Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

MSc BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

Academic Year: 2012-13

Programme Title	Business & Management
UCAS/JACS Code	N100
School/Subject Area	Aston Business School All 6 Academic groups
Final Award	MSc
Interim Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
Mode(s) of Study	Full-time and part-time on campus, flexible credit accumulation.
Normal Length of Programme	FT: 12 months PT: 24 months minimum, up to 3 years allowed by the University FCA: up to 3 years
Total Credits	Certificate 60, Diploma 120, MSc 180
Programme Accredited By	None
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	07/10/03, 18/03/04, 29/04/04, 05/08/04, 30/07/05, 21/06/06, 14/08/07, 20/08/03, 06/08/08, 08/06/09, 30/08/10, 20/04/11, 15/06/12

Educational Aims of the Programme	• To provide a programme of study that meets the needs of local, national and international candidates, enabling them to learn by the exchange of experience as well as formal academic study. • To meet the needs of recent graduates, and those already in employment who wish to acquire specialist skills and knowledge in Business and Management in order that they may embark or progress successfully on their chosen careers. • To provide students with an excellent learning experience that draws on the research and consultancy of Aston academic staff, utilising the University's links with business, professional and public sector organisations. • To provide students with opportunities to enhance their employability by developing life long learning and personal development skills. • To produce well qualified graduates who are equipped for and aspire to senior positions. • To cause students to reflect upon and develop their own positions in relation to corporate responsibility, sustainability and ethics. • To develop awareness of the skills needed to work effectively in cross-cultural teams. • To develop the ability to apply the principles of evidence-based management. • To develop an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of such approaches. • To develop abilities to be critical users of research-based information. • To develop appreciation of the value of adopting multi-disciplinary approaches to the solution of business and management problems. • To develop ability to apply a range of analytical approaches to practical problem solving.

Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	• Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Subject Benchmarking Statement in Business and Management for Masters level programmes • Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) • Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Codes of Practice

Programme Structure for MSc Business & Management				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Elective
Accounting for Non-Financial Managers	15	7	BFM234	CORE
Applied Research	15	7	BFM239	CORE
People & World Organisations	15	7	BHM357	CORE
Marketing Management	15	7	BMM601	CORE
Strategic Management	15	7	BSM929	CORE
Operations Management	15	7	BNM810	CORE
Sub-total	**90**			
ELECTIVES: SELECT **TWO** MODULES (BOTH MODULES MUST BE FROM THE SAME GROUP)				
GROUP A				
Economic Environment of Business	15	7	BSM940	ELECTIVE
Entrepreneurial Strategies	15	7	BSM930	ELECTIVE
International Business Strategy	15	7	BSM936	ELECTIVE
Management Innovation	15	7	BSM932	ELECTIVE
GROUP B				
Business Finance	15	7	BFM205	ELECTIVE
International Finance	15	7	BFM207	ELECTIVE
GROUP C				
Marketing Channels & Strategic Sales Force Management	15	7	BMM637	ELECTIVE
e-Marketing	15	7	BMM643	ELECTIVE
International Marketing	15	7	BMM645	ELECTIVE
GROUP D				
International Operations	15	7	BNM745	ELECTIVE
Managing Multi-Organisational Entreprises	15	7	BNM827	ELECTIVE
Quality Management	15	7	BNM852	ELECTIVE
GROUP E				
Learning & Talent Development	15	7	BHM351	ELECTIVE
Strategy, Change & Leadership	15	7	BHM355	ELECTIVE
Employee Relations in Context	15	7	BHM349	ELECTIVE
GROUP F				
Business, Ethics, Responsibility & Human Rights	15	7	BHM301	ELECTIVE
Strategic Business Sustainability	15	7	BHM328	ELECTIVE
GROUP G				
Corporate Governance, Regulation & Compliance	15	7	BLM113	ELECTIVE
Law of Corporate Finance & Securities Regulation	15	7	BLM143	ELECTIVE
Law of Banking & Financial Regulation	15	7	BLM144	ELECTIVE
Dissertation				
Dissertation	60	7	BMDISS	CORE
TOTAL	180			

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
	A. Knowledge and Understanding		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	The theories, principles and underlying concepts and practice of management and an understanding of business models and processes in a national and international context.	• Lectures: • convey essential knowledge • provide guidance to students on effective use of learning materials	Examinations: • to assess learning outcomes • to test students' ability to marshal information concisely and accurately within a limited time Written assignments: • to assess learning outcomes • to assess ability to marshal information and present an argument • to demonstrate understanding of the potential limitations of research-based information.
2	Business and Management policies and practices in a range of international contexts through the study of specialist modules and completion of an individual project.		
3	How strategic decision-making within a range of organisations typically takes place.		
4	The principles and potential limits of evidence-based management in practical contexts.		

	B. Intellectual Skills		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Demonstrate competence in critical reasoning and decision-making.	Tutorials: ● to provide support to student learning ● dissertation supervision to help students develop research and analytical skills	● project work and orals to assess analytical and research skills
2	Demonstrate a high level of intellectual and analytical skills, and, through intensive postgraduate study, have acquired and developed understanding of business and management subjects.		
3	Critically assess and engage with business and management problems		
4	Demonstrate an appreciation of the potential value of adopting multi-disciplinary approaches to problem solving.		
5	Demonstrate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of evidence-based approaches to management.		

	C. **Professional Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Apply principles, models and theories in the working environment.	• visiting speakers from industry who connect theoretical studies with practical experience • case studies are used extensively to allow students to discuss real life scenarios • design, implementation, analysis and presentation of a research-based individual project	• assignment task outcome evaluation • assignment task activity and decision record activity
2	Demonstrate analytical skills and knowledge deriving from the specific elective modules selected		
3	Demonstrate ability to collect and analyse qualitative and quantitative information		

	D. Transferable Skills		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
	A range of general and specific skills and management competencies including:	• group working skills via case studies and syndicate groups • computer and IT skills	• report writing skills • presentation skills via group presentations (usually non-assessed) • IT and quantitative skills
1	IT and computing skills		
2	Report writing skills		
3	Presentational skills		
4	Communication and team working skills		
5	Competency in understanding relevant statistical analyses and financial reports		
6	Enhanced personal skills and self-confidence in order to optimise career prospects.		
7	Abilities in the critical analysis of information.		
8	Ability to apply and integrate their key skills and competencies by undertaking a major dissertation		

Entry Requirements	**Direct Entry:** • A UK honours degree or an overseas degree recognised by Aston or • A degree-equivalent professional qualification • GCSE or equivalent standard in mathematics **English Language Requirements (for candidates whose first language is not English):** • A TOEFL score of 100 (internet-based with minimum 23 in writing and speaking and 20 in reading and listening). • An IELTS score of 6.5 overall with no less than 6.5 in writing and speaking and 6.0 in listening and reading. • A Pearson Academic score of 61 overall with 61 minimum in writing and speaking and 53 in reading and listening • Candidates with TOEFL 100 (internet-based with 23 minimum in writing) or above, or IELTS 6.5 overall with no less than 6.5 in writing and speaking and 6.0 in listening and reading, or Pearson Academic 61 overall with a minimum score of 61 in writing and speaking and 53 in reading and listening are offered the opportunity of attending an 8-week pre-sessional course on a voluntary basis. • Candidates with TOEFL 92 (internet-based with minimum 22 in writing) or above, or IELTS 6.0 overall and no less than 6.0 in writing and speaking and 5.5 in reading and listening, or Pearson Academic 53 overall with a minimum score of 53 in writing and speaking and 48 in reading and listening may be admitted, subject to attendance at and satisfactory performance in a 12 week pre-sessional course. • Candidates with TOEFL 83 (internet-based with minimum 21 in writing) or above, or IELTS 5.5 overall and no less than 5.5 in writing and speaking and 5.0 in reading and listening, or Pearson Academic 48 overall with a minimum score of 48 in writing and speaking and 42 in reading and listening may be admitted, subject to attendance at and satisfactory performance in a 16 week pre-sessional course. • Candidates with TOEFL 76 (internet- based with minimum 20 in writing) or above or IELTS 5.0 overall and no less than 5.0 in any section, or Pearson Academic 42 overall with a minimum score of 42 in each section may be admitted, subject to attendance at and satisfactory performance in a 20 week pre-sessional course. • A GMAT of 550 minimum may be required

Programme Regulations	**Attendance requirements:** Students are required to attend all sessions as specified for the course. **Flexible Credit Accumulation – Receiving an award:** The Programme Examination Board will consider students on this mode of attendance at least annually. The Board will agree the options open to students e.g. accept a Postgraduate Certificate and withdraw from the programme or continue with the programme. Students will receive a 'statement of progress' letter at least once per year usually after a Programme Examination Board indicating: which credits have been passed, whether the credit passed entitles the student to an award and the period of study remaining until the time-limit for FCA programmes is reached (5 years from the start of the programme). If a student wishes to accept an award and leave before the end of the programme they must respond to the statement as soon as possible indicating they wish to receive an award
	Specific assessment requirements for modules / module pass marks: The Board of Examiners may apply condonement to allow one or more assessments marked at 49% or below (but not normally below 40%) as passes. The Board of Examiners will normally condone a maximum of 30 credits of taught modules.
	Dissertation Requirements: It is a requirement of the MSc Business & Management that students undertake a major dissertation of between 10-15,000 words. The dissertation must consist of: i) a general literature review of the topic area; ii) Methodology, findings, analysis and conclusion.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.