Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2013-14

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, 21/06/13

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 • UK Quality Code Part A.1 (2011) • Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Codes of Practice

TAUGHT STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Accounting for Non-Financial Managers	15	7	BFM234	Core	Y	N
Applied Research	15	7	BNM239	Core	Y	N
People & World Organisations	15	7	BHM357	Core	Y	N
Marketing Management	15	7	BMM601	Core	Y	N
Strategic Management	15	7	BSM929	Core	Y	N
Operations Management	15	7	BNM810	Core	Y	N
Select 2 optional modules - both optional modules MUST be from the same module group:						
GROUP A						
Economic Environment of Business	15	7	BSM940	Option	Y	N
Entrepreneurial Strategies	15	7	BSM930	Option	Y	N
International Business Strategy	15	7	BSM936	Option	Y	N
Management Innovation	15	7	BSM932	Option	Y	N
GROUP B						
Business Finance	15	7	BFM205	Option	Y	N
International Finance	15	7	BFM207	Option	Y	Y
GROUP C						
Marketing Channels & Strategic Sales Force Management	15	7	BMM637	Option	Y	N
International Marketing	15	7	BMM645	Option	Y	Y
Digital Marketing	15	7	BMM658	Option	Y	Y
GROUP D						
International Operations	15	7	BNM745	Option	Y	Y
Strategic Global Outsourcing & Offshoring	15	7	BNM748	Option	Y	N
Managing Multi-Organisational Entreprises & Enterprise Systems	15	7	BNM830	Option	Y	N
Quality Management	15	7	BNM852	Option	Y	N
GROUP E						
Learning & Talent Development	15	7	BHM351	Option	Y	N
Strategy, Change & Leadership	15	7	BHM355	Option	Y	N
Employee Relations in Context	15	7	BHM349	Option	Y	N

GROUP F						
Strategic Business Sustainability	15	7	BHM328	Option	Y	N
Global Ethics & Human Rights Responsibilities in Business	15	7	BHM371	Option	Y	N
Public Policy, CSR & Sustainable Development	15	7	BSM922	Option	Y	N
GROUP G						
Corporate Governance, Regulation & Compliance	15	7	BLM113	Option	Y	N
Law of Corporate Finance & Securities Regulation	15	7	BLM143	Option	Y	N
Law of Banking & Financial Regulation	15	7	BLM144	Option	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

DISSERTATION STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
MSc Dissertation	60	7	MSCDISS	Core	N	N
TOTAL	60					

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 optional 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 22 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, speaking, reading and listening • Candidates with TOEFL 85 or above (internet-based) with 21 minimum in writing and reading, 20 in listening and 22 in speaking, or IELTS 6.0 overall with 6.0 or above in all sections, or Pearson Academic 59 overall with a minimum score of 59 in each section are offered the opportunity of attending an 8-week pre-sessional course. • Candidates with TOEFL 75 overall (internet-based) with minimum 18 in reading and writing, 17 in listening and 20 in speaking, or IELTS 5.5 overall with 5.5 or above in all sections, or Pearson Academic Pearson Academic 51 overall with a minimum score of 51 in each section are offered the opportunity of attending a 12 week pre-sessional course. • Candidates with TOEFL 70 overall (internet-based) with a minimum score of 17 in reading and writing, 16 in listening and 19 in speaking, or IELTS 5.0 overall with 5.0 or above in all sections, or Pearson Academic 47 overall with a minimum score of 47 in each section are offered the opportunity of attending a 16 week pre-sessional course. • Candidates with TOEFL 65 overall (internet- based) with a minimum score of 16 in reading, 17 in writing, 15 in listening and 18 in speaking , or IELTS 5.0 overall with a minimum of 5.0 in writing and 4.5 or above in speaking, listening and reading, or Pearson Academic 42 overall with a minimum score of 42 in each section are offered the opportunity of attending 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 15-20,000 words. The dissertation must consist of: i) a general literature review of the topic area; ii) Methodology, findings, analysis and conclusion.
General Regulations (http://www1.aston.ac.uk/registry/for-staff/regsandpolicies/general-regulations/) and the Regulations for the programme (above) take precedence over other information sources such as student handbooks if there is a conflict. If there is a conflict between General Regulations and Programme Regulations then General Regulations take precedence unless an exemption has been approved.	

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.