



Global Initiative for  
Governance and Sustainability  
(GIGS)

# ESG Certified Director

## A Multi-Level Certificate for Current and Aspiring Executives and Board Members

Offered by the Global Initiative for Governance and Sustainability (GIGS)



# Building Better Boards:

## *Excellence through Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles*

The ESG Certified Director is a professional accreditation designed to deepen understanding and application of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles in corporate settings. This program covers a comprehensive range of topics, from the fundamentals of ESG to advanced strategies for integrating these principles into organizational governance and decision-making processes. Upon completion, the certificate acknowledges the individual's expertise and commitment to driving ESG excellence at the highest levels of corporate leadership.



### Core Program Features



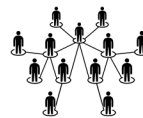
**Key Sustainability Challenges:** to explore the environmental and social impacts of business, promoting strategies for sustainable practices and mitigation of negative effects.



**ESG reporting standards:** to teach global ESG reporting frameworks, and to enhance organizational transparency, accountability through accurate methods of measurement and disclosure.



**Ethical Leadership:** Emphasizes leading with integrity and moral clarity, fostering an ethical mindset of honesty and responsible decision-making.



**Stakeholder Engagement:** to focus on effective engagement with stakeholders to understand their perspectives and foster collaborative decision-making.



# Building Better Boards:

## *Excellence through Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles*

### Our Experts and Session Leaders

We are proud to have a high-calibre team of accomplished academics, senior administrators and government officials. Their profound experience in their respective areas combined with their breadth of knowledge in implementing successful governance and sustainability business solutions by-design.



**Deborah Rosati**

Recognized as Top 100 Canada's Most Powerful Women, Deborah is an Award-winning entrepreneur and seasoned corporate director with over 35 years of experience. Founder and CEO of Women Get On Board Inc. (WGOB) and Women Funding Women Inc.. A recognized leader in corporate governance, she has served on multiple corporate boards and committees. Her work has earned her multiple accolades, including a 2023 Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Brock University.



**Robert Wood**

Professor of Behavioural Decision Theory at Macquarie University and Director of the CommBank Diaries 2026 project. An internationally recognized scholar, he has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Jay Wright Forrester Award. Bob has extensive consulting and advisory experience across global industries and has founded the Centre for Ethical Leadership at UniMelb. He is a Fellow of several prestigious academic societies and completed his PhD at the University of Washington with post-doctoral studies at Stanford University.



**Samir Trabelsi**

Samir Trabelsi is the President of Canadian Accounting Association and the CPA Ontario Distinguished Professor of Accounting and Governance at the Goodman School of Business of Brock University, Canada. Samir holds a PhD in Accounting from HEC Montreal and a CPA designation in Ontario. He has extensively taught courses in corporate governance, external reporting, and research methodology. Prior to his academic career, Trabelsi practiced public accounting at KPMG.



**Peter van Dijk**

Chief Sustainability and Financial Officer at Canada's Forest Trust (CFT), where he also chairs the Innovation, Science, and Policy Advisory Board. He spearheads the creation of "Smart Forests," innovative projects that capture carbon, restore ecosystems, and engage communities. Peter's extensive background includes roles such as Director of Climate Risk & TCFD in North America at Anthesis, Executive in Residence at the Global Risk Institute and significant positions at PwC, TD Bank, and Sun Life Financial, focusing on climate change, sustainable finance, and tax policy.



**Nadia Massoud**

Internationally acclaimed Professor of Finance at Melbourne Business School, known for her expertise in financial intermediaries, blockchain, and digital currency. Nadia's consulting experience includes designing advanced currency systems for the Bank of Canada and serving as an expert witness for a Canadian government investigation. She holds a PhD in Economics/Finance from Queen's University. Her award-winning research has been published in top journals, focusing on corporate governance and regulation in the banking sector.



**Ines Chaieb**

Professor of Finance at the University of Geneva and the Swiss Finance Institute. Her research, focusing on financial economics, is published in prestigious journals and has attracted funding from international organizations and is a respected referee for numerous top journals. She teaches graduate courses and has reached over a million students globally through her online courses in investment management. Ines is also active in academic leadership, serving on the steering committee and scientific councils of prominent business schools.



## ESG Certified Director (ESG.CD.)

### Program Structure

This certificate program covers a comprehensive range of topics, from the fundamentals of ESG to advanced strategies for integrating these principles into organizational governance and decision-making processes. Participants will learn about sustainability challenges, ethical leadership, ESG reporting standards, and stakeholder engagement, all aimed at enhancing the sustainable performance and social responsibility of their organizations. Upon completion, the certificate acknowledges the individual's expertise and commitment to driving ESG excellence at the highest levels of corporate leadership.

#### \* **MODULE 1: FOUNDATIONS OF ESG**

Covers the basics of ESG principles, including the historical evolution, core concepts, and the importance of ESG in modern business practices.

#### \* **MODULE 3: SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT**

Delves into sustainability issues, focusing on environmental responsibilities, sustainable business practices, and risk management in the context of ESG.

#### \* **MODULE 5: ESG REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE**

The final module covers ESG reporting standards, compliance, and effective communication strategies for ESG initiatives to stakeholders.

#### \* **MODULE 2: ESG AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Focuses on integrating ESG into corporate governance and addresses board responsibilities, policy development, and strategic ESG integration.

#### \* **MODULE 4: SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS**

Here, the emphasis is on the social dimension of ESG, including labor practices, community engagement, ethical leadership, and stakeholder management.

#### \* **MODULE 6: BOARD SIMULATION**

This comprehensive module offers a hands-on, experiential learning opportunity where participants engage in simulated boardroom scenarios, focusing on applying ESG principles.



## ESG Certified Director (ESG.C.D.) Certificate Program Outline

### Module 1: Foundations of ESG

- Introduction to ESG: Definition, historical evolution, and significance in modern business.
- Core ESG Concepts: Environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and governance practices.
- Importance of ESG: Impact on corporate reputation, financial performance, and stakeholder trust.

### Module 2: ESG and Corporate Governance

- Board Responsibilities: Role of the board in ESG oversight.
- Policy Development: Creating and implementing ESG policies.
- Strategic Integration: Integrating ESG into corporate strategy and governance frameworks.

### Module 3: Sustainability Management

- Environmental Responsibilities: Addressing climate change, resource management, and environmental impact.
- Sustainable Business Practices: Implementing sustainable practices in operations and supply chains.
- Risk Management: Identifying and mitigating ESG-related risks.

### Module 4: Social Responsibility and Ethical Leadership

- Labor Practices: Ensuring fair labor practices and workplace diversity.
- Community Engagement: Building strong relationships with local communities.
- Ethical Leadership: Promoting integrity and ethical decision-making in leadership.
- Stakeholder Management: Engaging and communicating with stakeholders effectively.

### Module 5: ESG Reporting and Compliance

- Reporting Standards: Understanding global ESG reporting frameworks (e.g., GRI, SASB, TCFD).
- Compliance: Navigating regulatory requirements and standards.
- Communication Strategies: Effectively communicating ESG initiatives and performance to stakeholders.

### Module 6: Board Simulation

- Experiential Learning: Engaging in simulated boardroom scenarios.
- Decision-Making: Applying ESG principles in strategic decision-making.
- Ethical Dilemmas: Navigating complex ethical issues in a corporate setting.
- Crisis Management: Managing crises and communicating with stakeholders during challenging times.
- ESG Strategy Implementation: Practical application of ESG strategies in dynamic business environments.



## DESIGNATION PROCESS

An applicant or designation candidate must:

- Graduate from the Global Institute for Governance and Sustainability Program;
- Be a current member in good standing of the Global Initiative for Governance and Sustainability, having signed the GIGS's Member Code of Conduct;
- Successfully pass the ESG.CD. examination; and
- Sign the ESG.CD. Designation Agreement, which requires directors with to commit to a minimum of 14 hours ongoing governance and sustainability education annually.

## USE OF THE ESG.CD. DESIGNATION

As a Member of the GIGS and a holder of the ESG.CD. designation, you have committed to achieving the highest standard of directorship.

The ESG.CD. represents a lifelong commitment to excellence in the boardroom, a desire to stay current, and to be a more effective director. With an ESG.CD, you are recognized as a director who can have more informed, focused and effective discussions. When used in board biographies or proxy circulars, it demonstrates to stakeholders the best-in-class governance and sustainability leadership capacity on your board(s).

The ESG.CD. should accompany your legacy designations, if any. ESG.CDs are encouraged to use their designation in the following circumstances and any others deemed appropriate:

- **BUSINESS CARDS AND EMAIL SIGNATURE**
  - Update your business card and e-signatures with the ESG.CD following your name and any other designations you may have, for example: **JOHN SMITH, CPA, ESG.CD.**
- **OFFICIAL BIOS AND PROXY CIRCULARS**
  - Include the ESG.CD in your personal and proxy bio with the following wording:
  - Long form: “[Your name] is a holder of the ESG Certified Director designation.”
  - Short form: “[Your name], ESG Certified Director.”



## PROGRAM REGISTRATION

As a member of the GIGS, you will be equipped with the knowledge and resources required to lead with confidence in the boardroom, while creating long-term success to make a lasting impact on the boards you serve.

Please note that a one-year complimentary membership is provided to you upon application to any of our courses. Complimentary membership is only eligible to individuals who are not already members of the GIGS at the time of application.

### PROGRAM BENEFITS

- **Enhanced Leadership:** Master ESG principles to improve strategic decision-making and corporate governance.
- **Competitive Edge:** Drive sustainability and social responsibility, boosting your organization's reputation and market position.
- **Hands-On Experience:** Apply ESG strategies in simulated board scenarios, enhancing crisis management and stakeholder communication.

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## CONTACT US

To learn more about the **ESG Certified Director program** and to register, please contact us at:

- **Web:** [gigs-initiative.ca/esgcd](https://gigs-initiative.ca/esgcd)
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- **Phone:** +1 (514) 513-7687



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