



Earth
Charter
INTERNATIONAL



University
for Peace



OUR HOPE FOR PEACE



unesco

Chair





UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter

ONLINE COURSE FOR YOUNG LEADERS

Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics

COURSE INFORMATION













**“We stand at a critical moment in
Earth’s history, a time when
humanity must choose its future (...)
To move forward we must recognize
that in the midst of a magnificent
diversity of cultures and life forms
we are one human family and one
Earth community with a common
destiny.”**

Earth Charter Preamble

Table of Contents

-  Why Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics?
-  About the course
-  Course objectives
-  Sessions
-  Audience
-  Course Completion Requirements
-  Earth Charter Young Leaders
-  About the Earth Charter and the International Center for Education



Let's pay attention to the next generation of leaders

As those whose lives will be most deeply affected by our current unsustainable practices, young leaders are emerging as critical thinkers in the paradigm shift that is required to build more just and sustainable societies. While many young people are raising their voices and looking for ways to address the socio-environment challenges of our time, many others are disengaged from processes of social change or feel disempowered to contribute. It is crucial for those with a strong sense of justice, openness, and courage for change to find opportunities to connect, learn, and generate a positive impact.

Where Should We Focus Our Energy?

What leaders of private companies are saying? According to a study published by Harvard Business Review, the most important leadership competence that is sought in a leader is **strong ethics**.¹

87%

of students agree that their universities should take sustainability seriously.²

What the United Nations and the international community are proposing? **SDG 4.7 Target:** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

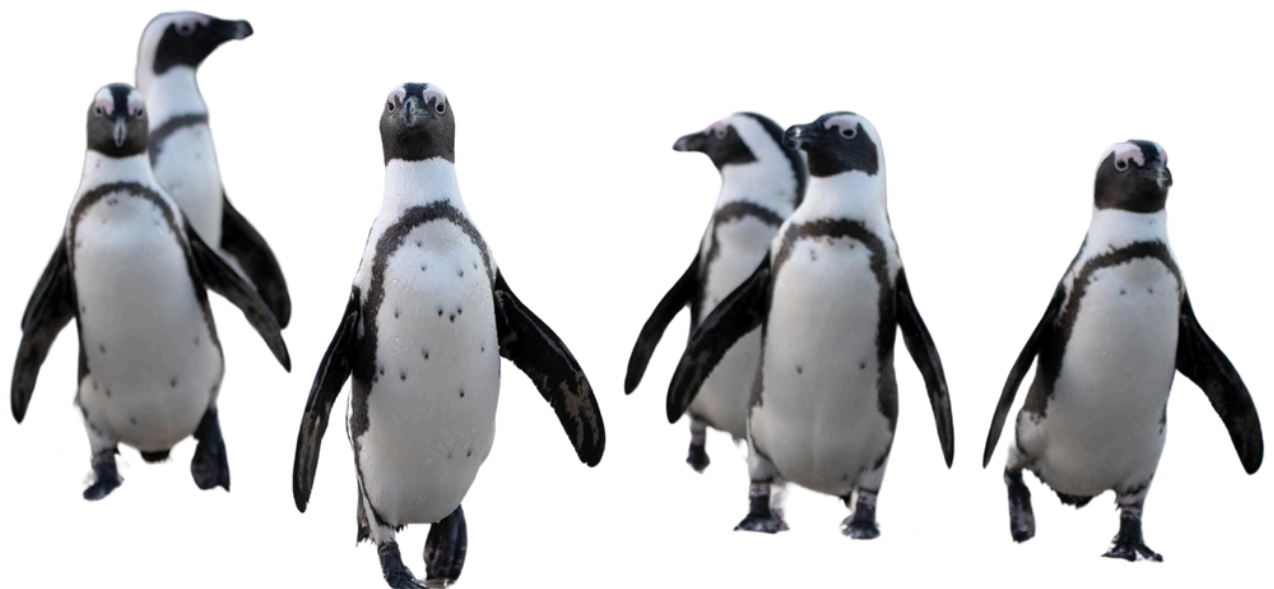
1. Giles, S. [2016] The Most Important Leadership Competencies, According to Leaders Around the World. Harvard Business Review.

2. Students Organizing for Sustainability, Annual Sustainability Skills Survey [<https://www.sos-uk.org/post/two-thirds-of-students-want-to-learn-more-about-sustainability>]

A course aimed at generating an ethical and sustainable impact in a global community

For over 15 years, Earth Charter International (ECI) has been engaging, motivating, training, and empowering young leaders, aged between 18 and 30 years old, from all regions of the world to commit and contribute to processes of social transformation.

In this context, the objective of the "Leadership, Sustainability, and Ethics" (LSE) course is to strengthen young people's knowledge and skills to be ethical and effective sustainability leaders and to implement initiatives inspired by Earth Charter, thereby contributing to a more just, sustainable and peaceful world.



About the course

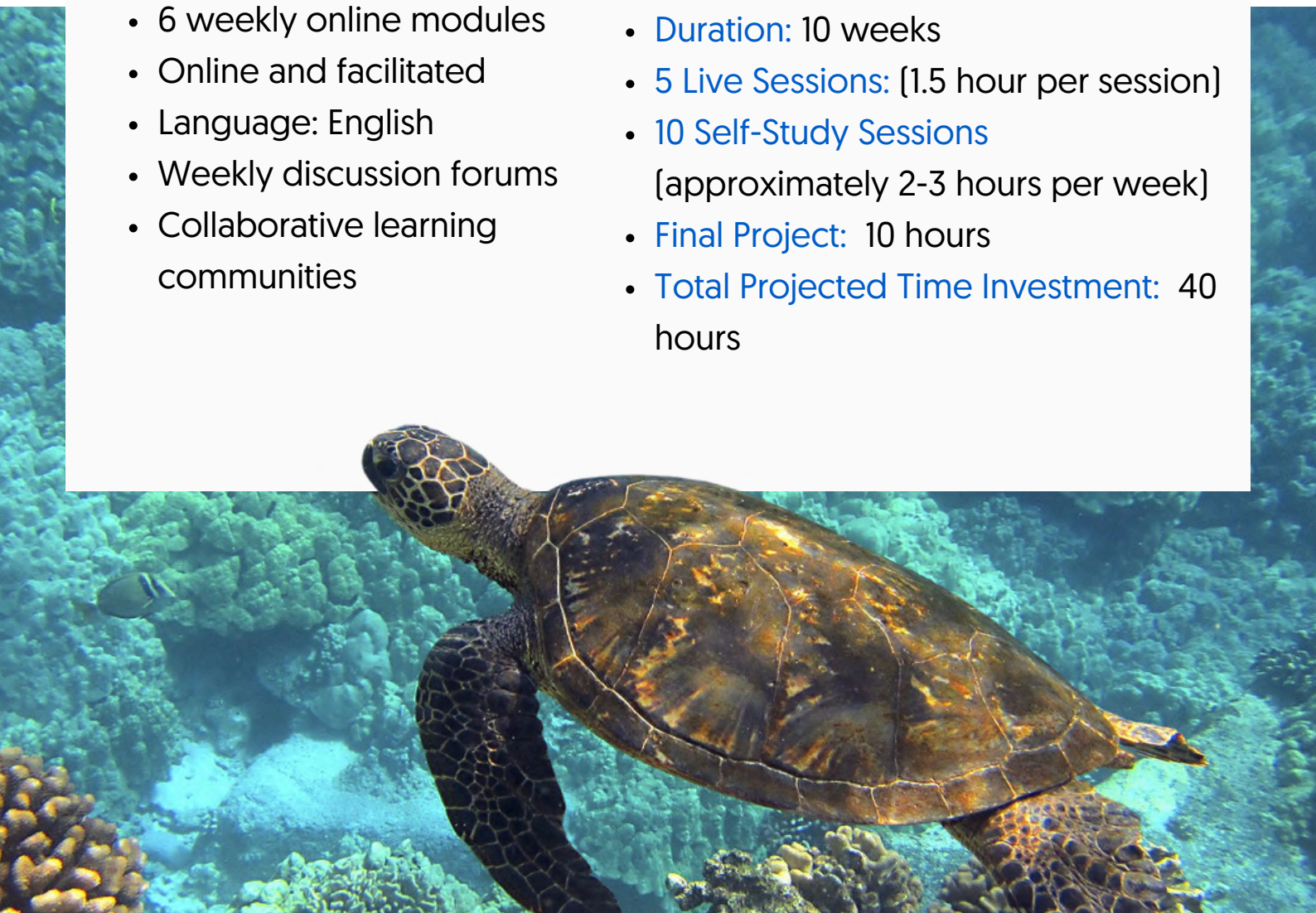
The course offers a learning experience that equips young people with the knowledge and skills they can immediately implement in their local contexts. This course is developed in a highly collaborative and multicultural environment fostered through discussion forums and group activities. The methodology includes asynchronous sessions [not simultaneous] and synchronous sessions [simultaneous sessions where participants are present and interacting in real-time]. It involves reading theoretical material, articles, and case studies; watching videos; writing short reflections and exercises; and culminates in the development and implementation of a local project or workshop by each participant.

Course Components:

- 6 weekly online modules
- Online and facilitated
- Language: English
- Weekly discussion forums
- Collaborative learning communities

Course Details:

- **Duration:** 10 weeks
- **5 Live Sessions:** (1.5 hour per session)
- **10 Self-Study Sessions**
[approximately 2-3 hours per week]
- **Final Project:** 10 hours
- **Total Projected Time Investment:** 40 hours



Course Objectives



The overall objective of this course is to expand and enhance participants' understanding of sustainability and ethical leadership, empower them to apply this vision and principles practically, and foster a network of support and collaboration among them.

More specifically this course seeks to help participants to:

- Strengthen their capacity to be ethical sustainability leaders.
- Expand their Earth consciousness and worldviews.
- Understand sustainability, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Inner Development Goals, system thinking and the Earth Charter, and recognize their synergies.
- Utilize the Earth Charter as a framework for ethical decision-making and use it as a tool for personal growth in professional and personal contexts.
- Effectively develop and implement projects that reflect the values of leadership, sustainability, ethics, and the Earth Charter.
- Recognize and embrace their agency and global citizenship skills in driving positive change in the world.
- Establish connections with fellow participants from diverse cultures and contexts for ongoing support, collaboration and networking.

Sessions

- 1** Introduction, Global Challenges and Worldviews- [First Live Session](#)
- 2** Sustainability, Sustainable Development Goals and Inner Development Goals
- 3** Introduction to Ecoliteracy and Systems Thinking
- [Second Live Session](#)
- 4** Principles and Values of Sustainability through the lenses of The Earth Charter, Part 1
- 5** Principles and Values of Sustainability through the lenses of The Earth Charter, Part 2 - [Third Live Session](#)
- 6** Leadership and Ethics
- 7** Ethical Dilemmas - [Fourth Live Session](#)
- 8** Bringing Sustainability Principles, Leadership and Ethics together and final project planning - [Fifth live meeting](#)
- 9** Project Implementation
- 10** Reflecting on the learnings and presenting - [Final live meeting](#)



Audience

This course is designed for emerging young leaders between the ages of 18-30 who are interested in contributing to the realization of a more just, sustainable and peaceful world. To participate in the course, they must:

- Desire to learn, collaborate and communicate with other young leaders in the field of sustainability.
- Have a good command of the language in which the course is being held.
- Be willing to apply and share the knowledge acquired with their context.



Course Completion Requirements

To successfully complete this course, participants are required to:

- Actively participate in 80% of the sessions through the forums and live meetings.
- Develop a final project.

Throughout the course, participants will identify a specific problem in their context that they can address and begin envisioning a project they can develop and implement, reflecting the key learnings of this course. In the last session, participants will present how their project evolved, sharing the insights they gained from this process.

After successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Receive a certificate



- Be invited to become an Earth Charter Young Leader and join the Earth Charter Network, an international online community of motivated individuals turning conscience into action.

Earth Charter Young Leaders

The Earth Charter Young Leaders (ECYL) Programme is an avenue for emerging sustainability leaders to continue to build their leadership and knowledge contributing with processes of social change while engaging with other actors in their communities and elsewhere. It is an opportunity to continue to be engaged with Earth Charter International (ECI) and be part of a global network of likeminded people.

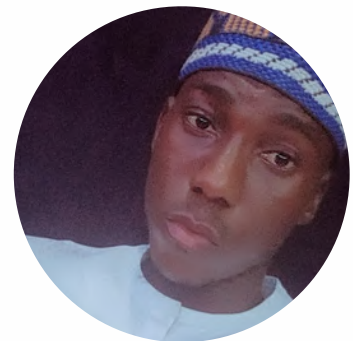


ANDREA SECOLA

Venezuela-Costa Rica

“In 2019, just as I became an Earth Charter Young Leader (ECYL), I co-founded Proyecto Integra, a non-profit organization in Costa Rica. This initiative was driven by the desire to support children who had migrated to Costa Rica and faced educational hindrances due to their migration experiences. Little did I know that this project would be the beginning of a transformative journey, leading me to champion global sustainability and biodiversity through various impactful initiatives.”

“The Earth Charter, was one of the best things that happened to me, a catalyst for revolution in my drive to effect change, a building block to my leadership potential and what every aspiring leader needs to effectively lead.”



**CHIMA MICHAEL
CHUKWUEBUKA**

Nigeria



About the Earth Charter

Crafted by visionaries over twenty years ago, the Earth Charter is a document with sixteen principles, organized under four pillars, that seek to turn conscience into action. It seeks to inspire in all people a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations. It is a vision of hope and a call to action.

About the Earth Charter International Center for Education

The ECI Education Center, located on the campus of the UN Mandated University for Peace in San José, Costa Rica, offers a variety of online and on-site education programmes that highlight the importance of incorporating sustainability values and principles into decision-making and education. It provides an opportunity for participants to expand their understanding of sustainability and see the possibilities for turning it into action. Since 2012, the Earth Charter Education Center coordinates the [UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter.](#)

Will you rise to the challenge of leading a **sustainable future?**

Reach out to us for more information:
apply@earthcharter.org
<https://earthcharter.org/courses>

