UNIVERSIDADE NOVA
DE LISBOA

Syllabus 2025

This course is an innovative and first of its kind to raise awareness, knowledge and skills to all NOVA University students who want to learn about sustainability, as a scientific and technical add-on, for a more responsible professional future. First Edition of *Sustainability for All* in Spring 2025 is taken as a pilot and offers NOVA students the opportunity to engage in the course as an extra-curricular course, providing a supplement to the diploma.

Course structure

SUSTAINABILITY for ALL is a blended course comprising 12 missions, designed to provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to sustainability. A digital community, supported by mentors and Professors, will guide students through the learning process and mission completion. The course is blended learning, following a predefined calendar published online. It is worth 3 ECTS credits, corresponding to a total workload of 84 hours per student.

Key Learning Moments

Welcome Session: A mandatory, in-person kickoff session featuring inspirational talks, two workshops (on Theory of Change and Systems Thinking), and opportunities to network with students from all NOVA schools.

12 Missions: Divided into four sets of three missions, in most cases with each mission addressing more than one interrelated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Designed by Professors from NOVA's different schools, the missions provide an interdisciplinary perspective. Students will complete one mission per set, totaling four missions.

Workshops: Two mandatory, in-person workshops (1.5 hours each) are scheduled between mission sets. These sessions focus on exploring future perspectives and professional challenges related to sustainability.

Hackathon: A full-day, in-person event held at the end of the course. Students will work in interdisciplinary teams to tackle real-world sustainability challenges, learning to manage complexity and fostering long-term accountability. Learn and have fun in an interdisciplinary team. Attendance is mandatory.

What is a mission?

A Mission is a challenge designed to expand your knowledge and skills in sustainability!
The course consists of 12 missions, divided into four sets of three missions, each addressing one or more interrelated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These missions were carefully designed and crafted by Professors from various NOVA schools to provide a rich, interdisciplinary perspective.

How does a mission work?

Each set contains three missions, but you'll only need to choose and complete one mission per set, resulting in a total of four missions throughout the course.

Each Mission was designed for a 20h workload, including 2h of Q&A with the Professors, and to be a dynamic and rewarding experience, blending discovery, reflection, and application into a cohesive learning journey.

By tackling these missions, you'll engage with diverse topics, gain new insights, and apply your learning to real-world sustainability challenges.

Each mission starts by jumping into a pool of new concepts and knowledge you'll need to understand before deep diving into detailed topics and completing the assignment that will get you to a podium.

Let's see the structure of a mission in detail:

1. JUMP

JUMP is the first step. You are introduced to the topic through a brief but impactful context provided by the Professors. This step sets the stage for understanding the topic's relevance, magnitude, and broader impact. Students are guided through a curated selection of online resources, including articles and videos, to build a foundational understanding. Along the way, you are encouraged to reflect on the key challenges in the field, with curiosity and critical thinking.

2. DIVE

DIVE is the second step. You are invited to explore deeper the subject. You will explore a specific subtopic, reflecting and uncovering new perspectives. This step encourages students to focus on particular aspects of the subject as a strategic approach to learning. A reflective exercise challenges students to articulate their thoughts by answering a series of open-ended questions, fostering both self-awareness and a deeper grasp of the material. To support your journey, additional resources are offered to enrich your understanding, and own research is encouraged.

3. PODIUM

PODIUM is the third and last step. Students apply everything they've learned. This is the moment to put knowledge into action. Through a hands-on Assignment, a Self-Assessment and an Evaluation Quiz, students consolidate their learning and demonstrate their knowledge of the concepts. In this phase, students are also invited to peer-review colleagues' assignment.

Fostering a Community

A Community Chat: will provide a collaborative space for students to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and ask questions. Moderated by the Professors who designed the missions or mentors, this forum fosters both peer learning and direct interaction with subject-matter specialists.

Additionally, students will have the opportunity to connect with these experts during one live sessions held throughout the chosen Mission in each Set. These sessions offer a unique chance to deepen students' understanding, gain insights directly from the Professors, and engage in dynamic conversations about the mission topics.

Peer Review: A Pillar of Collaborative Learning

Peer review is a structural element of your Learning Experience, fostering a deeper understanding through collaboration and constructive feedback. By reviewing and reflecting on the work of their peers, students sharpen their critical thinking skills and gain fresh perspectives. Peer Review strengthens individual mastery of the subject and cultivates a sense of shared responsibility and active participation in the learning community. Peer-review will follow a matrix provided, to facilitate students' work and smooth their task.

Assessment

Students must meet the following criteria to get approved in the course:

1. Mandatory Attendance: Participation in the Welcome Session, Workshops and the Hackathon.
2. Grading: A final average grade of at least 10/20 based on:
    a. Quizzes: Average grade from four quizzes (one per mission), weighted at 70% to the final grade.
    b. Assignments: Average grade from peer-reviewed assignments, weighted at 20% to the final grade.
    c. Peer Reviews: Completion of eight peer reviews (two per mission), following a predefined evaluation rubric, weighted at 10% to the final grade.

Teaching Team

Professors from NOVA's 9 Schools designed the 12 missions:

1. Alison Neilson (NOVA FCSH)
2. Alexandre Köberle (NOVA SBE)
3. Ana Gouveia (NOVA SBE)
4. Carolina Santos (ENSP NOVA)
5. Claudia Generoso de Almeida (NOVA FCSH)
6. Diogo Pestana (NOVA Medical School)
7. Francisco Manuel Freire Cardoso Ferreira (NOVA FCT)
8. Gonçalo Figueiredo Augusto (ENSP NOVA)
9. Iva Maria Miranda Pires (NOVA FCSH)
10. Joana Lucas (NOVA FCSH)
11. João Joanaz de Melo (NOVA FCT)
12. João Pedro Oliveira (NOVA FCT)
13. João Raposo (NOVA Medical Sschool)
14. Margarida Oliveira (ITQB NOVA)
15. Marta Martins (NOVA FCT)
16. Marta Pingarilho (IHMT NOVA)
17. Miguel Neto (NOVA IMS)
18. Nausica Palazzo (NOVA School of Law)
19. Paulina Faria (NOVA FCT)
20. Radu Godina (NOVA FCT)
21. Ricardo Louro (ITQB NOVA)
22. Rita Lopes (NOVA FCT)
23. Rita Pires (NOVA School of Law)
24. Silvia Herrero (NOVA SBE)
25. Susana Viegas (ENSP NOVA)
26. Veronica Corcodel (NOVA School of Law)

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2025 Calendar

March 1 – Saturday [morning]	Welcome session	In person
March 1-14	**Missions - SET 1:** A Healthy Planet Climate and Energy: Act Now! Land Use and Food Production	Online
March 19 [18H00-19H30]	Workshop	In person
March 24 - April 4	**Missions - SET 2:** One Health and Well-being Health and Sustainable Food Pure Air, Clean Water, Healthy Future	Online
April 7 - 24 [Includes Easter Break]	**Missions - SET 3:** Responsible Consumption and Production Sustainable Economic Development Industry and Infrastructures	Online
April 30 [18H00-19H30]	Workshop	In person
May 5 - 23	**Missions - SET 4:** Inclusion, Gender, and Migration War and Peace in the 21st Century: Where, Why and How? How sustainable is our Built Environment?	Online
June 7 – Saturday [all day]	Hackathon	In person

Regarding each of the in-person sessions, the registered students will receive detailed information in due time, namely the location and the program.