

Programme Specification

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| 1 | Awarding body | University of London | | | | |
| 2 | Teaching Institution | Birkbeck College | | | | |
| 3 | Programme Title(s) | BSc Economics and Business BSc Economics and Business with Foundation Year | | | | |
| 4 | Programme Code(s) | UBSECBUS_C (Part Time) UUBSECBS_C (Full Time) UUBFECBS_C (Full Time with Foundation Year) UBFECBUS_C (Part Time with Foundation Year) | | | | |
| 5 | UCAS code | LN11/LN12 (with Foundation Year) | | | | |
| 6 | Home Department | Economics, Mathematics and Statistics | | | | |
| 7 | Exit Award(s) | Diploma of Higher Education in Economics and Business Diploma of Higher Education in Business Studies Certificate of Higher Education in Economics and Business Certificate of Higher Education in Business Studies Certificate of Continuing Education in Business Studies | | | | |
| 8 | Duration of Study (number of years) | PT 4 Years; FT 3 Years; FT with Foundation Yr 4 years, PT with Foundation Yr 6 years | | | | |
| 9 | Mode of Study | FT | X | PT | X | DL |
| 10 | Level of Award (FHEQ) | 6 | | | | |
| 11 | Other teaching depts or institution | Management | | | | |
| 12 | Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details | N/A | | | | |
| 13 | <u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u> | Economics | | | | |

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| 14 | Programme Rationale & Aims | | | | | |
| | <p>Main aims for Foundation Year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable students to develop the foundational knowledge and skills required for successful completion of a degree in a range of business-related disciplines Provide support to those students who do not meet the formal entry requirements for direct entry to the degree, but who can demonstrate ability for degree level study <p>Main aims for Degree:</p> <p>The programme aims to allow students to develop core skills in economics and business management. The key cross disciplinary knowledge for the two areas is delivered in the compulsory modules in the first year (or first two years for part-time students). With this basic knowledge students can then decide whether they continue on an interdisciplinary mix or take a more specialist route in their choice of options.</p> <p>Distinctive features of the programme are its inter-disciplinarity, and its degree of guided flexibility. The design allows students to tailor the programme to reflect their aptitudes and</p> | | | | | |

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| | <p>interests, but sets parameters on the choice of modules such that the programme always retains coherence.</p> <p>The Programme objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide an introduction to economic and business management theory, • provide an introduction to data analysis and its application to policy issues • provide courses designed to integrate theory and practice, • enable students to take specialist options in economics and management, • enable students to develop generic skills in project and report writing, • enable students to develop research skills which can be used at a postgraduate level. <p>Distinctive Features: Part-time or full-time, evening, face-to-face study.</p> <p>The programme offers a well-integrated interdisciplinary core, whilst allowing students to adopt academic specialisms if they wish in their final two years. The interdisciplinary approach allows students to obtain a broad and balanced perspective.</p> |
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| 15 | <p>Entry Criteria</p> <p>For the BSc Economics and Business with Foundation Year: UCAS tariff score: 64. A-levels: usually DD/DDE or equivalent. Applications from students with non-standard qualifications are also welcomed. Acceptance may be subject to an admissions test and/or interview.</p> <p>Applicants are expected to have grade ‘C’ GCSE level English and Maths.</p> <p>For the BSc Economic and Business Birkbeck welcomes applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.</p> <p>UCAS tariff points: 112-128 points. The UCAS tariff score is applicable if students have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>GCSE grade A*-C in English and mathematics is also required.</p> <p>Applicants with a lower UCAS score may be considered for the BSc Economics & Business with Foundation Year.</p> <p>Internal transfers may be possible from BSc Economics, BSc Financial Economics and BSc Economics and Social Policy, subject to being able to complete or match compulsory modules.</p> |
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| 16 | <p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Learning outcomes for Foundation Year: Successful completion of the Foundation Year will enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of the foundational concepts and principles associated with economics and business, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the relevant areas of study • Present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument • Make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of the subjects under study |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to their proposed area of study and/or work • Communicate the results of their study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments • Undertake further study at undergraduate level and develop new skills <p>Learning outcomes for degree:</p> <p>Subject Specific</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand and apply simple economic and management concepts. 2. Understand simple models of behaviour in alternative market structures. 3. Able to read and comment on business and economic pages in the popular press. 4. Able to locate and analyse business and economic data. 5. Be aware of management survey approaches and how to use survey evidence. <p>Intellectual</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Have an ability to approach problems systematically and to present reasoned responses. 7. Have an ability to read and synthesise literature. 8. Have an ability to formulate testable hypotheses. 9. Have an ability to formulate and pursue a small research problem. 10. Have an ability to adopt a broad and informed approach to a range of policy related problems. <p>Practical</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Have an ability to read and comment on economic and business pages in the popular press. 12. Have an ability to use mathematical and statistical methods to analyse problems in business and economics. 13. Have general IT skills and an ability to use spreadsheet and statistical/econometric software for presentation and analysis of data. 14. Have general numeracy, presentation and writing skills. 15. Be able to produce brief reports. 16. Have an ability to produce work under time constraints. <p>Personal and Social</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Have an ability to study and learn from a range of sources. 18. Have an ability to communicate both socially and academically with tutors and other students. 19. Have an ability to set up and work in small self-help groups. 20. Have an ability to transfer knowledge across academic disciplines. 21. Have developed good self-motivation, time management, and organisation skills. |
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| 17 | <p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>Teaching and Learning Methods for Foundation Year:</p> <p>Students will be taught in interactive, tutorial style classes that support the phased development of knowledge, skills and confidence. Pedagogies in the Foundation Year are designed to give students the space to gain familiarity with the requirements of undergraduate study, and to develop their learning strategies.</p> <p>Teaching and Learning Methods for Degree:</p> |
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A mix of lectures, classes, seminars and practical sessions is used. The different approaches are particularly apparent across disciplines, as a result students become aware of different methods of learning, presentation and argument.

Report presentation and transferable skills are emphasised by practical sessions.

The combination of approaches allows development of both directed and independent learning.

In recognition of the often technical subject matter, we do rely on an underlying lecture format. This facilitates a rapid transfer of information, and these well-established methods have proved to be the most efficient way of teaching. However, some modules employ more flexible methods, such as individual and group presentations, case studies and online delivery. Problem solving is a key aspect of learning, especially in more technical modules, and therefore students are encouraged to complete exercises for the problem solving classes.

Lecture notes and problem sets covering lecture material are generally posted on Moodle, to allow students to have access to the material should they unavoidably miss lectures / classes.

The department is also making increasing use of videos of lectures as a supplementary learning tool. However, students should *not* rely wholly on lecture videos – this is *not* a distance learning programme.

An important ingredient of learning is the ability to pursue private study. The programme requires students to produce independent work, aiding development of analytical, quantitative and written communication skills.

Learning is further assisted by revision lectures, which provide guidance on examination techniques.

The methods of assessment used are:

- Unseen written examinations
- In-class tests
- Online quizzes via Moodle
- Assessed assignments
- Project work

In general 75% or more of the assessment comes from unseen written examinations. This allows time for students to assimilate the material and develop a thorough understanding of the course curriculum. The remainder of the marks come from course assignments, which give staff an opportunity to assess each student's progress and give relevant feedback. Exceptions to this are the level 4 study modules which often carry a larger coursework component, and statistical/econometric modules that require some project work.

The range of assessments, and the type of questions and problems set within examinations and assignments are structured to balance theory and practice, to address the individual learning outcomes and to discriminate between different levels of achievement. However, the assessment strategy recognises that students may exhibit very different aptitudes and abilities in different aspects of the course and in different forms of assessment. This is particularly relevant to Birkbeck students who vary considerably in terms of academic background, and prior work experience, current career and future career plans. The assessment strategy is therefore designed to: (i) ensure a good coverage of the curriculum

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| | <p>and address the range of learning outcomes, (ii) perform an on-going formative function via the theoretical and practical assignments associated with all course modules; (iii) give all students the opportunity to demonstrate their strengths and show what they can do well.</p> <p>Exams and coursework are all marked by the first examiner and moderated by a second internal examiner. All assessment is also moderated by an External Examiner, who is invited to comment on the suitability of the assessment methods, criteria and procedures. These comments influence any changes that are recommended at the programme review meeting.</p> <p>The CAS regulations are followed for rules concerning minimum pass marks, number of resits/re-assessments allowed, barriers to academic progression (in particular, all core modules must be passed before a student is allowed to progress) and the weighting between different levels (i.e. weights 0, 1 and 2 for Levels 4, 5 and 6 modules, respectively).</p> <p>The sub-board of examiners will be a joint board with the existing BSc Economics, BSc Financial Economics, BSc Financial Economics with Accounting and BSc Economics and Social Policy programmes.</p> |
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| 18 | <p>Programme Description</p> <p>BSc Degree: To obtain the degree a student must complete modules to the value of 360 credits. A full module is valued at 30 credits.</p> <p>The credits are accumulated through 120 credits of level 4 compulsory modules, and 120 credits of level 5 and 120 credits of level 6 modules from a broad range of approved options.</p> <p>The programme is built on the philosophy that you obtain broad proficiency across business and economics disciplines.</p> <p>Students must take an overall minimum of 180 credits in economics modules at levels 4 to 6. Students who have obtained 360 credits, but who have at least 90 credits but less than 150 credits in business modules can exit with an award of BSc Economics with Business.</p> <p>Foundation Year The Foundation Year Programme enables students to develop the necessary foundational study skills, resilience, and capabilities crucial to success in the subsequent years of their degree programmes. Thus they will progress onto Year One of their chosen degree with a solid foundation ready to meet the more challenging material they will encounter throughout the rest of their chosen degree.</p> <p>Students on the BSc Economics and Business with Foundation Year take 480 credits in total, with 120 credits of core modules at level 3 in the foundation year. They then follow the same programme as the degree described above. Students successfully completing the “with foundation” routes receive the same degree title awards as those on the standard three-year and four-year programmes.</p> |
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| 19 | Programme Structure | | | |
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| BSc Economics and Business - Full-time (3 years) | | | | |
| Year 1 - Compulsory modules | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 4 | EMEC058S4 | IT and Professional Skills | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | BUEM081S4 | Introductory Quantitative Techniques | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | EMEC013S4 | Introduction to Economics | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | BUMN077H4 | Management Studies I | 15 | Compulsory |
| 4 | BUMN078H4 | Management Studies II | 15 | Compulsory |
| Year 2 | | | | |
| 60 credits of modules in economics, from the following list: | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status |
| 5 | EMEC012S5 | Microeconomic Theory and Policy | 30 | option |
| 5 | BUEM107S5 | Macroeconomic Theory and Policy | 30 | option |
| 5 | EMEC021S5 | Quantitative Techniques for Applied Economics | 30 | Option |
| plus 60 credits of approved optional modules at level 5 | | | | |
| Year 3 | | | | |
| 120 credits of approved optional modules at level 6 | | | | |
| (subject to overall minimum of 180 credits in economics modules at levels 4 to 6) | | | | |
| Indicative Optional Modules: | | | | |
| Below is an indicative current selection of options; these may vary over time as new selections become available. Some modules run in alternate years. Full time students will usually take 120 credits in each year subject to the requirements shown in the structure above. | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 5 | MOMN068H5 | Employment Relations & Human Resource Management | 15 | Option |
| 5 | MOMN018H5 | Commercial Law for Business | 15 | Option |
| 5 | MOMN043H5 | Marketing Principles and Practice | 15 | Option |
| 6 | EMEC005S6 | Economics of Public Policy | 30 | Option |
| 6 | EMEC014S6 | Issues in Development Economics | 30 | Option |
| 6 | BUEM016S6 | Political Economy | 30 | Option |
| 5 | EMEC012S5 | Microeconomic Theory and Policy | 30 | Option |
| 5 | BUEM107S5 | Macroeconomics Theory and Policy | 30 | Option |
| 6 | EMEC002S6 | Applied Statistics and Econometrics | 30 | Option |
| 6 | EMEC027S6 | International Finance | 30 | Option |
| 6 | EMEC003S6 | Corporate Finance | 30 | Option |
| 6 | BUEM073S6 | Advanced Topics in Economics and Finance | 30 | Option |
| 6 | EMEC028S6 | Portfolio Management | 30 | Option |
| 6 | BUMN052S6 | Financial Management | 30 | Option |
| 6 | MOMN064H6 | International Business | 15 | Option |
| 6 | MOMN044H6 | Marketing Strategy | 15 | Option |

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| 6 | MOMN060H6 | Management of Innovation | 15 | Option |
| 6 | BUMN065H6 | Brand Development | 15 | Option |
| <i>Indicative options from BSc Economics/Financial Economics</i> | | | | |
| 5 | EMEC021S5 | Quantitative Techniques for Applied Economics | 30 | Option |
| 6 | EMEC029S6 | Mathematics for Economists | 30 | Option |
| 6 | BUEM070S6 | Microeconomics | 30 | Option |
| 6 | EMEC011S6 | Macroeconomics | 30 | Option |
| 5 | EMEC018S5 | Principles of Finance | 30 | Option |
| 5/6 | - | <i>Any other approved options</i> | 15/30 | Option |

Note: some options may be subject to pre-requisites. Options must be selected to take account of CAS regulations on the number of credits at each level, and to take account the guidance of the programme director.

BSc Economics and Business Part-Time (4 years)

Year 1 – compulsory modules

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| 4 | EMEC058S4 | IT and Professional Skills | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | BUEM081S4 | Introductory Quantitative Techniques | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | EMEC013S4 | Introduction to Economics | 30 | Compulsory |

Year 2

60 credits of modules in economics, from the following list

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|---|-----------|---|----|--------|
| 5 | EMEC012S5 | Microeconomic Theory and Policy | 30 | Option |
| 5 | BUEM107S5 | Macroeconomic Theory and Policy | 30 | Option |
| 5 | EMEC021S5 | Quantitative Techniques for Applied Economics | 30 | Option |

plus

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| 4 | BUMN077H4 | Management Studies I | 15 | Compulsory |
| 4 | BUMN078H4 | Management Studies II | 15 | Compulsory |

Year 3

60 credits of optional modules at level 5, plus 30 credits of optional modules at level 6 (see indicative list of options above)

Year 4

90 credits of optional modules at level 6 (subject to overall minimum of 180 credits in economics modules at levels 4 to 6). (see indicative list of options above)

BSc Economics and Business with Foundation Year - Full Time (4 years)

Foundation Year (Year 0)

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
|-------|-------------|--|---------|---------|
| 3 | CASE002S3 | Fundamentals of Study | 30 | Core |
| 3 | BUEM112S3 | Essential Mathematics and Statistics for Economics | 30 | Core |
| 3 | BUEM120H3 | The Modern British Economy (Foundation Year) | 15 | Core |
| 3 | BUEM121S3 | Economic Principles (Foundation Year) | 30 | Core |
| 3 | BUEM113H3 | IT and Data Skills for Economics | 15 | Core |

| Year 1 (as BSc full-time year 1)- compulsory modules | | | | |
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| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 4 | EMEC058S4 | IT and Professional Skills | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | BUEM081S4 | Introductory Quantitative Techniques | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | EMEC013S4 | Introduction to Economics | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | BUMN077H4 | Management Studies I | 15 | Compulsory |
| 4 | BUMN078H4 | Management Studies II | 15 | Compulsory |
| Year 2 (as BSc full-time year 2) | | | | |
| 60 credits of modules in economics, from the following list | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 5 | EMEC012S5 | Microeconomic Theory and Policy | 30 | Option |
| 5 | BUEM107S5 | Macroeconomic Theory and Policy | 30 | Option |
| 5 | EMEC021S5 | Quantitative Techniques for Applied Economics | 30 | Option |
| plus 60 credits of approved optional modules at level 5 | | | | |
| Year 3 (as BSc full-time year 3) | | | | |
| 120 credits of approved optional modules at level 6 (subject to overall minimum of 180 credits in economics modules at levels 4 to 6) | | | | |
| BSc Economics and Business with Foundation Year - Part Time (6 years) | | | | |
| Foundation Year - Year 0a | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 3 | CASE002S3 | Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City | 30 | Core |
| 3 | BUEM120H3 | The Modern British Economy (Foundation Year) | 15 | Core |
| 3 | BUEM113H3 | IT and Data Skills for Economics | 15 | Core |
| Foundation year - Year 0b | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 3 | BUEM112S3 | Essential Mathematics and Statistics for Economics | 30 | Core |
| 3 | BUEM121S3 | Economic Principles (Foundation Year) | 30 | Core |
| Year 1 – compulsory modules | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 4 | EMEC058S4 | IT and Professional Skills | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | BUEM081S4 | Introductory Quantitative Techniques | 30 | Compulsory |
| 4 | EMEC013S4 | Introduction to Economics | 30 | Compulsory |
| Year 2 | | | | |
| 60 credits of modules in economics, from the following list | | | | |
| 5 | EMEC012S5 | Microeconomic Theory and Policy | 30 | Option |
| 5 | BUEM107S5 | Macroeconomic Theory and Policy | 30 | Option |
| 5 | EMEC021S5 | Quantitative Techniques for Applied Economics | 30 | Option |
| plus | | | | |
| 4 | BUMN077H4 | Management Studies I | 15 | Compulsory |
| 4 | BUMN078H4 | Management Studies II | 15 | Compulsory |

Year of entry: 2021/22



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| Year 3 |
| 60 credits of optional modules at level 5, plus 30 credits of optional modules at level 6 (see indicative list of options above) |
| Year 4 |
| 90 credits of optional modules at level 6 (subject to overall minimum of 180 credits in economics modules at levels 4 to 6). (see indicative list of options above) |

Status*: *CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module.*

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| ²⁰ | Programme Director | Professor Stephen Wright/Dan McVeagh (Foundation Year) |
| ²¹ | Start Date <i>(term/year)</i> | Apr 2010 (PT) / Sep 2014 (FT) |
| ²² | Date approved by TQEC | Spring 2009 (PT) / Spring 2010 (FT) |
| ²³ | Date approved by Academic Board | Summer 2009 (PT) / Summer 2010 (FT) |
| ²⁴ | Date(s) updated/amended | July 2020 |