamlessly integrate their education with their professional lives and personal schedules.

Real-World Application and Impact: Participants will gain practical experience applying RBC principles, enabling them to drive significant change within their organisation and ensure alignment with international RBC standards.

Dynamic Networking and Expert Guidance: Participants will engage with diverse international professionals and learn from distinguished academics, renowned business and civil society leaders and government representatives, enhancing their professional growth and expanding their global network in the field of Responsible Business Conduct.

About

Governance

Faculty of Law, University of Zurich Prof. Dr. Christine Kaufmann

CAS Management

The Certificate of Advanced Studies in Responsible Business Conduct is organized by the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Zurich (UZHR). The UZHR is an interdisciplinary scientific network with the purpose of promoting and coordinating research, teaching, and knowledge transfer in the area of human rights.

For more information, please visit the UZHR website at <https://www.menschenrechte.uzh.ch/en.html>

For more activities of the UZHR, follow us on [linkedin.com/company/centre-for-human-rights-studies-uzh](https://www.linkedin.com/company/centre-for-human-rights-studies-uzh)

Lecturers

International experts from diverse fields (e.g., academia, businesses, civil society, governments, international organizations) and disciplines will lead the online seminars, support participants in working on their cases study, and help evaluate the final individual written projects.

For more information, please visit our website at www.cas-rbc.uzh.ch



Publishing Information

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Continuing Education at the University of Zurich – Where Research and Scholarship meet Professional Practice

Even if you graduated only a few years ago, your degree may have lost some of its value due to knowledge attrition and new developments in the field. Keeping your knowledge up to date with regular continuing education and lifelong learning will help you hold your own and stand out in a competitive job market.

The University of Zurich offers a wide range of continuing education opportunities, from part-time programs that can be completed while you continue working, to one-day or several-day workshops. The Master of Advanced Studies (MAS), Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) and Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) programs are generally aimed at graduates with a Master's degree and professional experience, although exceptions may be made for people with other equivalent qualifications or considerable experience. As well as subject-specific courses for those working in particular fields, UZH also offers courses on general topics that are open to all.

Continuing education at the University of Zurich is not simply a one-way process of imparting knowledge, but offers the opportunity to exchange information and views with others in the field. Through the use of examples and exercises drawn from real life, participants discover new techniques, models and practices that they can put to use in their everyday careers. By choosing a continuing education program at the University of Zurich, you are signing up for a top-level and high-quality experience at an outstanding higher education and research institution.

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