

Responsible Futures 2025/26

Programme Overview



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Student auditors at the 2023/24 University of Derby and Students' Union student-led audit

Ready to work with your students to embed sustainability in learning? [Sign up on our website.](https://www.responsiblefutures.org.uk)

Responsible Futures is delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability

Responsible
Futures

Students Organising for Sustainability charity, launched by the student movement. We've been delivering student-led programmes and campaigns since the early 2000s. Students Organising for Sustainability International is currently led by the All Africa Students Union.

SOS engages, inspires and empowers students to lead on sustainability. Ours is a long-term investment in education today for a better future tomorrow.



Our Mission

- Getting more students **leading on**, and **learning about**, sustainability.
- Embedding sustainability in education, **from early years to adult learning**.
- Making sustainability **more inclusive**, for everyone.

What is Responsible Futures?

“The Responsible Futures framework has enabled the university to cut through some of the ‘well we just don’t do it that way’ attitudes. Now, we say ‘this is what we’re doing, this is where we’re going.’ This has had a very positive effect.”

University staff

What is Responsible Futures?

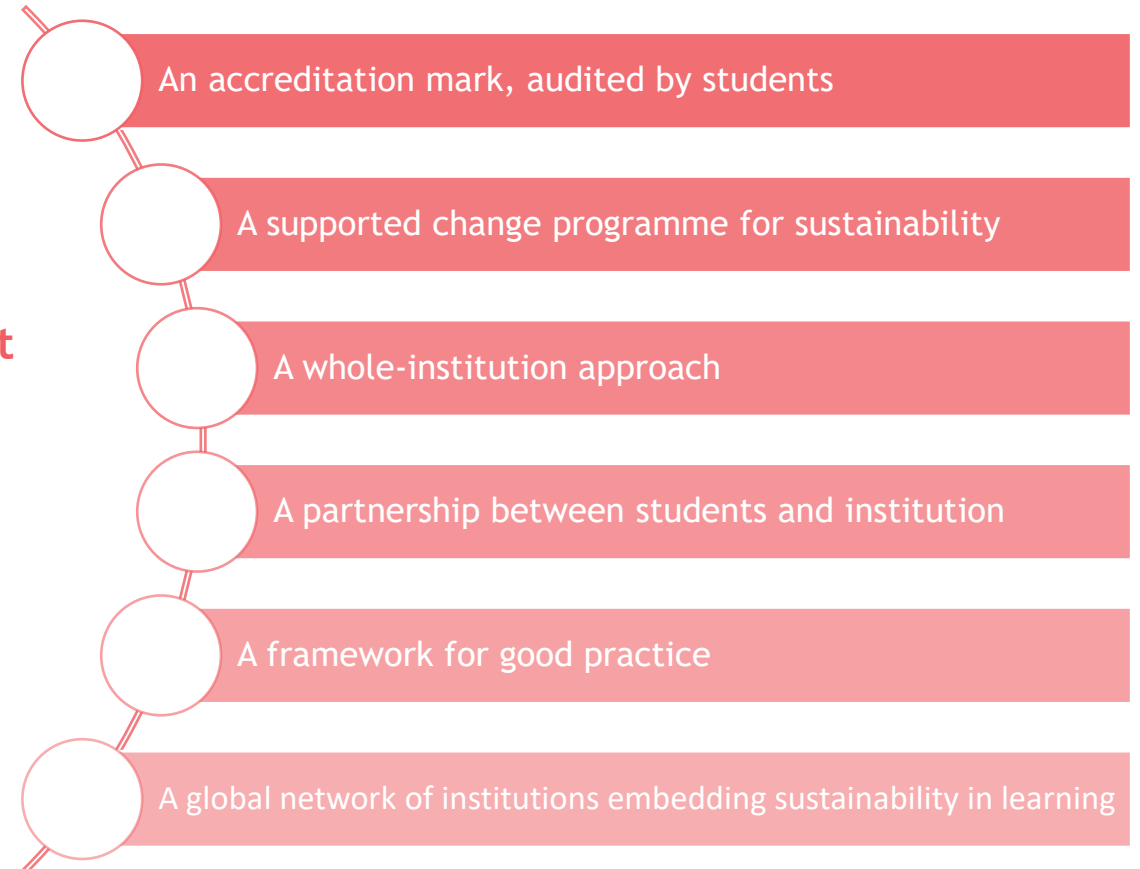
**Responsible
Futures**

Responsible Futures is a **whole-institution approach** to embedding holistic sustainability across the formal and informal curriculum in universities and colleges. **The programme puts sustainability at the heart of student learning.**

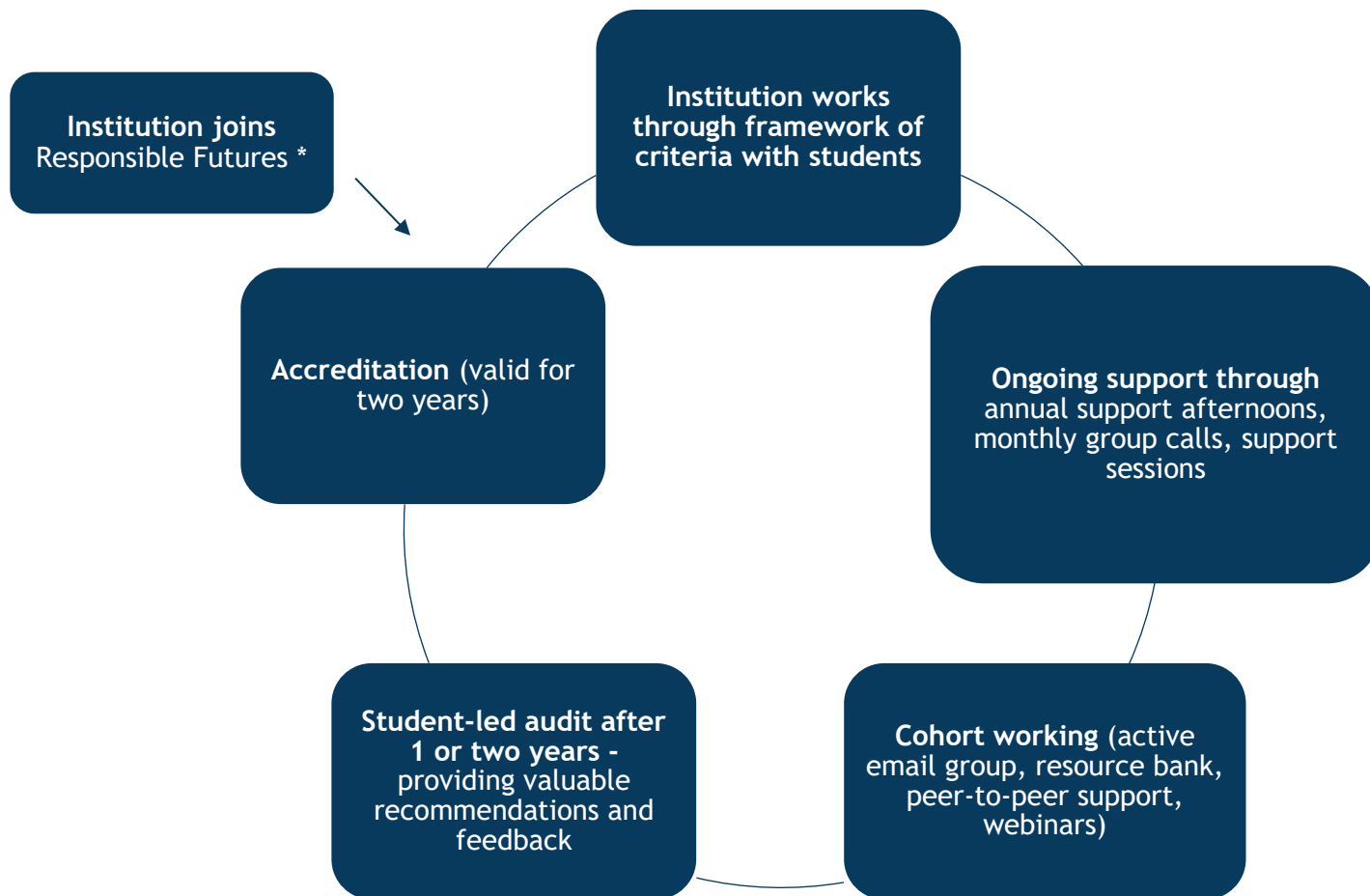
Responsible Futures provides a **framework** and **accompanying support** to foster **an enabling environment** for staff and students to work together to embed sustainability into teaching and learning.

A **student-led audit** provides the institution with valuable feedback and recommendations from students, and **determines Responsible Futures accreditation.**

For over 10 years, the programme has been working to **legitimise** and **mainstream** education for sustainable development, ultimately helping to ensure students leave education with the knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to create a more just and sustainable society.



Programme cycle



Embedded within the programme are opportunities for reflection and monitoring of outcomes and impacts.

Responsible Futures encourages and ensures continual progress.

*Institutions can join at any time in the year, however most institutions choose to align the programme with their academic calendar.

Outcomes to date

1. Improved **whole-institution approaches** for sustainability
2. **Increased student leadership** for sustainability
3. Developed **connectivity** and **collaboration** between institutions for sustainability
4. Enhanced **innovative initiatives** for sustainability in learning
5. **Broadened buy-in and engagement** for sustainability in institutions and the wider sector



Student auditors, University of Ulster and Ulster Students' Union staff and SOS-UK staff at the 2023/24 University of Ulster and Students' Union audit.



“Through the Responsible Futures audit, [the University] supports students to have a voice in sustainability, which is something we cherish so much.” Student Auditor

Student auditors, University of Worcester and University of Coventry staff, Students' Union staff and SOS-UK staff at the 2023/24 reciprocal audit between University of Coventry and University of Worcester.

Supporting universities and colleges globally

Responsible
Futures



For more information on current institutions please visit the [UK programme page](#) and [the International programme page](#).

Key figures to date

**Responsible
Futures**

**53 institutions
reaching over
1,100,000 students
globally**

55 student-led audits

**Over 3200 actions
taken for ESD**

**Over 200 student
auditors leading
audits**

**Over 80 network
learning
meetings/events**



Student auditors and SOS-UK staff at the 2024/25 De Montfort University and Students' Union audit.

What are the next steps?

“Through the audit, I was inspired to learn more about [my institution’s] engagement with students and staff, fostering a culture of responsibility and positive change for sustainability. This experience has strengthened my attention to detail skills and broadened my professional interviewing skills, offering valuable intersectional insights into sustainability and social justice initiatives.”

Student auditor from De Montfort University and Students’ Union

Programme costings 25/26

Membership includes:

- Access to RF online framework and resource bank
- UK and Global network learning
 - Regular informal catch ups
 - Online support sessions and symposiums
 - Webinars
 - Online email list
- Bespoke support days for institutions
- Two-day student led audit
- RF accreditation subject to audit results
- Ongoing ad hoc support from SOS-UK

	First year	Subsequent Years
Higher Education	£5,615 + VAT	£4,895 + VAT
Further Education	£4,920 + VAT	£4,280 + VAT

“Responsible Futures has created a ripple effect for ESD at our institution, through reaching out to people and having that collective approach. Responsible Futures is a way of bringing this work all together.”

– Teresa Cox, Open University

Suggested next steps:

- Discuss with staff and students at your institution – who is best placed to lead on this? Where can Responsible Futures sit within your institution?
- Schedule a call to discuss your institutional context and how we can support you – responsiblefutures@sos-uk.org.
- Look through the [programme website](#)
- Read the [2014-2024 impact report](#) for case studies
- Ready to join? [Sign up on our website.](#)
- [Keep in touch!](#)

“The Responsible Futures framework helps drive what we're doing. It has been instrumental in moving things forward and having students involved.”

- Institutional Staff

“Responsible Futures is a fantastic initiative, offering collaboration between our students and staff to assess our sustainability credentials and examine where improvements can be made. The accreditation demonstrates our commitment to promoting sustainability to our students and gives our student base a voice in which to shape the way we operate.

It has been great to be involved in the programme and be challenged by our students on the way we go about being sustainable. We would recommend it to other [universities and colleges] who are developing as a sustainable institution.”

Aled Williams, Executive Director - Innovation and Partnerships, University College of Estate Management (UCEM)



Student auditors, UCEM staff and SOS-UK staff at the 2023/24 UCEM audit.

**We look forward to working with you
to embed sustainability in learning in
partnership with students.**