



Press release

Paris, November 10

## **Leading European Business Schools unite to accelerate business response to climate crisis**

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Eight leading business schools have joined together to acknowledge the climate crisis and collaborate to support business leaders who will act to address the climate emergency.

Business Schools for Climate Leadership (BS4CL.org) is a unique alliance of business academic thought leaders, made up of founding members Oxford Saïd Business School, Cambridge Judge Business School, HEC Paris, IE Business School, IESE Business School, INSEAD, International Institute for Management Development and London Business School. Collectively, these schools train more than 50,000 students and executives per year, and are stewards of alumni bodies in excess of 400,000 people.

As agents of change and the catalysts for thought leadership in today and tomorrow's business leaders, the founding members of BS4CL recognise their role in driving and accelerating business activities towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Their goal is to support climate leaders and organisations by collaborating on research to identify and shape best practices, and by working across sectors and generations to accelerate the business community's response to climate change. Collectively they will raise awareness of the urgency for climate change mitigation and adaptation, seeking to have an impact through joint outreach to all eight alumni communities.

As a first step, academics from the eight founding schools worked together to produce a BS4CL climate leadership toolkit, which will be released at COP26 in Glasgow on 10 November. In the run-up to this release, the group is holding a series of webinars to share this content, where each session has participants from multiple schools. The webinars, and ultimately the toolkit, are accessible for free at the group's website, [BS4CL.org](https://www.bs4cl.org) [add hyper link]. This initial collaboration focuses on eight topics:

- Climate Change and Inequality (INSEAD)
- Decarbonising Business (HEC Paris)
- Global Strategy in a World Transformed: business strategy and geopolitics (IESE Business School)
- Technology and Innovation: transition to a green economy from a business perspective (IE Business School)
- Business Transformation and Climate Change (The International Institute for Management Development)

- Risk management and the green energy transition (Oxford Said)
- Climate change and nature, what business needs to know (Cambridge Judge)
- Climate Standards and Enterprise Value (London Business School)

The toolkit will be launched on 10 November at the Sustainable Innovation Forum hosted by Climate Action on the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) at the UN Climate Change Conference COP 26 in Glasgow, sponsored by InTent.

In a joint statement, the deans of the eight business schools said:

“The crises presented by the global pandemic have highlighted the important role academic institutions must play in providing leadership in times of emergency. Now, as we face one of the greatest challenges of our time--global warming, there has never been a more critical moment for collaboration between our institutions.

We recognise the need to initiate the search for answers, which will galvanise and promote meaningful action. BC4SL builds on the integrated climate leadership expressed across our individual curricula and faculty research, providing the means to cooperate on a long-term basis. We mean to build the foundations with which businesses can lead global action to collaborate across sectors to limit climate change and to promote meaningful and visible progress. Our Post-COP26 Agenda will bring together our collective faculties to share and develop new insights on the rapidly evolving and urgent agenda.”

Andre Hoffmann and Paul Polman, leading business leaders and advisors to these Schools, commented, “We are pleased that these excellent schools have humbly realized that climate change requires not only great individual effort, but collaboration as well. We celebrate these early steps and encourage them to do even more to drive action across their institutions and beyond.”

#### About HEC Paris:

Founded in 1881, HEC Paris is a leading European Business School. Its ambition is to positively impact both businesses and society thanks to its three-pronged approach “**Think, Teach, Act**” and thus to contribute to a more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous world.

With 160 research professors from all around the world producing and teaching unique knowledge to **more than 4,500 students from 110 different countries**, the HEC Paris campus serves as a real laboratory for innovation and exchange which is open to the world’s diversity and challenges.

Inspired by its 5 core values -**Excellence, Curiosity, Entrepreneurial spirit, Diversity and Responsibility**- HEC Paris offers a complete range of training courses for the leaders of tomorrow: the Pre-Experience Program, specialized masters, MSc, the Summer School, the MBA, the Executive MBA, the TRIUM Global Executive MBA, the PhD, as well as a wide variety of programs targeted to leaders and managers.

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