

Introduction to Corporate Social Responsibility (5 ECTS)



Content

- **Central concepts in CSR:** CSR and sustainable development, Definitions of CSR, Why CSR matters – the business case, Stakeholder salience
- **Working with stakeholders:** Political CSR, Cross-sector partnerships and CSR, Multi-stakeholder Initiatives and CSR, CSR and human rights
- **CSR in company operations:** Human resource management (HRM) and CSR, CSR and supply chain, CSR and sustainable consumption, CSR – minimum wage and living wage
- **Examples of CSR:** CSR and communication, CSR and corruption, CSR and leadership, CSR and responsible investment, CSR and social entrepreneurship

Prerequisites and other material or equipment

There are no prerequisites.

Please note that the completion of the course takes place on the DigiCampus learning platform. Login instructions to the platform will be provided to the students who have registered for the course via email.

Learning objectives

Upon completion of the course, the students will be able to:

- define and apply key concepts and perspectives regarding CSR
- identify relevant issues and analyse the challenges related to corporate responsibility in selected industries
- describe the role of CSR in business and in relation to wider international political and economic issues
- describe the different aspects through which organizational practices can be CSR-oriented
- apply key concepts of CSR in their daily work.

In addition, the students will be able to analyse CSR literature, organise their work independently and work in a virtual environment.

Course assignments, working methods and literature

The course material consists of pre-recorded video lessons, reading materials, and assignments that need to be completed by the given deadlines.

- **Weekly assignments:** There are four weekly assignments in the course, one each week for the first four weeks of the course. The weekly assignments are done individually.
- **Final assignment:** The final assignment can be completed in a group or individually. The final assignment needs to be submitted by the end of the seventh week of the course.

The links to the required reading materials will be provided on the learning platform.

The course instructors provide guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence applications during the course.

Workload

Completing the course will take 133 hours (5 ECTS).

Evaluation

Students are graded on a scale from 1 to 5. The grade comprises:

- Weekly assignments/short essays (60 %)
- Final assignment/case analysis (40%)

Language

The course will be conducted in English.

Number of participants and registration for the course

There are no restrictions for the number of students admitted with the exception of Åbo Akademi, for which the number of participants is limited to 30 students. **Proper registration for the course at the home university is obligatory and required for gaining credit. Late registrations will not be accepted.**

Transfer of student information

LITO courses are organised in co-operation with multiple universities. To receive credits for the courses, students must be granted the right to attend the courses for which they have registered from the host university. To grant the right to attend a course (or courses), the home university will transfer personal student information to the host university responsible for organising the course. The data to be transferred includes the student's surname, first name, possible middle name(s), gender, nationality, e-mail address, personal identification number and home university. If a student does not have a Finnish personal identification number, his/her date of birth will be transferred. Data classified as secret will not be transferred. Receiving credit for the course(s) is not possible without transferring personal student information.

LITO Data Protection Notification is available at www.lito.fi.

Further information

Hanken School of Economics organises the course in the academic year 2025–2026.

The latest information about the course is updated and published at www.lito.fi.