

EDHEC joins the Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment and reasserts its sustainable finance ambitions

Press release

Paris, 9 June 2020 – EDHEC Business School is joining the [Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment](#) (GRASFI), the global network for cutting-edge research on sustainable finance and investment. The partnership underscores EDHEC's commitment to this area, just a few weeks after presenting its new strategic plan – 'Impact future generations 2025' – and unveiling its strong ambitions in the sustainable finance field.

The GRASFI Alliance was founded in 2017 to promote multi-disciplinary academic research with a high impact on sustainable finance and investment. It now groups together 26 universities commanding global reputations for their expertise in this emerging domain. The Alliance notably seeks to foster academic collaboration between researchers and organises an annual international conference.

Sustainable finance: a research and teaching priority

Thanks to the ability to produce and disseminate research work of real international impact, EDHEC has claimed a pivotal status among academic institutions in the financial industry. For the last two years, EDHEC and the EDHEC-Risk Institute (ERI), the specialist research centre for managing financial risks, have placed sustainable finance and climate change at the heart of their priorities, both in research and teaching terms.

This strategy yielded several initiatives last year, including the creation of a specialist Advanced Factor & ESG Investing research chair sponsored by Scientific Beta and the organisation of a Climate Finance conference attended by 140 professionals and over 50 international academics in Paris. Since the start of the current academic year, EDHEC has also been offering an MSc in Global & Sustainable Business as well as a mandatory class on sustainable finance and several electives on climate change for all its Master in Finance students. The School is currently working on devising new classes and specialisation opportunities designed to enrich its offering in the area as from next year.

[Lionel Martellini](#), Director of the EDHEC-Risk Institute, and [Gianfranco Gianfrate](#) are the two professors named EDHEC representatives on the GRASFI Organising Committee.

"There was a compelling case for EDHEC to join this global network geared to producing financial research of real practical use and bringing together prestigious international universities like Stanford and Oxford. The partnership fits perfectly with the growth ambitions enshrined in our new strategic plan, 'Impact Future Generations 2025', presented this March. It furthers our aim of making academic excellence serve the cause of a sustainable economy", explains, Emmanuel Métais, Dean of EDHEC Business School.

Professor Rob Bauer of Maastricht University and Dr Ben Caldecott of University of Oxford, the co-chairs of the Alliance, said: *“We are delighted to welcome EDHEC into the Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment. EDHEC is our 26th Member University and brings special perspectives and capabilities to the Alliance. We look forward to working with Lionel Martellini and Gianfranco Gianfrate and their team to ratchet up the quality and quantity of research and teaching on sustainable finance.”*

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About EDHEC BUSINESS SCHOOL

Based in Lille, Nice, Paris, London and Singapore, and counting 100 nationalities on its campuses and partnerships with 280 leading universities around the world, EDHEC is a fully international business school directly connected to the business world. EDHEC's 40,000 alumni spread over 120 countries represent a community of engaged leaders, trained to act practically and deliver solutions to the main economic, social, technological and environmental challenges facing the world.

The School has developed a unique model founded on research of real practical use to society, companies and students. EDHEC is a centre of excellence, innovation, experience and diversity, focused on impacting future generations in a fast-transforming world. The School exists to make a positive impact on the world.

EDHEC in figures:

- 8,600 students in academic education, 184 professors and researchers, 11 research centres
- 5 campuses and a platform devoted to 100%-online certificate and degree programmes: EDHEC Online
- a comprehensive portfolio of 23 programmes designed for future decision-makers: Bachelors (BBA and BSc), a Master in Management, Masters of Science (MSc), MBAs (Full-time and Executive MBA), a PhD in Finance
- an extensive EDHEC Executive Education offering of certificate and degree programmes for managers, business leaders and entrepreneurs

About GRASFI

The Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment (the 'Alliance') was founded in 2017 to promote multi-disciplinary academic research on sustainable finance and investment. The Alliance consists of global research universities, each with expertise in this emerging field.

The Alliance aims to: organise the major annual academic conference on sustainable finance and investment internationally; develop academic collaboration between researchers working on sustainable finance and investment; and nurture the growth and development of graduate students and junior academics working on sustainable finance and investment.

There is significant and growing interest among practitioners, policymakers, and civil society in the topic of sustainable finance and investment. There is now an opportunity to ratchet up the quality and quantity of academic research in this area.

High-quality, rigorous academic research can inform necessary developments in the theory and practice of sustainable finance and investment. Doing so will help align the financial system with global environmental sustainability, a necessary condition for implementation of the [Paris Climate Change Agreement](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).