



WBCSD Job Description – Internship

Corporate-Investor Accountability-Evaluating and Valuing Transitions

WBCSD Overview

WBCSD is the premier global, CEO-led community of over 200 of the world’s leading sustainable businesses working collectively to accelerate the system transformations needed for a net zero, nature positive, and more equitable future.

We do this by engaging executives and sustainability leaders from business and elsewhere to share practical insights on the obstacles and opportunities we currently face in tackling the integrated climate, nature and inequality sustainability challenge; by co-developing “how-to” CEO-guides from these insights; by providing science-based target guidance including standards and protocols; and by developing tools and platforms to help leading businesses in sustainability drive integrated actions to tackle climate, nature and inequality challenges across sectors and geographical regions.

Our member companies come from all business sectors and all major economies, representing a combined revenue of more than USD \$8.5 trillion and 19 million employees. Our global network of almost 70 national business councils gives our members unparalleled reach across the globe. Since 1995, WBCSD has been uniquely positioned to work with member companies along and across value chains to deliver impactful business solutions to the most challenging sustainability issues.

Together, we are the leading voice of business for sustainability, united by our vision of creating a world in which 9+ billion people are living well, within planetary boundaries, by mid-century.

Job Overview

Many companies are making net-zero and other sustainability-focused commitments while reimagining their businesses to meet today’s challenges in climate, nature and society. With the acceleration of sustainable finance and investing, companies are increasingly being held to account on their actions and progress against commitments and targets. Financial institutions are integrating ESG and climate considerations into investment processes and decision making, seeking to support sustainable companies and changes in business performance.

However, questions remain as both business and financial sectors explore pathways and obstacles to successful sustainable transitions.

- What characteristics are required for a corporation to be future-oriented and long-term value creating?
- How have corporate intentions to transition been received by investors?
- How do investors assess transition intentions in practice?



- What signals can investors use to predict successful transitions?
- How are investors valuing companies in transition?
- Where and how are different investor types/ investment asset classes likely to drive these transitions?

The focus of this opportunity is to explore the above questions and develop research and insights on corporate-investor accountability around sustainable transitions (e.g., towards net-zero, nature positive).

Responsibilities and duties

The role would sit within WBCSD's Redefining Value team with opportunities to contribute to several ongoing projects, specifically within the Capital Market Engagement workstream of the CFO Network and wider efforts seeking to mobilize financial services and products to support sustainable development, in support of the transformative agenda as WBCSD outlined in Vision 2050.

The intern will use desk research, synthesis of trends/developments, practitioner perspectives and insight papers to explore the following:

- A temperature check on sustainable transition – what is happening between investors and issuers, have expectations and the dynamics of relationships, engagement and communication changed – specifically, what examples are available of companies articulating sustainable transition intentions/plans/progress, and what have been the responses from investors?
- Bigger picture changes – what systemic challenges, system changes, finance policy and market design developments could shape the dynamics between investors and issuers to support and drive sustainable transitions?
- Understanding member perspectives – undertaking survey activities with key roles in member companies (e.g., Investor Relations and Treasury) of what is changing between companies and investors and what should change to support long term, sustainable transitions and what types of activities by issuers & investors would support long term partnership?

In addition, you will liaise with internal programs, professionals in member companies, and contacts in the broader investor community and capital markets to help identify the synergies between sustainable business practices and investment strategies.

Learning outcomes for the students

- Experience of the identification and synthesis of complex, fast moving issues and trends, with a specific focus on sustainable transitions.
- Engagement with practitioners within both the business and financial communities.
- Design, development, and interpretation of sustainable finance research.
- Experience of supporting the work of a global NGO.
- Webinars, brown bag lunches and other organized events throughout their internship.
- Throughout the summer, we'll provide educational and interactive webinars on the different WBCSD working areas covering crucial aspects on sustainable development.



Qualifications

- Experience in qualitative and quantitative research
- Experience in the financial services industry is strongly preferred
- Self-motivated, flexible, and attention to detail
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Knowledge of sustainability and ESG would be a plus

Work Environment

WBCSD is a purpose driven, forward-thinking and action-oriented organization, characterized by diversity of gender, nationalities and work experiences. WBCSD offers a competitive, modern, and flexible working arrangement:

- Geneva-based organization with offices in Amsterdam, Beijing, Delhi, London, New York and Singapore
- State-of-the-art facilities and ICT-enabled working tools
- Flex-time possibilities
- Dynamic working atmosphere
- Open culture encouraging interaction and sharing of ideas and opinions
- Language: Fluency in English (written and spoken) is essential, additional languages beneficial