

EmpowHER: Career Development Program for Women in Sustainable Finance

Supported by



The NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business (CSB) is pleased to announce a new initiative [EmpowHER: Career Development Program for Women in Sustainable Finance, Supported by Visa Foundation](#). Launched in Fall 2022, EmpowHER aims to help a diverse group of values-driven professionals build their financial expertise and networks, creating the foundation for gainful career opportunities in sustainable investing.

A career in sustainable finance provides a unique opportunity to drive investment into companies that are solving pressing environmental and social challenges. ESG-related investments currently account for 1 in every \$4 invested in the US, totaling more than \$17 trillion invested in sustainable assets in 2020 alone. This represents a 42% increase from 2018 and consistent year over year growth for more than a decade. There is a corresponding [explosion of demand](#) for sustainability-related financial expertise to manage these assets. However, there is not enough qualified human capital to keep up with the financial capital being funneled into ESG investments. An [analysis](#) of LinkedIn job posts by the CFA Institute found 6% of investment professional job posts mentioned sustainability-related skills, yet less than 1% of profiles disclose such experience.

NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business is at the forefront of academic institutions providing students with the skillset, network and hands-on learning experiences to fill these high-demand job opportunities and drive the continued growth of ESG investing.

EmpowHER provides two years of leadership development and education for MBA students in sustainable finance, including:

- **Intensive training** on society's most pressing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues and how to address them through innovative financial and business solutions. Trainings will include deep dive workshops on current topics in collaboration with partner firms and Stern faculty
- **Hands-on learning experiences** in which students work directly with a company and learn how to embed sustainability into corporate and investment strategies. Students will participate in experiential learning opportunities and case competitions throughout their MBA program
- **Employer engagement** to provide recruiting pathways for students seeking summer internships and full-time roles in finance and sustainable finance
- **Networking opportunities** with leading practitioners giving students access to career paths and professional networks in sustainable finance
- **One-on-one mentorship** to provide support for students, enabling them to navigate their MBA experience and career search with strategic guidance

Learning Objectives

Students who complete the full two-year career development program will:

- Understand the current trends, innovations, and developments in sustainable finance, and ESG issues affecting finance and business
- Develop knowledge and skills required to incorporate sustainability into financial services
- Be equipped to pursue the diverse career paths available across sustainable finance
- Possess a robust network of peers, educators, and professionals

Complementing Existing Resources

This new program builds on the educational and career development resources at NYU Stern, including core and elective courses in finance and sustainable business, experiential learning programs, and knowledge development and recruiting support through the Careers team and student-led groups such as Graduate Finance Association, Stern Women in Business, and Social Impact and Sustainability Association (SISA).

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is drawn from CSB's network of professionals in sustainable finance and serves to guide CSB through the development and implementation of the new program:

- **Beatriz Da Cunha (MBA '11)**, Chief Operating Officer, BlackRock Sustainable Investing, BlackRock
- **Vicki Fuller**, Founder and CEO, VLF Development
- **Lynette Jefferson (MBA '95)**, Managing Director, Head of Sustainable & Inclusive Investing Solutions, UBS Wealth Management
- **Alla Liberman (BS '97)**, Chief Operating Officer, Beacon Platform
- **Justine O'Connor (MBA '09)**, Managing Director, Citi
- **Colleen Ostrowski**, Chair EmpowHER Advisory Committee, Senior Vice President and Treasurer, Visa
- **Abigail Pohlman**, Head of Wealth Management Sustainable Solutions Group, Goldman Sachs
- **Michelle Wang**, Managing Director, Fixed Income Capital Markets, Morgan Stanley

About Visa Foundation

Visa Foundation seeks to support inclusive economies where individuals, businesses, and communities can thrive. Through grant making and investing, Visa Foundation prioritizes the growth of gender diverse and inclusive small and micro businesses. The Foundation also supports broader community needs and disaster response in times of crisis. Visa Foundation is registered in the U.S. as a 501(c)3 entity. For more information, visit [Visa Foundation](#).

About NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business (CSB)

Founded in January 2016 by Tensie Whelan, former President of the Rainforest Alliance, CSB envisions a better world through better business. Our mission is to improve business performance and create positive societal impact through research, education and operationalizing embedded sustainability, the next wave of quality management. Embedded sustainability, as a core part of business strategy, manages material ESG issues, creates business opportunities that address societal needs, and generates value for all stakeholders as well as for the company. This mission builds on NYU Stern's vision of developing people and ideas that will transform 21st century problems into opportunities.