

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION 2014-15

Programme Title	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
UCAS/JACS Code	UCAS = LNC1, JACS = N120
School/Subject Area	ASTON BUSINESS SCHOOL
Final Award	BSc
Interim Award(s)	CERTIFICATE IN HE (YEAR 1 – 120 CREDITS) DIPLOMA IN HE (YEARS 1 + 2 – 240 CREDITS)
Mode(s) of Study	SANDWICH
Normal Length of Programme	4 YEARS (WITH PLACEMENT YEAR)
Total Credits	480
Programme Accredited By	Association of International Accountants (AIA) Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)
Dates programme Specification Written and Revised	January 2003, 8th March, 2004, 25 th March 2004, 28 th April 2004, 20 th August 2004, 26 th August 2005, 10 th August 2006, 10 th September 2007, 22 nd September 2008, 18 th September 2009, 29 th September 2010, 14 th September 2011, 29 th August 2012, 31 st July 2013, 27 th August 2014

<p>Educational Aims of the Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide students with an excellent learning experience that draws on the research and consultancy of Aston academic staff • To provide well qualified graduates with key skills for life long learning • To meet the accreditation requirements of appropriate management-related professional bodies • To ensure relevance by maintaining and enhancing the School's links with business, professional and public sector organisations • To maintain and enhance the employability of graduates • To develop students understanding of the Economics and International Business disciplines, and to foster the ability to apply these disciplines to the problems facing a business organisation.
<p>Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Strategies, Policies or Research used to inform programme outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mission, Aims and Objectives of the ABS UG Programme • Aston Business School Advisory Panel (a group of senior business leaders who meet regularly with the ABS management team). • Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Benchmarking Statement on Business Management • UK Quality Code Part A.1 (2011)

STAGE 1**Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits**

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Introduction to Financial Accounting	10	4	BF1100	CORE	Y	N
Introduction to Management Accounting	10	4	BF1114	CORE	Y	N
Introduction to Organisational Behaviour	10	4	BH1107	CORE	Y	N
International Perspectives in Organisations	10	4	BH1109	CORE	Y	N
Personal, Professional & Academic Effectiveness	10	4	BH1181	CORE	Y	N
Law for Business	10	4	BL1104	CORE	Y	N
Introduction to Marketing Management	10	4	BM1134	CORE	Y	N
Introduction to Business Analytics	10	4	BN1116	CORE	Y	N
Principles of Operations Management	10	4	BN1135	CORE	Y	N
Information Technology for Business	10	4	BN1160	CORE	Y	N
Introduction to Micro Economics	10	4	BS1163	CORE	Y	N
Introduction to Macro Economics	10	4	BS1164	CORE	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

STAGE 2**Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits**

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Strategic Finance	10	5	BF2244	CORE	Y	Y
Business Game	10	5	BN2225	CORE	Y	N
Business Policy	10	5	BS2232	CORE	Y	N
Business, Government and Society	10	5	BS2246	CORE	Y	N
International Business Environment	10	5	BS2209	CORE	Y	N
International Business Economics	10	5	BS2223	CORE	Y	Y
Principles of Macroeconomics	10	5	BS2241	CORE	Y	Y
Principles of Microeconomics	10	5	BS2242	CORE	Y	Y
Introduction to Econometrics 1	10	5	BS2247	CORE	Y	Y
Introduction to Econometrics 2	10	5	BS2248	CORE	Y	Y
Emerging and Transitional Economies	10	5	BS2261	CORE	y	Y
Regional and Urban Economics	10	5	BS2268	CORE	Y	Y
TOTAL	120					

STAGE 3**Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits**

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre- requisite(s) Y/N
COMPULSORY PLACEMENT YEAR	120	P	BUP100	CORE	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

STAGE F
Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Strategic Management	20	6	BM3399	CORE	Y	Y
Choose 40 credits from the following						
Economics of Multinational Enterprise	10	6	BS3332	OPTION	Y	Y
Applied Econometrics and Forecasting	10	6	BS3336	OPTION	Y	Y
Economics of Business Organisations	10	6	BS3340	OPTION	Y	Y
Economics of Innovation	10	6	BS3361	OPTION	Y	Y
Competition Policy - Theory	10	6	BS3325	OPTION	Y	Y
Competition Policy – Practice	10	6	BS3327	OPTION	Y	Y
Macroeconomic Policy	10	6	BS3365	OPTION	Y	Y
Choose 40 credits from the following						
Derivatives	10	6	BF3314	OPTION	Y	Y
International Finance	10	6	BF3334	OPTION	Y	Y
International Marketing	20	6	BM3309	OPTION	Y	N
International Operations	20	6	BN3322	OPTION	Y	N
Choose 20 credits worth of modules from either the remaining modules or the following list						
Business Ethics	10	6	BL3307	OPTION	Y	N
Managing Information Technology in a Global Context	10	6	BN3320	OPTION	Y	N
Innovation	20	6	BS3355	OPTION	Y	N
International Trade	10	6	BS3348	OPTION	Y	Y
Economics of Entrepreneurship	10	6	BS3347	OPTION	Y	Y
Intermediate French 1	10	4	LF1009	OPTION	Y	Y
Intermediate French 2	10	4	LF1010	OPTION	Y	Y
French for Beginners 1	10	4	LF1013	OPTION	Y	N
French for Beginners 2	10	4	LF1014	OPTION	Y	N
Advanced French 1	10	4	LF1016	OPTION	Y	Y
Advanced French 2	10	4	LF1023	OPTION	Y	Y

Intermediate German 1	10	4	LG1003	OPTION	Y	Y
Intermediate German 2	10	4	LG1004	OPTION	Y	Y
German for Beginners 1	10	4	LG1408	OPTION	Y	N
German for Beginners 2	10	4	LG1409	OPTION	Y	N
Advanced German 1	10	4	LG1033	OPTION	Y	Y
Advanced German 2	10	4	LG1034	OPTION	Y	Y
Spanish for Beginners 1	10	4	LS1400	OPTION	Y	N
Spanish for Beginners 2	10	4	LS1401	OPTION	Y	N
Intermediate Spanish 1	10	4	LS2400	OPTION	Y	Y
Intermediate Spanish 2	10	4	LS2401	OPTION	Y	Y
Advanced Spanish 1	10	4	LS1011	OPTION	Y	Y
Advanced Spanish 2	10	4	LS1012	OPTION	Y	Y
Chinese for Beginners 1	10	4	LX1400	OPTION	Y	N
Chinese for Beginners 2	10	4	LX1401	OPTION	Y	N
Intermediate Chinese 1	10	4	LX2400	OPTION	Y	Y
Intermediate Chinese 2	10	4	LX2401	OPTION	Y	Y
Advanced Chinese 1	10	4	LX1001	OPTION	Y	Y
Advanced Chinese 2	10	4	LX1002	OPTION	Y	Y
Arabic for Beginners 1	10	4	LZ1400	OPTION	Y	N
Arabic for Beginners 2	10	4	LZ1401	OPTION	Y	N
Intermediate Arabic 1	10	4	LZ1003	OPTION	Y	Y
Intermediate Arabic 2	10	4	LZ1004	OPTION	Y	Y
Advanced Arabic 1	10	4	LZ1001	OPTION	Y	Y
Advanced Arabic 2	10	4	LZ1002	OPTION	Y	Y
Portuguese for Beginners 1	10	4	LW1400	OPTION	Y	N
Portuguese for Beginners 2	10	4	LW1401	OPTION	Y	N
Intermediate Portuguese 1	10	4	LW1003	OPTION	Y	Y
Intermediate Portuguese 2	10	4	LW1004	OPTION	Y	Y
Advanced Portuguese 1	10	4	LW1001	OPTION	Y	Y
Advanced Portuguese 2	10	4	LW1002	OPTION	Y	Y
Japanese for Beginners 1	10	4	LJ1401	OPTION	Y	N
Japanese for Beginners 2	10	4	LJ1402	OPTION	Y	N
Intermediate Japanese 1	10	4	LJ??	OPTION	Y	Y

Intermediate Japanese 2	10	4	LJ??	OPTION	Y	Y
TOTAL	120					

Programme Outcomes and Learning, 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 outcome to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
A1	The main functions of management and specifically international business and economics	<p>The following learning and teaching methods are used:</p> <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to introduce students to key concepts and theories, to indicate areas of further study and reading, to provide a broad overview of the subject to stimulate enthusiasm and desire for further enquiry <p>Tutorials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to clarify, reinforce and extend students' understanding and knowledge to give an opportunity for more individual advice on difficult concepts to give students the support which is most appropriate to their ability and experience in the subject to stimulate discussion <p>Independent learning such as computer-based learning packages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to enable students to work through at their own pace and to develop an understanding of the subject 	<p>The following assessment methods are used to assess knowledge and understanding:</p> <p>Closed Book Examinations/Tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to examine appreciation of key issues to assess understanding of content and aims <p>Multiple Choice tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess students range of knowledge and understanding of the subject to provide students with formative information on their progress <p>A wide range of written assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to enable students to show their understanding of different perspectives and their critical appreciation of different questions and approaches to demonstrate whether student are able to apply what they have learnt
A2	The theories, principles and underlying concepts of subjects relevant to management, and an understanding of business models and processes		
A3	The knowledge and skills required to assess and develop international strategies and operations in business		
A4	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 outcome to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
B1	Critically reflect on management problems and how to solve them	Intellectual skills are developed through: Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to stimulate enthusiasm and desire for further enquiry Tutorials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to give an opportunity for individual advice on difficult concepts to stimulate discussion and critical thought 	Intellectual skills are assessed via: Closed Book Examinations/Tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess the ability to marshal arguments, apply models, and present ideas in a coherent and literate way to assess whether students can apply the techniques of analysis taught Open Book Examinations/Tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to allow students to prepare in advance in a more creative way A wide variety of written assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess students' ability to research the topic to assess students' ability to assemble and evaluate data, apply models, reason and present ideas in a coherent and literate way to enable students to show their understanding of different perspectives and their critical appreciation of different questions and approaches
B2	Apply, develop, and interpret economic and econometric models		

C. Professional Skills

	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcome to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
C1	Develop quantitative and qualitative skills required to make assessments of the economic environment of business.	<p>Subject Specific skills are taught via:</p> <p>Tutorials/Case Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to facilitate practical exercises to understand theory in a practical context to place techniques and theories in a wider business environment <p>Workshops/Simulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to give practical experience of packages and techniques which students will need to know as practising managers <p>Placement experience</p>	<p>Subject Specific skills are assessed via:</p> <p>Case Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess ability to apply knowledge and skills to a practical scenario <p>Group work/Business Games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess ability to run a fictitious company <p>Placement essay, log book and report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess ability to analyse a practical problem in a real world situation to demonstrate progress in the development of relevant general and specific management skills
C2	Apply their key skills and competencies within a real work-based situation (via placement experience)		

D. Transferable Skills

	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcome to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
	A range of general and specific skills including:	Key skills are taught by a range of practical sessions: Tutorials:	Key skills are assessed via: Presentations:
D1	IT and computing skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide an opportunity for students to work in groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess students' ability in analysing information and presenting their argument orally in front of a group of people
D2	Report writing skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide an opportunity for more individual advice on difficult concepts 	Group Work:
D3	Presentational skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to facilitate practical exercises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess ability to work in a team
D4	Communication and team working skills	Workshops:	Practical tests and portfolios:
D5	Competency in understanding relevant statistical analyses and financial reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to give practical experience of computer packages and techniques to use computer facilities to obtain data and to communicate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess ability of using IT in a business environment
D6	Foreign Language Skills (for those students taking an optional foreign language)		Written work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess ability to communicate effectively in written form to assess ability to assemble and evaluate statistical and financial data by applying relevant models

Entry Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates must meet the general University entry qualifications as set out in the General Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes. • Candidates must satisfy the specific entry requirements for each programme as approved by the School Learning and Teaching Committee.
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Programme Regulations	
1. Attendance Requirements	<p>1.1 Students are normally required to attend the University for nine terms over a period of four consecutive academic years including industrial/ professional training.</p> <p>1.2 In order to qualify for the award of the Degree a student must have attended at least 80% of the required proportion of tutorials, seminars, practical classes, and lectures, as set out in the Student Handbook.</p>
2. Industrial/ Professional Training	<p>2.1 Students will be required to undertake an appropriate programme of integrated industrial/professional training of at least 30 weeks and a maximum of 48 weeks at such times as approved by the Director Undergraduate Programmes. NB. The normal length of an Undergraduate industrial placement within the Business School is 48 weeks.</p> <p>2.2 Students can undertake the programme of industrial/ professional training (as detailed in 2.1), by studying at specified institutions abroad. A Full Learning Agreement/Plan, must be approved by the partner school and by Aston within four weeks of arrival.</p> <p>2.3 The Director Undergraduate Programmes may exempt students from the Placement Year if they have overseas status or have very special circumstances.</p> <p>2.4 Marks from the placement year contribute to the degree classification as specified in the General Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes.</p>

3. Assessment	<p>3.1 Requirements for the Ordinary Degree</p> <p>3.1.1 The Board of Examiners may require a student to transfer to the Ordinary Degree programme if the student's performance in the Level 4 or Level 5 Examination of the Honours Degree programme is not of Honours Degree standard.</p> <p>3.1.2 The conditions governing Ordinary degrees are as set out in the University General Regulations.</p> <p>3.1.3 At the discretion of the Director Undergraduate Programmes, students who have been transferred to the Ordinary Degree at the end of the first year may follow the Honours degree requirements in their second year in order to give them the opportunity to return to the Honours degree at the end of the academic year if their performance is deemed at Honours level by the second year Examination Board.</p>
4. Classification of Awards	5.1 The final degree classification will be calculated as set out in the University General Regulations.
5. Prizes	<p>6.1 The award of available Prizes is at the discretion of the Examination Board.</p> <p>6.2 The Board of Examiners will not award a prize to any student who has failed the module in question or who is unsuccessful in progressing to the next stage of the degree.</p>
6. Certificate/ Diploma of Higher Education	The Board of Examiners may award a Certificate of Higher Education (after satisfactory completion of year one) or a Diploma of Higher Education (after satisfactory completion of year one and year two) to a student who, for whatever reason, is unable to complete their degree programme.
<p>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.</p>	

Further Information	
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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.