

# Impact Investing Education and Training

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A report by the Beeck Center for Social Impact + Innovation  
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**Impact investing is enjoying rising investor interest and increased innovation. But the fast-evolving complexity of the field creates knowledge gaps that make it difficult to harness this potential.**

A new report from Georgetown University's Beeck Center for Social Impact + Innovation is the first to analyze the current state of the learning landscape— cataloging current training opportunities and identifying what's still needed to build the expertise of market participants and fuel growth.

Direct impact investments total an estimated \$60 billion worldwide (US SIF). As the field rapidly expands, education and training have critical and central roles to play in providing investors and practitioners the knowledge and skills needed to make this growth sustainable and productive.

Georgetown University's Beeck Center for Social Impact + Innovation, with support from the MacArthur Foundation, conducted research on the state of practitioner education for impact investing globally.

## EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS REPORT

- + SKILL SETS
- + INVESTMENT MECHANISMS
- + SOCIAL IMPACT SECTORS
- + STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

## KEY FINDINGS + RECOMMENDATIONS

Education is critical to facilitating—and accelerating—the expansion and scaling of impact investing. Demand is high for publicly accessible education by practitioners across industries and asset classes. Almost all interviewees emphasized a significant gap in current offerings, including both introductory-level entry points for new entrants, as well as advanced and applied trainings for leading investors and emerging industry specialists. To effectively mature, the field needs:

- A** Investment in educational infrastructure to create a robust web of learning options—from executive education to technical assistance, and from working groups to conferences —that can keep pace with the field's continued evolution, its cross sector nature, and the need for systemic solutions.
- B** Investments to make education affordable for learners across the impact investing ecosystem, including nonprofit leaders, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, advisory professionals, asset-owners and more. Access to knowledge for all parts of the ecosystem is critical if the field is to scale.
- C** Investment in research to build the evidence base and to inform analytically grounded curricula that prepare learners to tackle tomorrow's challenges.

PLEASE VISIT [BEECKCENTER.GEORGETOWN.EDU/IMPACT-INVESTING](http://BEECKCENTER.GEORGETOWN.EDU/IMPACT-INVESTING) FOR MORE INFORMATION

## RESEARCH FOCUS

This report focuses on practitioner training and executive education. It outlines:

- The landscape of capacity building opportunities currently available
- Gaps and emergent demands for training
- Insights on methods and platforms to meet impact investing learners' needs

75% of impact investing stakeholders say current impact investing capacity building is primarily self-guided and ad hoc.

50% of interviewees characterize existing resources on impact investing as "surface-level," "inspirational," "descriptive," and "redundant."

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### FEATURES 40+ INSTITUTIONS

offering impact investing executive education and training courses, including universities and nonprofit and practitioner institutions.

### HIGHLIGHTS 170+ PROVIDERS

of other learning options, such as conferences, events, graduate degree programs.

### OVER 70 PRACTITIONERS,

including finance professionals, academics, nonprofit leaders, asset-owners, philanthropists, and government officials.

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## IF YOU ARE A..

### LEARNER

The report offers a comprehensive listing of over 200 current education providers, focusing on executive education courses at universities as well as nonprofit and practitioner institutions. It also highlights the spectrum of resources available through conferences and events, graduate degree programs, and private customized trainings that currently enable interested stakeholders to "plug in."

### TRAINING PROVIDER

The report identifies the talent needs for the sector. It compiles feedback from over 70 interviews with practitioners and industry experts on the most critical expertise needs for trainings to fill, including priority skill sets, investment mechanisms, social impact sectors, stakeholder groups. The report also offers analysis on training delivery methods and platforms for reaching impact investing learners.

### INVESTOR

The report provides funders and investors a snapshot of investment and grant opportunities for those committed to building the infrastructure required to drive impact investing growth. It provides a discussion of the most pressing capacity building demands and a landscape of current impact investing education providers.