

Wharton ESG Integration Projects – Associate Description

Commitment: 1 semester, 8-10-hours per week each semester. **Spring dates:** January 23 – May 1, 2023 (dates subject to change) (**This is an unpaid educational learning experience with the exception of the discretionary award process listed below**).

Keywords: ESG Integration, Consulting

Background

Inspired by the intersection of market demand and faculty expertise, the Wharton School (“Wharton”) launched the [Environmental, Social and Governance \(ESG\) Initiative](#) (ESG-I) in July 2022. The initiative unifies and builds upon several of Wharton’s existing research centers, including the Business, Climate, and Environment and Political Risk Labs of the Wharton Risk Center, the Wharton Social Impact Initiative, the ESG Analytics Lab, and the Zicklin Center for Business Ethics. A new program, Wharton ESG Integration Projects (“WEIP”), aims to link selected Wharton students (“Associates”) with corporate partners on short-term experiential consulting projects. Two pilot projects took place over the fall, with positive feedback from students and corporate partners – and over the spring, there will be five projects.

Program Description

The Wharton ESG Integration Projects (“WEIP”) aims to be an experiential consulting program where top-tier corporate partners (“Project Clients”) - including Asset Owners, Asset Managers, Corporates, and Consulting firms – engage with Wharton students to solve ESG and Impact Investing questions. These questions will cover a wide spectrum, including ESG Integration, ESG Disclosure, ESG Activist Investing, Impact and ESG Measurement, Impact Investing, and other related topics. ESG-I staff will work with Project Clients to create short-term projects over one semester.

Some hypothetical examples of projects we envisage could include:

1. Bank X wants to understand the downside risks to its real estate mortgages in Florida, given rising sea levels. Prepare a presentation highlighting the key downside risks, and including a high-level assessment of the value at risk
2. Private Equity group Y wants to understand which the most material ESG risks are to one of its portfolio companies in the Tyre manufacturing industry in the US and EU. Conduct research on which the most material risks are using the SASB, TCFD, SFDR, and any other relevant frameworks. Prepare a presentation summarizing the most material ESG risks to the company, including a high-level quantitative analysis of a “do nothing” approach
3. Fashion retailer Z wants to understand how non-disclosure on Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) metrics might affect them in the short to medium term in the United States. Prepare a presentation highlighting your findings and recommendations to the company.

WEIP Associates will work in teams to conduct research related to the ESG problem and prepare a presentation of their findings at the end of the semester to the Project Client. Since Associates will have direct access and exposure to the Project Client, there is a high bar in terms of the quality of work that is expected. Please note that this program is open to Wharton graduate and undergraduate students.

Please visit our website [here](#) for more information.

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Qualifications

We are seeking a diverse range of candidates that meet most/all of the following attributes and skills:

- Current Wharton graduate or undergraduate student
- Ability to commit a minimum of 8 hours a week to WEIP
- Strong interest in, or demonstrated experience in, ESG and/or Impact Investing
- Excellent analytical and research capabilities, with a superior skillset in simplifying information for senior stakeholders
- Experience in consulting (preferred)
- Personal attributes such as a high level of curiosity and evidence of grit/resilience
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Strong time management and interpersonal skills
- Experience working in teams

Logistics

ESG-I will be run as a hybrid program in the 2022 / 2023 year, and will be conducted in accordance with University COVID policies. Most meetings will occur on Zoom, with some in-person team meetings per semester.

To apply: We will be accepting applications and conducting interviews on a rolling basis. Applications for Spring 2023 will open on Monday, November 21, 2022. Please submit your resume via [this application](#) by **11:59pm on Sunday, December 4th, 2022**. Only candidates moving to the interview round will be notified.

Note: The deadline has been extended to 11:59pm on Sunday, December 19th, 2022.

We strongly encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds to apply, especially members from communities and identities underrepresented in the investment and consulting space. We understand that some students rely on stipends to make their participation possible. Students applying to WEIP are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 award to be issued at the end of each semester. See the application for more details.

Questions: Contact jcener@wharton.upenn.edu

Appendix

About the Wharton Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Initiative (ESG-I)

Inspired by the intersection of market demand and faculty expertise, the Wharton School (“Wharton”) launched the [Environmental, Social and Governance \(ESG\) Initiative](#) (ESG-I) in July 2022. The mission of Wharton’s Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Initiative is, consistent with the vision of Joseph Wharton, to harness the power of business to “solve the social problems incident to our civilization.” We will do this by conducting research that investigates the intersection of ESG factors and business and by further advancing our best-in-class education of current and future practitioners, enabling them to serve a world undergoing tremendous change. The initiative unifies and builds upon several of Wharton’s existing



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research centers, including the Business, Climate, and Environment and Political Risk Labs of the Wharton Risk Center, the Wharton Social Impact Initiative, the ESG Analytics Lab, and the Zicklin Center for Business Ethics.