Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

MSc INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Academic Year: 2012-13

Programme Title	International Business
UCAS/JACS Code	N100
School/Subject Area	Aston Business School Includes subject modules offered by the following ABS groups: Economics & Strategy, Finance & Accounting, Marketing, Operations & Information Management, Law and Work Organisation & Psychology.
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, 10/02/04, 23/02/04, 29/04/04, 05/08/04, 06/08/05, 21/06/06, 14/08/07, 20/03/08, 06/08/08, 08/06/09, 22/02/2010, 14/04/2011, 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 International Business 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 understanding of the global business environment (including shifting competitive advantages) that influence business decisions and operations. • To develop an ability to assess the effects of major economic, policy, social and technical trends and factors on businesses operating internationally; • To develop abilities to assess the challenges and opportunities involved in the management and operations of multinational enterprises and other enterprises operating in international contexts. • To offer an opportunity to study a business function theme (marketing, finance, operations or organisational behaviour) in the international context. • To develop inquiry and research skills in an aspect of international business to enable continuing learning.

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

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
International Business	15	7	BSM933	Core
International Business Research	15	7	BSM935	Core
Advanced Topics in International Business	15	7	BSM934	Core
Strategic Management	15	7	BSM929	Core
Economic Environment of Business	15	7	BSM940	Core
Dissertation	60	7	BMDISS	Core
Choose 3 elective modules from the following list, subject to pre-requisites				
Intellectual Property Strategy & Management	15	7	BLM137	Elective
Accounting for Non-Financial Managers	15	7	BFM234	Elective
Business Finance	15	7	BFM205	Elective
International Finance	15	7	BFM207	Elective
People & World Organisations	15	7	BHM357	Elective
Strategy, Change & Leadership	15	7	BHM355	Elective
Strategic Business Sustainability	15	7	BHM328	
Marketing Management	15	7	BMM601	Elective
International Marketing	15	7	BMM645	Elective
International Operations	15	7	BNM745	Elective
Operations Management	15	7	BNM810	Elective
International Business Strategy	15	7	BSM936	Elective
Entrepreneurial Strategies	15	7	BSM930	Elective
Uncertainty & Risk in Business	15	7	BSM939	Elective
Applied Econometrics	15	7	BSM937	Elective
Qualitative Methods for Analysing & Evaluating Business Problems	15	7	BSM938	Elective
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 outcome • 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
2	International business through the study of specialist modules and a major dissertation.		
3	How strategic decision-making within organisations as a whole takes place		

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	Dissertation: • 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		

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	assignment task outcome evaluation • assignment task activity
2	Demonstrate the analytical knowledge and skills required to understand and assess the international business environment.		
3	Demonstrate the knowledge and skills required for assessing and developing international business strategies and operations		

	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 and 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	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 International Business that students undertake a major dissertation of up to 15,000 words. Students will also be required to attend dissertation progress workshops and other sessions to develop research and writing skills.

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.