

Responsible Futures International

2025/26

Programme Overview



Contents

Responsible Futures

- What is Responsible Futures?
- Next steps for joining the programme
 - Programme fee and what's included
 - Suggested next steps and contact information

**Ready to work with your students
to embed sustainability in
learning?**

Get in touch.



Student auditors and staff at the Queen's University's Responsible Futures audit during the international pilot in 2024

Responsible Futures is delivered by SOS-UK and IAU

**Responsible
Futures**

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

SOS engages, inspires and empowers students to lead on sustainability.



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.



The International Association of Universities is a global NGO created by UNESCO in 1950 with 600 Members in 120+ countries

Advocacy to UN/UNESCO for an inclusive and value-based approach to Higher Education, 2030 Agenda and UNESCO ESD, as well as research, publications, monitoring and networking.

Responsible Futures supports IAU members to put strategy into action.

Four key thematic priorities:

- Leadership
- Internationalization
- Sustainable Development (HESD)
- Digital Transformation

What is Responsible Futures?

“[Responsible Futures] is one of the most important and fulfilling programmes I have been involved in as it is equipping future generations to survive in a climate change impacted world.” – Staff member



What is Responsible Futures?

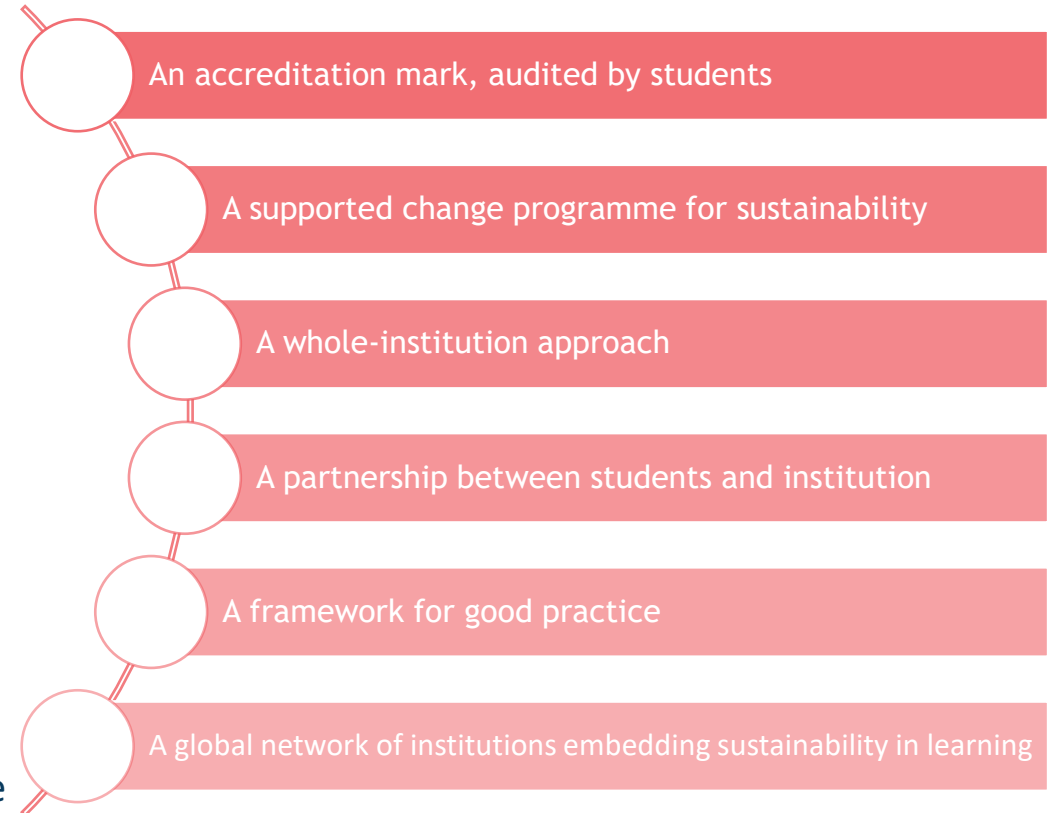
Responsible Futures

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 and Education for Sustainable Development 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.

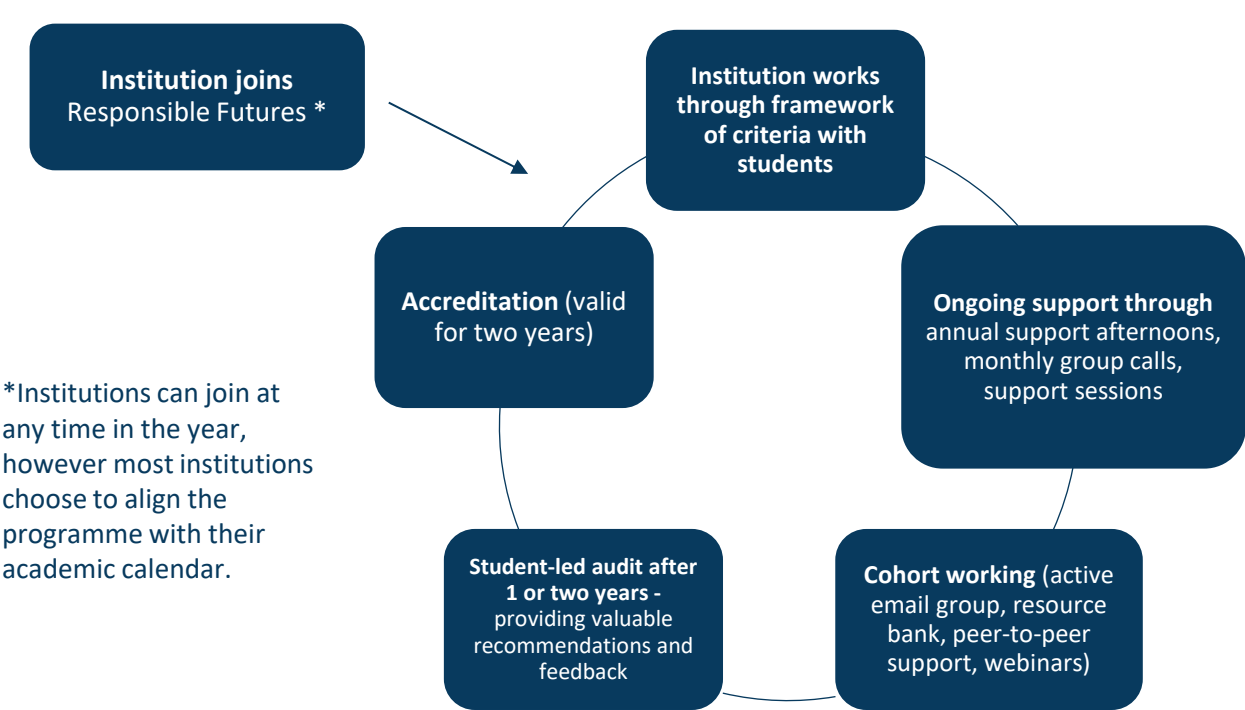
A student-led audit provides the institution with valuable feedback and recommendations from students, and **determines Responsible Futures accreditation.**

For over 10 years in the UK and two years internationally, 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.



Encouraging and ensuring continual progress

Embedded within the programme are opportunities for reflection and monitoring of outcomes and impacts. The programme cycle supports institutions to build on achievements and recommendations from students, using the biennial audits as a touchpoints for measuring progress and understanding impact.



“It has provided a framework that has been enabled us to facilitate conversations, undergo gap assessment of what we are currently doing and now with the audit results we are able to meaningfully engage with more areas and approaches in our next steps.”

Staff member

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 ambassadors, VC Sir Hilary Beckles and Celia Davidson Francis (UWI Alumni Relations Director and RF lead) ratifying the sustainability policy



Student auditors at Trinity College Dublin's Responsible Futures audit during the pilot in 2024.

“I'm really grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in such an eye-opening and rewarding experience.

Ultimately, Responsible Futures shows that progress is possible, but it requires continued momentum, collaboration, and institutional commitment to truly embed sustainability into every aspect of student learning.” **Student Auditor,**
Trinity College Dublin

Supporting universities and colleges globally



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.

Achievements across pilot institutions

Responsible Futures



Developed cross-institutional working groups to progress work related to Responsible Futures collaboratively



Developed both formal and informal structures to work closely with student leadership groups, including student unions



Developed institutional understanding of student perspectives on sustainability through surveys and audit



Developed and ratified sustainability policies in partnership with students



Created student-led societies to contribute to work related to Responsible Futures



Progressed initiatives to embed sustainability in teaching and learning, including institution-wide engagement with SDG campaigns and curriculum reviews



Engaged senior leaders to ensure top-down institutional commitment for sustainability partnerships with students



Engaged senior leaders to ensure top-down institutional commitment for sustainability partnerships with students

What are the next steps?

Programme fee 25/26

We ask institutions to select which tier best reflects their context. We are using a tiered approach to:

- Ensure the programme is **accessible** to institutions with varying resources and capacities;
- To **address global power dynamics** in our mission to create a sustainable and just education system and world;
- Cover delivery costs.

Tier 3 - \$5,750 USD One or more of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low-income country• Country currently experiencing significant social/political instability• No endowment funds• Experiencing financial instability	Tier 2 - \$6,545 USD One or more of the following criteria: <p>Tier 2 exists for institutions that exhibit criteria from both the low and high tiers.</p>	Tier 1 - \$7,525 USD One or more of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-income country• Has endowment funds• Private institution• Generally stable finances	Subsidised - \$3,185 USD <p>The subsidised rate is available for institutions who would benefit significantly from participation, but who have financial barriers preventing their registration.</p> <p>We have a limited number of places at this rate.</p>
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We are open to discussing this further to ensure the programme is accessible to your institution. [Please get in touch.](#)

Suggested next steps:

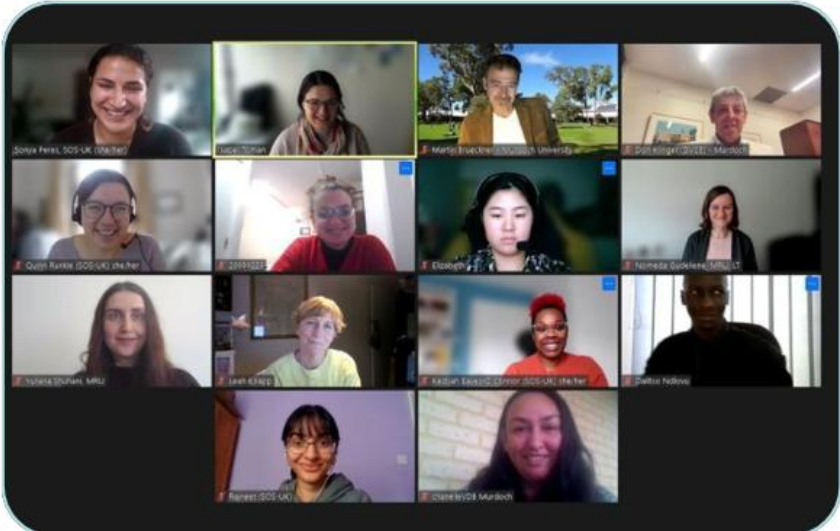
- Discuss with staff and students at your institution – who is best placed to lead on this? Where can Responsible Futures sit within your institution?
- Schedule a call to discuss your institutional context and how we can support you – responsiblefutures@sos-uk.org.
- Look through the [programme website](#)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

"The programme has helped us make progress faster than we would have done alone because we didn't need to develop resources and frameworks on our own. Being in conversation with international partners in the programme has been a great benefit."

**Dr. Ceibert Adamson, Vice-President
Academic at Mohawk College**

[Responsible Futures International] brings universities across the world together to share learning and best practice through a common framework and language. It's advantageous to have a programme like this, which ensures from the start that students can be engaged without having to go through the internal design through the university."

Professor Andrew Deeks, Vice Chancellor, Murdoch University



SOS-UK, IAU and staff and students from pilot institutions co-creating the Responsible Futures framework at an online workshop.

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