



**Harvard
Business
School**

**Social Enterprise
Initiative**

2024-25 Curriculum Electives

The Social Enterprise Initiative (SEI) applies innovative business practices and managerial disciplines to drive sustained, high-impact social change. Through an integrated approach to teaching, research, and activities at HBS, SEI engages with leaders in all sectors to generate and disseminate practicable resources, tools, and knowledge with the ultimate goal of bettering society.

During the second year, students may choose from a range of Social Enterprise elective courses, enabling the integration of the frameworks and functional skills learned in the first year. Many of these courses are cross-cutting and offered in conjunction with other functional units at the School. Our 2024-25 electives reflect HBS's focus on management, leadership, innovation, and field-based learning to offer students the opportunity to examine the application of management concepts in a multitude of complex environments and a framework to apply successful business models to address key social issues.

Additionally, these courses allow students to explore the variety of roles they may play at different stages in their careers, including starting and/or leading social enterprises, and applying business leadership to address society's challenges.

Brief overviews of our 2024-25 offerings are provided on the following pages, along with a list of additional opportunities and resources.

LEARN MORE:

www.hbs.edu/socialenterprise

2024-25 Course Listing

[Business at the Base of the Pyramid](#)

(Fall Q1Q2; Spring Q3Q4) Associate Professor Benjamin N. Roth; Assistant Professor Natalia Rigol

Examine the opportunities and the challenges of the base of the pyramid markets (emerging middle class and low-income) and identify the key factors behind commercial success and failure. How is technology and the digital age changing this space? And when businesses generate strong financial returns, does it come at the expense of social impact?

[Changing the World: Life Choices of Influential Leaders](#)

(Spring Q3Q4) Professor Robert Simons

Study and learn from the life choices of a variety of remarkable people who left a legacy that changed the world and discover the recipe for their outstanding achievements. During the second half, work on a project to apply learnings by interviewing someone you admire and writing-up your findings.

[Cities, Structures, and Climate Shocks](#)

(Fall Q1Q2) Senior Lecturer John Macomber

Analyze buildings, infrastructure, and economic development of cities. Develop the skills to invest in, advise, or lead organizations in the context of increasing pressures of global urbanization, resource scarcity, and perils relating to climate change.

[Data for Impact: Impact Measurement from Startup to Fortune 500 C-Suite](#)

(Spring Q3Q4) Associate Professor Benjamin N. Roth; Assistant Professor Natalia Rigol

Study the most effective tools and frameworks for measuring impact and how those tools differ for investors, managers, and companies at different growth stages. Examine questions around reducing impact to a dollar figure, and how managers can utilize impact measurement to massively amplify their impact.

[Energy](#)

(Fall Q2) Visiting Professor Dustin Tingley

Examine the economic, regulatory, and social contexts that provide the dynamic backdrop for both energy sectors that have traditionally supplied economies across the globe, as well as the energy transition needed to reduce climate change and its impacts.

[Entrepreneurial Solutions](#)

(Fall Q2) Professor William Sahlman

Examine entrepreneurial efforts in healthcare, education, and the environment via background readings, cases, guests - protagonists and subject experts, and raw data. Most of the cases are US-centric, though the challenges discussed are global.

[Field Course: Business of the Arts](#)

(Spring Q3Q4) Professor Rohit Deshpande; Senior Lecturer Henry W. McGee

Learn about the key issues faced by leaders in the arts and culture sector through consulting assignments with Boston-area arts and cultural organizations, cases, and guest talks.

Field Course: Climate Solutions Lab

(Spring Q3Q4) Senior Lecturer Jim Matheson

The Climate Solutions LAB (CSL) will be a FIELD course similar in design to the Tough Tech Ventures Lab in Spring 2024 but with a complete commitment to climate in the selection of project partners, session content, frameworks and network engagement.

Field Course: Investing for Impact

(Spring Q3Q4) Senior Lecturer Archie L. Jones; Senior Lecturer Emily R. McComb; Senior Lecturer Brian Trelstad

This application only course provides an experiential opportunity to conduct due diligence on businesses led by under-represented founders and to make the investment case for their growth. In addition to the practical experience of assessing the growth opportunity of small, Boston-based businesses, the course will look at why certain founders lack access to capital and what it will take to close these gaps. Students may also provide advisory support for companies that have been supported with investments in prior years.

Field Course: Scaling Minority Businesses

(Fall Q1Q2) Senior Lecturer Archie Jones; Senior Lecturer Henry McGee

Examine the range of challenges faced by minority entrepreneurs including limited access to capital and markets. The course uses three types of learning: hands-on consulting projects with rapidly growing minority-owned businesses, case studies, and guest talks.

Managing the Future of Work

(Spring Q3Q4) Associate Professor Christopher Stanton

Confront issues important for any career track, including technology and the future of jobs; labor markets and good jobs; demographic changes; new labor models; training, reskilling, and transformation; and public policy.

Power and Influence for Positive Impact

(Fall Q1) Professor Julie Battilana; Senior Lecturer Deborah Winshel

Develop a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of power through understanding the nature of power, assessing and building your sources of power, earning trust and exercising influence, encountering entrenched power in organizations and society, and leading change in organizations and society.

Public Entrepreneurship

(Fall Q1Q2) Professor Mitchell Weiss

Through modules on ideas, risk, opportunity, and scale, tackle career questions on how to make a difference through founding, joining, or funding private startup companies that work with governments to solve giant problems, or becoming an extreme innovator inside government.

Reimagining Capitalism: Business and Big Problems

(Fall Q1Q2) Associate Professor Ethan Rouen

Examine the role that business does and can play in addressing big social and environmental challenges through the forces that are leading capitalism to evolve to address these challenges; overcoming impediments that hamper businesses' efforts to profitably address these challenges; skills that managers, entrepreneurs, and investors rely on to balance impact and profit; and scaling solutions.

Risks, Opportunities, And Investments In The Era Of Climate Change

(Spring Q3Q4) Professor George Serafeim

With a focus on the challenges and opportunities posed by climate change, prepare to succeed in a rapidly changing economic landscape through a comprehensive lens including entrepreneurship, leading and advising companies, and investing.

Road to the White House 2024, a Private Sector Perspective on Presidential Politics

(Fall Q1) Senior Lecturer Robert F. White

Understand the complexities of the political arena, the rules of the road, and the potential threats to democracy, to be an effective candidate for elective office, private sector leader who actively contributes time and money to candidates with high integrity and sound policy, and/or as a participant in electoral reform.

Social Entrepreneurship and Systems Change

(Fall Q1Q2) Lecturer Gerald Chertavian; Senior Lecturer Brian Trelstad

Explore the frameworks, tools, mindsets, and best practices that successful social entrepreneurs (both for profit and non-profit) use to maximize their impact. SESC take a deep dive into how social entrepreneurs can become systems entrepreneurs by developing a coherent systems strategy, collaborating with others, building power, and mobilizing change.

Sustainable Investing

(Fall Q2) Senior Lecturer Vikram S. Gandhi

Build on skills introduced in the RC finance course, focusing on the intersection of investing/finance and key global challenges, guided for example by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including climate, gender equality, and poverty reduction.

Transforming Education through Social Entrepreneurship

(Fall Q1Q2) Senior Lecturer John J-H Kim

Understand the central role that social entrepreneurs can play in transforming education (K-12 and higher education) through a focus on identifying challenges and opportunities, evaluating various approaches, and achieving transformative change.

Additional Field-based Learning Opportunities

- **Immersive Field Courses (IFCs)** are for-credit courses designed to offer second-year students an off-campus, experiential learning opportunity during the January term. A cornerstone of these courses is the expertise of faculty, who develop course content focused on teaching objectives achieved primarily through student-centered active learning exercises, which could include teams projects embedded with a company or a research topic identified by faculty. Social Enterprise focused IFCs include:
 - [IFC: Europe; Decarbonization and Sustainable Production](#)
 - [IFC: Ghana; Africa Rising](#)
 - [IFC: India; Development While Decarbonizing - India's Path to Net Zero](#)
- Many courses include **course papers**, allowing students to apply their learning to real-world experiences. There are opportunities to focus on an organization or set of social enterprise issues in courses that include papers, both within the Social Enterprise offerings and in other areas of the MBA program.
- **Independent Projects in Social Enterprise** complement the classroom-based courses by providing second-year MBA students working individually or in teams the opportunity to apply their skills to the real-world challenges facing social enterprises under faculty supervision, and report their recommendations at the end of the term. For more information, visit the MBA Program's Independent Project site. For information on funding for Social Enterprise Independent Projects, please visit the [Grant Guidelines site](#).
- Both first- and second-year students can enter the **Social Enterprise Track of the New Venture Competition (NVC)**, which may include nonprofit, for-profit, or hybrid business models. For more information, visit the [NVC website](#).