



Responsible Business Conduct

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS)
Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich
Centre for Human Rights

CAS in Responsible Business Conduct

Topic

Recent regulatory changes and the growing public awareness of the issues related to Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) further increase the pressure on states and companies to conduct business activities responsibly and sustainably, taking into account related risks for people and the planet.

This CAS is aimed at supporting businesses as well as public institutions and agencies with precise and specialized knowledge that allows them to adequately navigate the intricate web of emerging regulatory requirements at the national, regional, and international level. Raising societal expectations and the dynamic regulatory environment call for a new generation of business professionals with expertise on RBC who can anticipate and assess the impacts of business activities on people and the planet and prioritize measures to prevent, mitigate, and remedy such impacts. These professionals need sound and comprehensive knowledge in the interdisciplinary area of Responsible Business Conduct as well as the skills to apply this knowledge in their respective fields of work.

To this end the UZH provides a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Responsible Business Conduct (CAS in RBC) which is specifically tailored to professionals and practitioners. The key international concept of Responsible Business Conduct which is embedded in the recently updated OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct and in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) will constitute the basis of this course. The concept of risk-based due diligence is at the heart of the CAS, providing participants with tools to analyse current challenges and develop implementation strategies in their specific field of work.

Key points

Duration	6 months (comprehensive of 21 real-time sessions)
Part time attendance	Friday and Saturday (3 hours per day, usually every two weeks)
Format	Online, real time sessions complemented by a self-study component
Language	English
Degree	Certificate of Advanced Studies UZH in Responsible Business Conduct (10 ECTS Credits)
Cost	CHF 7000.–
Website	www.cas-rbc.uzh.ch



Prof. Dr. Christine Kaufmann
Professor of Constitutional Law and International Law at UZH, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, Program Chair and Lecturer:

«The regulatory environment for responsible business conduct is changing at high speed and business needs to adapt. With this program practitioners can learn first-hand from international experts from international standard setting organizations, academia, business, and civil society what it takes to implement responsible business due diligence in their activities.»

Structure

Module title and topics	Duration	Credits
Module 1 – Foundations		
Introduction and analysis of the concept and frameworks of Responsible Business Conduct (RBC)	4 days* and ~ 50 h self-study	2 ECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UNGP «Protect, Respect & Remedy» – OECD Guidelines – Current regulatory framework and developments around the world 		
Module 2 – Due Diligence		
Incorporation of RBC and Human Rights policies in Due Diligence and management structures	5 days* and ~ 50 h self-study	2 ECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Risk identification and impact assessment – Cease, prevent and mitigate – Implementation, monitoring, reporting – Access to remedy 		
Module 3 – Group Projects		
Collaborative work on RBC key cases	3 days* and ~ 20 h self-study	1 ECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Part I: Case study intro – Part II: Group work – Group case study – Presentation of group case studies 		

Module title and topics	Duration	Credits
Module 4 – In-depth Study		
Investigation of crucial topics	7 days* and ~ 80 h self-study	3 ECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Human Rights – Finance – Labor – Environment – Bribery and corruption – Post-conflict reconstruction and development – Digitalization 		
Module 5 – Individual Case Study		
Investigation on RBC issues of personal relevance and interest	2 days* and ~ 60 h self-study	2 ECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Case study – Case study discussion 		

* Please note that every day corresponds to a 3-hour online/virtual session. For instance, a module of 4 days will correspond to 12 hours online.

Program Overview

Admission Criteria	The CAS is open to university graduates with a minimum of two-year professional experience or in exceptional cases comparable qualification.
Target Audience	Professionals from business, government, civil society, and academia, such as lawyers, compliance officers and risks managers, members of management boards or boards of directors in charge of responsible business conduct/corporate governance, due diligence policies and implementation.
Modules and Assessments	The CAS in RBC offers a comprehensive virtual program with real-time sessions and self-study components of offline activities throughout the semester. Real-time sessions take place on 21 days over a one semester period. Online attendance and active participation are mandatory, with each session lasting three hours. At the end of the semester participants submit an original case study about a topic of their choice related to Responsible Business Conduct.
Number of Participants	Minimum of 10, maximum of 30 participants.
Degree	Upon completion participants receive a Certificate of Advanced Studies UZH in Responsible Business Conduct and are awarded 10 ECTS Credits.
Costs	CHF 7000.- (covers all fees and materials)

Format, Time, Application	The CAS runs for one whole semester and is conducted entirely online to reach participants internationally. To accommodate most time zones online, lessons will be conducted between 12 am and 3 pm Central European Time on Friday and Saturday, generally following a two-week rhythm. Deadlines and other important information can be found at www.cas-rbc.uzh.ch
Contacts	Centre for Human Rights (UZHR), University of Zurich Tel.: +41(0) 44 634 57 03, E-Mail: cas-rbc@ius.uzh.ch Website: www.cas-rbc.uzh.ch



Ron Popper

CEO of the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights, Lecturer:

«Companies have to conduct business responsibly and there are many negative consequences – legal, financial or reputational – if they get it wrong. Understanding how to carry out effective due diligence in business relationships, including supply chains, is key to getting it right. Participants in the CAS in Responsible Business Conduct will learn key elements needed to conduct practical, risk-based due diligence.»

Key Benefits

The CAS in RBC offers participants valuable insights into the fundamental principles of Responsible Business Conduct and a comprehensive understanding of risk-based due diligence.

The CAS in RBC equips participants for implementing the newly acquired knowledge in their professional activities and thereby contribute to better align business interests with international RBC standards.

Moreover, participants will have the opportunity to exchange practical experiences with international peers and renowned experts in Responsible Business Conduct, fostering professional growth and expanding their network.

About

Governance

Faculty of Law, University of Zurich Prof. Dr. Christine Kaufmann

CAS Management

The Certificate of Advanced Studies in Responsible Business Conduct is organized by the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Zurich (UZHR). The UZHR is an interdisciplinary scientific network with the purpose of promoting and coordinating research, teaching, and knowledge transfer in the area of human rights.

For more information, please visit the UZHR website at <https://www.menschenrechte.uzh.ch/en.html>

For more activities of the UZHR, follow us on [linkedin.com/company/centre-for-human-rights-studies-uzh](https://www.linkedin.com/company/centre-for-human-rights-studies-uzh)

Lecturers

International experts from diverse fields (e.g., academia, businesses, civil society, governments, international organizations) and disciplines will lead the online seminars, support participants in working on their cases study, and help evaluate the final individual case studies.

For more information, please visit our website at www.cas-rbc.uzh.ch



Publishing Information

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Continuing Education at the University of Zurich – Where Research and Scholarship meet Professional Practice

Even if you graduated only a few years ago, your degree may have lost some of its value due to knowledge attrition and new developments in the field. Keeping your knowledge up to date with regular continuing education and lifelong learning will help you hold your own and stand out in a competitive job market.

The University of Zurich offers a wide range of continuing education opportunities, from part-time programs that can be completed while you continue working, to one-day or several-day workshops. The Master of Advanced Studies (MAS), Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) and Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) programs are generally aimed at graduates with a Master's degree and professional experience, although exceptions may be made for people with other equivalent qualifications or considerable experience. As well as subject-specific courses for those working in particular fields, UZH also offers courses on general topics that are open to all.

Continuing education at the University of Zurich is not simply a one-way process of imparting knowledge, but offers the opportunity to exchange information and views with others in the field. Through the use of examples and exercises drawn from real life, participants discover new techniques, models and practices that they can put to use in their everyday careers. By choosing a continuing education program at the University of Zurich, you are signing up for a top-level and high-quality experience at an outstanding higher education and research institution.

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