

THE SDG STUDENTS PROGRAM CERTIFICATE GUIDE



SDG
Students
Program

FOR SDG HUB MEMBERS WHO WANT TO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND



BAN KI-MOON CENTRE
for Global Citizens

SDGacademy



INTRODUCTION

WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)?



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 ambitious objectives for a greener, healthier, more peaceful, and equal planet. On 25 September 2015, after three years of discussion and consultation, all 193 UN Member States finally agreed and signed the SDGs, committing to achieve them by 2030. [Click here to find out more about the SDGs.](#)

ABOUT SDSN

In 2012, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#) to mobilise global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the SDGs at local, national and global scales.



ABOUT SDSN YOUTH



In 2015, the SDSN launched its official youth initiative ([SDSN Youth](#)) to empower youth globally to create sustainable development solutions. SDSN Youth educates young people about the Sustainable Development Goals and provides opportunities for them to pioneer innovative solutions to address the world's biggest challenges.



INTRODUCTION



ABOUT THE BAN KI-MOON CENTRE FOR GLOBAL CITIZENS

The Ban Ki-Moon Centre for Global Citizens is a Quasi-International Organization founded by Co-Chairs Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary-General of the UN, and Heinz Fischer, the 11th President of Austria, in Vienna, Austria. The Centre works for empowering youth and women to act as global citizens through leadership, mediation, advocacy, and education programs in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Centre has independent affiliated offices in Seoul, Almaty, Beijing, and an affiliated Foundation in New York.



BAN KI-MOON CENTRE
for Global Citizens

ABOUT THE SDG ACADEMY



The SDG Academy is the online education platform of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a global initiative for the United Nations. The SDG Academy creates and curates free educational resources on sustainable development, and offers them as a global public good.

ABOUT THE SDG STUDENTS PROGRAM?

The SDG Students Program is an initiative of SDSN Youth that aims to engage students in higher education in the global effort to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as empower them with the knowledge, skills, and pathways to action to be effective agents of change today. Click [here](#) to watch what Professor Jeffrey Sachs, SDG Advocate and Director of SDSN, has to say about the program.



SDG
Students
Program



THE CERTIFICATE



(Click [here](#) to see what Co-Chair Ban has to say about the SDG Students Program!)

“I am proud to support the SDG Students Program, an SDSN Youth global initiative, to engage students in higher education with the Sustainable Development Goals, through the creation of SDG Student Hubs on universities around the world.”

- Ban Ki-moon
Co-Chair, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens

WHAT IS THE SDG STUDENTS PROGRAM CERTIFICATE?



Developed in partnership with the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens and the SDG Academy, the SDG Students Program Certificate is a non-credit certificate to encourage SDG Hub Members to learn about, engage with, and taken action on the SDGs. Certificate are signed by Ban Ki-moon (Co-Chair, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens), Chandrika Bahadur (President, SDSN Association) and Siamak Loni (Global Coordinator, SDSN Youth).





HOW DO I EARN A CERTIFICATE?

“The SDG Students Program is helping to connect university students with some of the best content that exists, to help them learn about the Sustainable Development Goals as taught by some of the world’s leading authorities on the subject.”

- Chandrika Bahadur
President, SDSN Association

WHO CAN EARN A CERTIFICATE?

Any [SDG Hub Member](#) or [SDG Coordinator](#) who is registered with the SDG Students Program.

THE CERTIFICATE CRITERION

To be attain an SDG Students Program Certificate, you must fulfil the following criterion:

LEARN ABOUT	ENGAGE WITH	TAKE ACTION
Complete Sustainable Development in the 21st Century with Ban Ki-moon	Write an Op-Ed on an SDG-related topic in relation to your local community for the SDSN Youth blog	Volunteer 17 hours with an NGO/ community organisation working on the SDGs
Complete ANY additional SDG Academy course	Attend 2 Education Activities of the SDG Student Hub	Attend a Solutions/ Action Activity of the SDG Student Hub
Complete UN CC: e-Learn’s Introductory e-Course on Climate Change	Attend an SDSN Youth Workplace Live	

Once you have completed all the criterion, you can apply for an SDG Students Program Certificate at this [link](#).



DETAILED CRITERION



“By incorporating the content that the Ban Ki-moon Centre is producing into the SDG Students Program, we hope to give university students all over the world a foundational knowledge of sustainability that will aid them in all their future activities.”

- Monika Froehler
Chief Executive Officer, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens

LEARN ABOUT - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY WITH BAN KI-MOON

Enrol in and complete the course “[Sustainable Development in the 21st Century with Ban Ki-moon](#)”, co-developed by the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens and Yonsei University’s Institute for Global Engagement and Empowerment. Completing this criterion is expected to give you a foundational understanding of sustainable development and the SDGs.

Proof of Completion: As Coursera charges a fee for certificates, but does not charge for enrolment, we do not require you to pay for a certificate (though it is encouraged). You may submit either a PDF of the course certificate, or a screenshot of completion of the course progress bar if you do not pay for the certificate.

LEARN ABOUT - ANY ADDITIONAL COURSE FROM THE SDG ACADEMY

Enrol in and complete any course run by the [SDG Academy](#) based on the topics and SDGs you are most interested in learning more about. Completing this criterion is expected to give you additional understanding of a specific topic within sustainable development that you are curious about.

Proof of Completion: As EdX charges a fee for certificates, but does not charge for enrolment, we do not require you to pay for a certificate (though it is encouraged). You may submit either a PDF of the course certificate, or a screenshot of completion of the course progress bar if you do not pay for the certificate.





DETAILED CRITERION

LEARN ABOUT - INTRODUCTORY E-COURSE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Enrol in and complete the course “[Introductory e-Course on Climate Change](#)”, developed by UN CC: e-Learn, an initiative of a consortium of UN agencies including the UNFCCC and UNITAR. Completing this criterion is expected to give you foundational understanding of climate changes and its impacts.

Proof of Completion: As UN CC: e-Learn does not charge fees for its courses, you must submit a PDF of the course certificate.

ENGAGE WITH - OP-ED ON AN SDG-RELATED TOPIC IN RELATION TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Submit and have approved an op-ed for the SDG Students Program blog. You may refer to the [SDSN Youth Blog Guide](#) for more information on how to prepare your blog post draft. Completing this criterion is meant to give you the experience and confidence to advocate for the SDGs in professional, online settings. Blog post drafts can be submitted [here](#), and decisions on whether to approve a draft rest solely with the SDSN Youth Communications Team.

Proof of Completion: Submit a link to the published blog post.

ENGAGE WITH - ATTEND 2 EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Attend 2 Education Activities of your SDG Student Hub, and write a 500-word reflection for each activity that touches on the key lessons and takeaways you had from the activities, as well as some initial thoughts on how you can apply what you’ve learnt. Completing this criterion is intended to encourage you to actively participate with your SDG Student Hub and expand your understanding of sustainable development.

Proof of Completion: Submit your reflections directly through the online Podio form.



DETAILED CRITERION



ENGAGE WITH - ATTEND AN SDSN YOUTH WORKPLACE LIVE

Attend a monthly Workplace Live hosted on SDSN Youth's Workplace, and write a 300-word reflection that touches on the key lessons and takeaways you had from the webinar, as well as some initial thoughts on how you can apply what you've learnt. Completing this criterion is intended to encourage you to actively participate with SDSN Youth's global community and give you access to some of the world's leading experts on the SDGs.

Proof of Completion: Submit your reflections directly through the online Podio form.

TAKE ACTION - VOLUNTEER 17 HOURS WITH AN NGO/ COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

Volunteer with an NGO or a community organisation working on the SDGs for at least 17 hours (though we encourage you to give more time if you can!). This should be a formally-registered organisation in your country or community, and should not be a student society or an unregistered organisation. Not sure where to start in your hometown? You can also check out [UN Volunteers](#) for ways to contribute online. Completing this criterion is meant to give you a greater understanding of how the SDGs are advanced on the ground.

Proof of Completion: Please request for a letter from the organisation you've volunteered with, signed by a staff member who has supervised you. The letter should certify the number of hours you've given and the type of contributions you've made. We require you to submit a soft copy of this letter.

TAKE ACTION - ATTEND A SOLUTIONS/ ACTION ACTIVITY

Attend a Solutions/ Action Activity of your SDG Student Hub, and write a 500-word reflection for each activity that touches on the key lessons and takeaways you had from the activities, as well as some initial thoughts on how you can apply what you've learnt. Completing this criterion is intended to give you the basic skills you need to take action on the SDGs in your local community.

Proof of Completion: Submit your reflections directly through the online Podio form.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) DOES MY CERTIFICATE EXPIRE?

No. Your SDG Students Program Certificate does not have an expiry date, but we encourage you to continue to do more to advance the SDGs even after you attain a certificate.

2) WHAT IF MY CERTIFICATE APPLICATION WAS NOT APPROVED?

Our Project Officers will let you know which criterion(s) did not pass our assessment - you're welcome to redo those segments that have been identified and apply again.

3) CAN THE CERTIFICATE COUNT FOR COURSE CREDITS?

No. The SDG Students Program Certificate is a non-credit course that is not eligible for you to claim course credits from your university.

4) WHAT IF MY UNIVERSITY IS NOT PART OF THE PROGRAM?

Sorry, but this means that we aren't able to issue you an SDG Students Program Certificate. A full map of our existing SDG Student Hubs around the world can be found at this [link](#).

5) HOW CAN I START AN SDG STUDENT HUB ON MY CAMPUS?

Your university first needs to be a Member Institution of SDSN. Membership is free, and more information about the process can be found [here](#). Get in touch with us if you'd like to speak to your university leadership about applying for membership!

6) I HAVE A QUESTION THAT ISN'T COVERED HERE.

Please get in touch with us at students@sdsnyouth.org.

7) I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THE PROGRAM/ SDSN YOUTH/ THE SDGS.

Feel free to head on over to:



sdgstudent.org



sdsnyouth.org



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bankimooncentre.org

SDGacademy

sdgacademy.org



unsdsn.org

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