



Course Programme 2014

This Online Course consists of four modules, each of which is offered over a one-week period (total of 3 weeks), with modules 3 and 4 taking place during the final week.

Module 1 - An Introduction to Climate Change

Lesson 1 - An Introduction to Climate Change: The Science behind the Phenomenon

- Why the Earth's weather system is changing
- How these changes affect natural systems, human society and the economy
- Why - as a result of changes in the natural environment, in regulation, and in customer behaviour - this is relevant for business

Lesson 2 - Climate Change and Financial Services: Why does it matter?

- Thorough explanation of how climate change impacts financial services, including a break down by sector, i.e. banking, insurance, and asset management
- The key risks, including physical, policy and regulatory risks
- Implications of various climate change scenarios for financial institutions

Lesson 3 - Policy and Regulation

- Introduction to the main inter-governmental treaties on climate change: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol
- A brief overview of the history of the international policy process as context for the current negotiations
- The key elements of the treaties, highlighting the issues, instruments and mechanisms of particular importance to the financial services sector
- An explanation of how the process works, makes decisions, and how governments and 'observers' (including business) interact
- An overview of other international processes, such as the G8, G20 and 'Major Economies' process

Module 2 - Climate Change and the Energy Economy

Lesson 4 - Climate Change and its Implications for Energy Financing

- The forces that drive energy demand
- Voluntary and mandatory measures to combat climate change including energy policy frameworks that support the uptake of renewable and alternative energy sources
- The effects of energy policy frameworks on financial decision-making in the energy sector
- Energy portfolio management

Lesson 5 - Climate Change and Financing Strategies: An Overview

- A typology of financial risks induced by climate change
- An explanation of how these different risks materialise in companies, projects and portfolios
- How climate risks and opportunities affect different economic sectors, and how these effects can change the performance of financial portfolios
- An overview of the basics of financial valuation, and an explanation of how climate risks are likely to affect valuation

Lesson 6 - Climatic Risks to Projects

- How weather-related hazards are relevant to project execution and environmental impact assessments, and how climate change will intensify the risk of such hazards occurring
- How financial liabilities arise as a result of greenhouse gas emissions

Lesson 7 - The "Clean Energy Wave": Opportunities & Risks in Alternative Energy

- A review of current investment trends in the sustainable energy sector
- An overview of clean energy finance sources
- A brief review of sustainable & alternative energy technologies
- An introduction to the concept of financing innovation through the 'financial continuum', from technology development to commercialization

Module 3: Carbon Markets and Carbon Finance

Lesson 8 - An Introduction to Emissions Trading Schemes

- An introduction to the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol
- An overview of the evolution of emissions markets and a review of all existing or emerging carbon markets
- An introduction to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) and the resulting risks and opportunities for companies covered by the EU ETS
- Ways in which financial institutions can benefit from the opportunities offered by emissions trading

Lesson 9 - Introduction to the Project-Based Mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol

- Overview of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI) concepts and project cycles
- An elaboration of the opportunities offered by the CDM/JI to financial service providers and the steps to take to seize them

Lesson 10 - CDM: Risks and Opportunities for Financial Service Providers

- Review of the CDM with a focus on the specific risk structure of CDM projects
- Introduction to various risk mitigation instruments for CDM projects which are illustrated through case studies

Module 4 - Conclusion and Next Steps

Lesson 11 - What's next?

- How climate change policy and the international negotiations are likely to evolve for the post-2015 era
- How financial institutions are gearing up to cope with the risks of climate change and seize the opportunities
- How financial approaches and instruments might be used to deal with other environmental issues aside from climate change