



University  
for Peace



unesco

Chair

UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter

ONLINE PROGRAMME FOR TEENS

# Emerging Earth Leaders








COURSE INFORMATION



**“Humanity depends on the  
boundless energy, ideas and  
contributions of youth  
everywhere. Today and every  
day, let’s support and stand with  
young people in shaping a just  
and sustainable world, for people  
and planet”**

**António Guterres,  
UN Secretary General**

# Table of Contents

-  Why Emergent Leaders?
-  About the course
-  Course objectives
-  Sessions
-  Audience
-  Course Completion Requirements
-  About the Earth Charter and the International Center for Education

# Teenagers are not only the future but the present



In a world where human-centered thinking is predominant, we have often seen ourselves as separate and indispensable rather than [recognizing our interconnectedness](#) within the intricate web of life. However, our very existence relies on the health and harmony of this vast Earth community.

[Learning to coexist responsibly](#) on a planet we share with millions of other species and fellow humans is essential for our collective survival. This journey begins with education, and it is crucial to engage teenagers today in forging a more just and sustainable future. Adolescence is a pivotal moment for [shaping worldviews and behaviors](#), making it the perfect time to nurture values of sustainability and stewardship.

We believe in [the power of young people](#) to mobilize, inspire, and lead the way towards a thriving society. By equipping them with the knowledge and tools to understand and address environmental challenges, we can foster a generation of [emergent leaders who will champion the cause of sustainability and drive meaningful change](#).

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the sky. In the background, there are rolling mountains under a soft, hazy sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is peaceful and natural.

**53%**

of UNESCO member state countries reference climate change in their national curricula<sup>1</sup>

**16%**

of high school students in high- and middle-income countries receiving quality climate change education could lead to a significant reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050<sup>2</sup>

**27%**

of gen Alpha students listed schools and teachers as a top source from which they would like to receive more sustainability knowledge<sup>3</sup>

Environmental education has positive impacts: improving academic performance, enhancing critical thinking skills, developing personal growth and life-building skills [confidence, autonomy and leadership]<sup>4</sup>

1 <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379591>

2 <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0206266>

3 How can we empower the next generations to build a more sustainable future? [EY and JA Worldwide, Generational Sustainability Survey 2023]

4 Stanford analysis reveals wide array of benefits from environmental education [[https://naaee.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/k-12\\_student\\_key\\_findings.pdf](https://naaee.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/k-12_student_key_findings.pdf)]

# A course designed to inspire and equip the next generation of leaders to drive sustainable change

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 to processes of social transformation.

Building on this experience, we are introducing the "Emerging Earth Leaders" course, thoughtfully designed to empower teenagers with the knowledge and skills needed to become visionary leaders in sustainability. Grounded in the foundational principles of the Earth Charter, this course prepares participants to initiate and lead transformative projects contributing to a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world.





# About the course

The course offers a learning experience that will help teens [develop the knowledge and skills to become effective ethical/sustainability leaders with the ability to impact future generations](#). This course is developed in a highly collaborative and multicultural environment fostered through discussion forums and group activities. The methodology includes recorded and live sessions. It involves reading theoretical material and case studies; watching videos followed by comprehension questions; engaging in discussions of sustainability, leadership, and ethics; writing short reflections and weekly exercises; and culminates with a final project developed by each participant.

## Course Components:

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

## Course Details:

- **Duration:** 7 weeks
- **Live Sessions/Facilitated Class Time:** 7 hours (1 per week)
- **Self-Study:** 18 hours (3 per week)
- **Final Project/Essay:** 5 hours
- **Total Projected Time Investment:** 30 hours

# Course objectives

## **This training provides a space for participants to:**

- Foster leadership, communication and inner-development skills associated with agents of change.
- Increase their understanding of our interconnected global challenges and how they relate to participants' lives and communities.
- Identify signs of hope for the well-being of the Earth community.
- Explore their worldview and engage possible worldviews associated with a just, sustainable, and peaceful world.
- Deepen their understanding of the values and principles of the Earth Charter as they reflect a worldview of sustainability.
- Learn about systems thinking and real-world applications.





# Sessions

- 1** Introduction, Inner Development and Wellbeing
- First Live Session
- 

- 2** Sustainability and Ecoliteracy
- Second Live Session
- 

- 3** Introduction to Systems Thinking
- Third Live Session
- 

- 4** Principles and Values of Sustainability through the lenses of The Earth Charter
- Fourth Live Session
- 

- 5** Leadership and Ethical Dilemmas
- Fifth Live Session
- 

- 6** Final Project
- Sixth Live Session - Final Project Q&A
- 

- 7** Final live session
- Final project presentations & reflections about the key learnings from the course



# Audience

This 7-week online course is for teens ages 14-17 and offers a hopeful and multicultural community where students can nurture their **leadership skills, values, and principles of sustainability.**

To participate in the course, they must:

- Desire to learn about current global challenges and how to turn conscience into action.
- Have a good command of the language in which the course is being held.
- Be willing to apply and share the knowledge acquired within 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 successfully.

# After successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Receive a certificate



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



## 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](#).

Are you ready  
to **ignite the  
spark** of  
sustainable  
transformation?



Reach out to us for more information:

[apply@earthcharter.org](mailto:apply@earthcharter.org)

<https://earthcharter.org/courses>