

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sustainability and Compliance Across Value Chains, 5 credits

Sustainability and Compliance Across Value Chains, 5 högskolepoäng

Course Code: J2SACA	Education Cycle: Second-cycle level
Confirmed: Apr 29, 2026	Disciplinary domain: Social sciences
Valid From: Aug 31, 2026	Subject group: Business Administration
	Specialised in: A1N Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
	Main field of study: Business Administration

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course you will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

1.2 Critically apply disciplinary knowledge to address complex issues in international contexts, while reflecting on its transferability and limitations across different settings.

Skills and Abilities

2.2 Critically analyse complex issues using theories and data and justifying solutions with rigorous, evidence-based reasoning.

3.2 Deliver compelling oral presentations relating to complex problems and critically discuss and defend their findings in academic and professional settings.

Judgement and Approach

4.1 Integrate ethical and sustainability considerations into the critical evaluation of organisational, market, and/or policy issues.

4.2 Critically analyse how selected societal trends influence business practices and/or policy, and account for their ethical and sustainability implications.

Content

In an era of uncertainty and shifting planetary boundaries, sustainability and compliance have become critical components of global value chains. Once considered secondary concerns, they are now fundamental strategic priorities that shape business resilience. This course addresses the need for a comprehensive understanding of sustainable value chain management. It will train you to act as a proactive agent of sustainability, enabling you to position organisations for long-term resilience and future competitiveness. You will explore the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement beyond the immediate operations of the enterprise, highlighting a foundational shift from operational issues to strategic value creation.

Through the supply chain lens, you will study various topics, including sustainability strategy, risk and resilience, and reporting/compliance regimes (such as corporate sustainability due diligence and relevant standards). You will compare regulatory landscapes across different markets, evaluate how digital technologies facilitate traceability and responsible sourcing, and analyse the implications for both small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and multinational corporations.

By the end of the course, you will be equipped to critically evaluate sustainability and compliance decisions throughout value chains and to manage the tensions inherent in the multiplicity of stakeholder interests. You will demonstrate an informed awareness of key areas of social and environmental sustainability in

relation to value chains, and confidently relate these to relevant compliance frameworks – so that sustainability is integrated into business operations in a strategic manner. Importantly, you will learn to tailor these approaches to various international and organisational contexts, including SMEs. With these skills, you will be equipped to play a vital role in embedding sustainability and compliance into the core strategy of international enterprises.

Connection to Research

The course is research-based and draws on current literature in sustainable value chain management and resilience, compliance, and responsible sourcing. You will critically engage with contemporary research on sustainability strategy, due diligence, reporting standards, and digital traceability. You will relate these discussions to research areas at JIBS, such as renewal and entrepreneurship in changing business environments.

Connection to Practice

The course connects to practice by discussing how contemporary organisations manage sustainability and compliance in global value chains. It addresses regulatory requirements, stakeholder pressures, traceability, and responsible sourcing in both SMEs and multinational corporations, so that you are equipped to apply theory to real-world decision-making.

Connection to Ethics, Responsibility, Sustainability (ERS)

Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability perspectives are integrated throughout the course through its focus on sustainability, compliance, responsible sourcing, and stakeholder management in global value chains. You will analyse ethical and strategic tensions related to transparency, risk, due diligence, and resilience, and apply these perspectives in the examination of organisational decisions, regulatory requirements, and sustainability challenges in different business contexts.

Type of Instruction

The course is delivered on campus through lectures, seminars, panel discussions, group projects, and individual assignments. Teaching and learning activities combine individual and collaborative work.

Attendance is expected for scheduled on-campus sessions and may be compulsory for some sessions.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry Requirements

The applicant must hold at least a bachelor's degree (equivalent to 180 ECTS credits from an accredited university) with a major in Business Administration or Economics, or the equivalent. At least 30 ECTS must be in Business Administration. Proof of English proficiency is also required.

Examination and Grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

The course is examined through a combination of individual and group-based assessment forms designed to assess the intended learning outcomes (ILOs).

The Individual written exam is assessed through two parts: a sit-in exam and active seminar participation (ILOs: 1.2, 3.2 and 4.1), representing 3 credits.

The Group project is assessed by means of a written project and associated group oral presentation (ILOs: 2.2, 3.2, 4.1 4.2), representing 2 credits.

All parts of the compulsory examination in the course must receive a passing grade before a final grade can be set. Grades are set in accordance with JIBS grading policy.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Individual written exam ¹	3 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Group project with oral presentation	2 credits	G/U

¹Determines the final grade of the course, which is issued only when all course units have been passed.

Course Evaluation

The course evaluation is important for the continuous improvement of JIBS' courses and degree programmes. The examiner is responsible for ensuring that each course is evaluated, but as a student you are essential in this process. We rely on your input to understand how we can improve. At the outset of a course the student representatives are identified. In the middle of the course there should be an opportunity for the student representatives (or a larger group of students) to share reflections on how the course is progressing. At the end of the course, you will get a course evaluation survey to fill in. The examiner will then host a debrief meeting with the student representatives to discuss improvement opportunities, based on the course evaluation data and comments.

Other Information

As a JIBS student, you are expected to maintain strong academic integrity. You must act within the boundaries of academic rules and expectations relating to all types of teaching and examination.

Copying someone else's work is a particularly serious offence and can lead to disciplinary action. When you use someone else's work without proper citation or transparency about where it came from, you are committing plagiarism. Cutting and pasting without clearly acknowledging the original source is a textbook example of plagiarism.

You must also act responsibly when using Generative AI tools. Acting responsibly includes staying informed about the school's AI-policy, understanding what rules apply in each course, and properly declaring or disclaiming any use of generative AI. You are accountable for all content you submit, including AI-assisted material. Using AI without disclosure or beyond what is allowed in a course is a violation of academic integrity and will be subject to the same academic consequences as other forms of misconduct, which may include failing the assignment, failing the course, or further disciplinary action according to school policy.

The Jönköping University library offers online and in-person support for assisting you in identifying relevant sources, using and referencing literature, and creating texts that meet academic standards and integrity.

Other forms of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) adding your name to a project you did not contribute to (or allowing someone to add their name), cheating during an examination, helping other students to cheat or submitting other students' work as your own, and using non-allowed electronic equipment during an examination. All such actions may result in disciplinary measures.

Course Literature

Please note that the course literature may be revised up to eight weeks before the start of the course.

A list of academic, practitioner, and news articles will be published at the start of the course.