

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MSc Business, Political Economy and Society				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMSBUPES_C				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	Management				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Cert (60 credits) and PG Dip (120 credits)				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 year (full-time); 2 years (part-time)				
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	Department of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics; Department of Politics; School of Law				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Statement	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>Rationale:</p> <p>How are business and institutions influenced by different social and political economic events? Nowadays, interconnectivity and globalisation makes it extremely crucial for policy-makers, analysts and decision makers in the business world to have an appropriate grounded understanding of the various political, social, economic, technological and environmental drivers of global changes. In this, respect, the revival of public and scholarly interest on different political economic perspectives is recently boosting more than ever an increasing and heated debate among policy makers, global business strategists and researchers on several key issues. How do shifts in the global economic power affect the investment decisions of a multinational company in the global market? Given the environmental and social changes, how will governments address demand for resources before is too late? How are global and political economic directions conditioning industrial strategies and labour market dynamics? How can innovation, technological and social changes be used by entrepreneurs and managers to face local and global markets uncertainty and to boost performance? In which directions are the mechanisms of capitalisms moving today and how will these affect global as well as local business strategies and decisions? These are just a few of the topics that this programme will address and discuss. On the basis of the above framework, it appears a timely opportunity to launch a cross-disciplinary programme aiming to provide our students with this grounded and crucial understanding.</p> <p>In order to achieve these goals, this programme will be inter-disciplinary based on the synergetic collaboration among the Department of Management, Economics, Politics, Law and Criminology. In this respect, this proposed programme arises from an initiative of members of the Cross-School Centre for Political Economy and Institutional Studies (CPEIS), http://www.bbk.ac.uk/cpeis/, at Birkbeck launched in 2016 to spur cross-school research-led collaboration among faculty of Management, Economics, Politics, Law and Criminology. In</p>

	<p>this respect, this programme builds on the present research strengths, consulting and teaching expertise of the CPEIS members and other faculty of the department of Management, Economics, Politics, Law and Criminology. Our students will crucially benefit from the dynamic link between this programme and the CPEIS since they will have the opportunity to participate in the activities organised by the CPEIS including workshops, seminars, symposia, roundtable and to interact with high profile guest speakers, lecturers and practitioners.</p> <p>Aims: The main aims of the programme are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will receive a high-quality education and a critical level of understanding of how social and political economic issues affect international business decisions and global strategies • Students will develop a good understanding on how to critically evaluate and assess business decisions in different political economy and social contexts • Students will acquire skills of qualitative and quantitative research techniques enable them to produce a draft of business and political economic analysis in the forms of essays and dissertations • Students will develop a good understanding of drafting literature reviews and research project proposals <p>This programme will be of benefit to those students that have already acquired an appreciation of the issues relating business strategies and decision with political economic and social changes and who wish to develop further insights into the subject. This programme will also be of benefit to those students with limited knowledge of the subject who wish to use the knowledge gained in this programme to embark on a career within different sectors of employability including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Enterprises active in international trade of goods and services • Organisations providing business and economic advice to private companies • professional firms active in international projects • Organisations supporting the internationalisation process of SMEs • Consulting firms for public sectors both in developed and developing countries • International media and journalism • Think Tanks, International governmental organizations and NGOs active in the economic-social setting, in both advanced and developing countries • Academia and research institutes
15	<p>Entry Criteria</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally at least a second-class honours degree in any subject area from a UK university or a non-UK equivalent; other qualifications will be considered. • Non-native English speakers need to provide proof of English language ability: A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 (with a minimum of 6 in the sub-tests) and provide the certificate or in line with the College Specifications. • A professional or other qualification obtained by written examinations approved by the College. • Relevant experience, supporting statements and references may be taken into consideration, especially in the case of non-standard applications.

16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p>
	<p>On successful completion of this programme, students will be able to:</p> <p>Subject Specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a critical and comprehensive understanding on how business and policy decisions are influenced by different political economic events. These include changes in global economic power, financial market uncertainty, social, cultural and climate changes. • Understand the key concepts of political economy under different perspectives including juridical-institutional, political, socio-cultural and business oriented ones. • Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of global capitalism and the respective interactions with international business strategies and decisions • Demonstrate an understanding of the empirical evidence in testing economic hypotheses with the objective to applying them to policy questions • Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of different socio-cultural changes on business decision-making under different political economic contexts and environments. <p>Intellectual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to critically assess political economic theories, business theories, socio-cultural theories and related areas • Demonstrate knowledge and ability to think in a structured manner about issues of political economy and business within different socio-cultural contexts • Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to critically evaluate and assess business theories and decisions within different societal and political economic arenas. <p>Practical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate library and archive skills including the ability to conduct literature searches using electronic databases such as the Social Science Citation Index, EBSCOhost, Business Source Premier and LexisNexis. • Apply appropriate essay/report writing skills • Demonstrate an appropriate level of numeracy and IT skills. <p>Personal and Social</p> <p>Through coursework, class discussion and group work the student will gain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentation and communication skills • Writing skills • Ability to work in teams
17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p>
	<p>The assessment for each module varies from a combination of coursework and unseen, formal examination, to modules that are assessed by exam only, coursework only or a combination of the two. The length of the coursework and exam will vary depending on whether they are the only mode of assessment for the module or whether they are combined with another mode of assessment.</p> <p>In regards to the coursework, it can be noted that the student is required to adopt a critical and interpretive approach when answering the question set and the department’s marking</p>

	<p>criteria is adhered to when the examiners mark the scripts. The outline answers provided by the module convenor (to the second marker(s)) act as a standard against which the quality of the work is assessed.</p> <p>The summative assessment for all modules measures each student's attainment with respect to the learning objectives, and it can be noted that the external examiners are charged with approving the formal, unseen examination papers. The examination questions set ask students to link theory and practice, and critically appraise assumptions. The examination process is rigorous and provides an opportunity to test a student's understanding of the subject matter.</p> <p>Both the course work assignment and the unseen, formal examination, require students to think logically and to adopt an analytical approach to answering the question. It can be argued that the assessment is balanced and all timetabling takes into account the fact that those students with specific needs, have their needs taken into account and they are not disadvantaged in any way. The pass mark is 50% for the combined course work and unseen, formal examination.</p>
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18	Programme Description
	<p>This programme has a distinct identity laying on its cross-School curriculum and co-taught cross-School compulsory module. In this respect, for both PT and FT students the curriculum consists of three compulsory modules plus a 60-credit dissertation. Two compulsory modules, 15 credits each are hosted in the Department of Management. A third compulsory module is a co-taught cross-School module that involves lectures delivered by faculty of the BEI, Politics and Law and hosted in the School of Law. This 30-credit module which will also be compulsory for the students of the MSc in Global Political Economy (hosted in the Department of Politics) and of the MSc in Law and Political Economy (hosted in the School of Law). To make up a total requirement of 180 credits the curriculum requires additional 30-credit options from Politics and 30-credit options from Management and/or Economics.</p>

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LALW064S7	Perspectives on Political Economy	30	Compulsory
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	Compulsory
7	BUMN069H7	Institutions, Governance and Development	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN008H7	The Dynamics of Global Capitalism: Theory and Practice	15	Compulsory
7		Option module – free choice from any postgraduate modules in the Department of Politics	30	Optional
7		Option modules – from closed list of Management modules, see below	15	Optional
7	BUMN061D7	MSc Dissertation	60	Core

Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LALW064S7	Perspectives on Political Economy	30	Compulsory
7	BUMN069H7	Institutions, Governance and Development	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN008H7	The Dynamics of Global Capitalism: Theory and Practice	15	Compulsory
7		Option Modules from Politics (Alternatively 15-credit option module from Management)	30	Optional
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	Compulsory
7		Option modules from Management (if year 1 option was from Politics). Otherwise, 30-credit option from Politics (if year 1 option was from Management)	15	Optional
7	BUMN061D7	MSc Dissertation	60	Core
Indicative List of Option Modules				
Department of Management				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	BUMN030H7	Statistical Methods for Business Research	15	Option
7	MOMN028H7	Corporate Governance	15	Option
7	MOMN039H7	Corporate Responsibility	15	Option
7	MOMN076H7	Development Policy	15	Option
7	BUMN070H7	Economics for Managers	15	Option
7	BUMN114H7	Environmental Economics	15	Option
7	MOMN074H7	Globalization: forces, players and management	15	Option
7	MOMN026H7	Innovation and the Knowledge Economy	15	Option
7	MOMN042H7	Innovation Systems: Networks and Social Capital	15	Option
7	MOMN075H7	International Business and Economic Development	15	Option
7	MOMN032H7	International Business Ethics	15	Option
7	MOMN009H7	International Business Strategy	15	Option
7	MOMN007H7	International Business: Theories and Issues	15	Option
7	BUMN004H7	International Human Resource Management	15	Option
7	BUMN074H7	Multinational Financial Management	15	Option
7	MOMN020H7	Qualitative Research Methods	15	Option
Department of Politics				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7		Students can choose any postgraduate (Level 7) module(s) to a total of 30 credits from the Department of Politics that fit(s) with the student's timetable.	30	Option

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

Year of entry: 2022/23



²⁰	Programme Director	Luca Andriani
²¹	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	October 2020
²²	Date approved by Education Committee	Autumn 2019 (by Chair's action)
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Spring 2020
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	November 2020 for 2021/22