

What is a SIP?

This is a Short Intensive Program or SIP at Harvard Business School. It's an optional student offering prior to the formal start of the Spring semester the following week. SIPs tend to cover new material on current topics, to be less formal than the HBS Case Study classroom, and in particular to draw on HBS alumni and other practitioners to bring real life current expertise to the room.

What is the focus of the Climate Adaptation SIP?

This SIP looks at adaptation opportunities in public health and the built environment. It's clear that perils like wildfire, flooding, extreme heat, air and water contamination, storm surge, and even grid freezes are taking a large and increasing toll on lives and property. Limiting global warming, decarbonizing the economy, and investing in new technologies like wind, solar, and batteries are necessary but not sufficient: Society (and business, and citizens, and governments) will need to make decisions about where to invest and to disinvest; and what people and assets to protect – or not to protect. What are the decision tools? Where is there business and investing opportunity (or obligation) in this massive worldwide exposure?

What are the objectives?

The primary objective is to help students understand the many possible roles of business and investing in adaptation in response to present and future weather events that are related to climate change. A major second objective is to define and refine teaching material that will go beyond this event, into the Harvard MBA classroom and other channels. A third is to bring HBS learning and networks into trade and industry associations starting to address these perils.

What are the primary points of view?

The program is organized from four points of view: Developers and owners of buildings and infrastructure; the businesses and analytics tools and services companies that support them; the investors, lenders, and insurers who provide capital to them; and the city leaders who need to balance health and safety of citizens but who have limited budgets and policy leeway.

What is the assignment for student teams?

During the program, students working in small teams will assess opportunities in real assets, support businesses, investing and credit, and the city scale co-benefits of public health. Each team will report at the end of the week on what it sees as one or two promising business models.

What might be future work, student or faculty research, and knowledge dissemination opportunities?

Follow on work could include longer student Independent Projects for credit, HBS case studies, book chapters, and an extended research project where HBS staff and alumni do further research and structured inquiry to develop a set of global current practices and future practices with respect to investing in resilience. This could be published in advance of COP 27 in November 2022 in Cairo, where the focus will be adaptation. We also will invite selected interested parties (and all of the panelists and presenters) to hear the final presentations on Friday, January 21st.

What might be in the toolkit for evaluating opportunities?

We will be relying on tools and frameworks including IPCC climate projections, current and future flood and fire maps, expected value probability tools, exceedance curves, CoBe or Co-Benefit algorithms developed at the TH Chan Harvard School of Public Health, Resilience scoring systems, and other techniques.

What are the room and remote details?

This program will run in person on the HBS campus in both HBS style tiered classrooms (Aldrich or Hawes Hall) and HBS flat classrooms (HBS Hives). Every session will include a remote participation component for students who might need to be apart for COVID-19 or other health reason. All participating students are expected to be on campus; this is an in-person offering with some health accommodations, not a remote or hybrid program. Presenters and content experts can be in the room or join on Zoom.

What is the workload?

The out-of-classroom workload is light. This is not a case-based curriculum requiring extensive preparation. There will be a handful of required readings (or videos or podcasts) that inform the entire week, and a rich bibliography of materials for further optional investigation.

What is the schedule?

The program runs 9:00 am – 3:30 pm each day, with an earlier close on Friday. The current draft program is:

Tuesday Jan 18, 2022 <i>Issues and Opportunities</i>	Wednesday Jan 19 <i>Health CoBenefits; Property Portfolios</i>	Thursday Jan 20 <i>Buildings, Infrastructure, Credit</i>	Friday Jan 21 <i>Investment and Adaptation Alpha</i>
Welcome Issues and Players: Adaption Negotiation Role Play Simulation	Interactive Panel: Examples from Practice	Content Experts and Inquiry Frameworks: Risk Models: Builders Means and Methods Supporting Adaptation	Interactive Panel: Examples from Practice
	Content Experts and Inquiry Frameworks: Health Co-Benefits Risk Models: Real Estate	Interactive Panel: Examples from Practice	Work in teams, finalize presentations
Offsite tour of situations in Boston	Work in teams or do additional research	Work in teams or do additional research	Final Team Presentations, Discuss
Plenary discussion, Q&A	Plenary discussion, Q&A	Plenary discussion, Q&A	Wrap up

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