

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MSc International Business				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMSBUINL_C, TMSBUINJ_C				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	Management				
7	Exit Award(s)	Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate				
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	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Group</u>	Business and Management				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>Main Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, to provide a rigorous postgraduate education in the general area of international business and management; and • Specifically, to provide students with a critical research-based knowledge and expertise of a broad range of key issues in international business and management at postgraduate level and the opportunity to focus on specific areas of study according to their personal interests or career requirements. These areas include economics and finance, marketing, employment relations and human resource management, business ethics, globalisation and development. <p>The MSc International Business programme is offered both on a part-time and a full-time basis, and instruction is provided face to face during evenings. The compulsory elements provide core training in principles of international business and management and research methods. There is a list of core elective or optional modules geared to focus students on learning various aspects of international business . We place emphasis on developing the necessary research skills to understand critically and contribute constructively to research in the field of international business and management in general. Students completing the MSc programme in International Business will have developed knowledge, skills, and competencies to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse problems in international business, both in conceptual and practical terms;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out research, in terms of critical appraisal; theory development; and the application of theories, concepts and principles with the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods; and • Understand clearly international business and the multi-disciplinary context in which this knowledge exists. <p>Students completing the programme will also have gained from employment-related training involving personal skills development or generic skills that are transferable to a wide range of research, teaching and work situations.</p>
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15	<p>Entry Criteria</p> <p>Standard entry requirements:</p> <p>Normally at least a second class undergraduate honours degree in any subject area from a UK university or a non-UK equivalent; other qualifications will be considered.</p> <p>Alternative entry criteria</p> <p>(1) A professional or other qualification obtained by written examinations approved by the College.</p> <p>(2) Relevant work experience, supporting statements and references may be taken into consideration, especially in the case of non-standard applications.</p> <p>International entry requirements:</p> <p>Evidence of English Language proficiency, for applicants whose first language is not English.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">IELTS 6.5 (with 6.0 in each of the sub tests). Please note we only accept the Academic, not the General Test.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Pearsons PTE Academic test: 62 overall with 60 in each subtest</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) and Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE): 176 overall with 169 in each subtest</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">TOEFL iBT: Overall 92 R=22, L=21, S=23, W=24</p> <p>If the applicant doesn't meet the minimum IELTS requirement, Birkbeck offers pre-session English courses, foundation programmes and language support services to help an applicant improve English language skills. The international students section of Birkbeck's website provides more information about English language entry requirements and relevant requirements by country. http://www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective/international</p> <p>International students who complete the Business pathway on the International Foundation Programme for Postgraduate study (Grad Diploma) by passing all four modules (Academic English Skills for Postgraduate Study; Approaches to Postgraduate study; Professional Communication Skills; Approaches to Business and Management), including</p>
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	passing Approaches to Business and Management with 60% are given automatic progression to this programme.
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16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Subject Specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A critical understanding of international business in relation to the related fields of management, business, and organisation studies, including knowledge of the foundation literatures and understanding and awareness of current research trends. • A critical awareness of current research and research issues in a selection of specialist topics within the field of international business. • A critical and thorough understanding of a broad range of qualitative and quantitative social science research methodologies, their epistemological underpinnings, and their specific application in management and business research methods. • Critical thinking and independent judgment to confront a whole range of issues in international business, both in conceptual and practical terms. <p>The learning outcomes have been developed in response to important external factors such as the need in the labour market for graduates of a rigorous, postgraduate education in international business and management that imparts a broad range of academic skills as well as employment-related training involving personal, skills development and other transferable or generic skills. Inter-collegiate and external examiners, the ESRC and research colleagues in other Schools and universities as well as the practice of constant monitoring of similar programmes offered elsewhere also provided important external factors to the development of learning outcomes.</p> <p>Internal factors have also played a key role in developing the learning outcomes. The postgraduate programmes in International Business are research-based, with each module taught by an active researcher in that area. Current research developments within each module are, consequently, an important internal factor determining its learning outcomes. Other important internal factors are student feedback mechanisms, which are in place as part of effective quality assurance procedures to identify and address student concerns. These include the regular meetings of the Postgraduate Student Staff Liaison Committee held once a term, comments received directly from students via e-mail and other forms of communication, and student evaluation questionnaires in respect of individual modules and the programme as a whole.</p> <p>Intellectual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to analyse both quantitative and qualitative data, including the use of advanced qualitative and quantitative methods.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General transferable cognitive skills in analytical and critical reasoning, including the ability to understand abstract ideas and relate these to practice. <p>Practical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of research design and the formulation and analysis of research questions. • The ability to conduct an independent research investigation in an academically rigorous and ethically responsible way, selecting and employing sound research methods appropriate to the topic of study and relating the study to both existing research in the field and to practical real-world problems. • Bibliographic skills, including the ability to conduct literature searches using electronic databases such as the Social Science Citation Index. <p>Personal and Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical transferable communication skills, including in presentation, discussion and writing. • Practical transferable planning and organisational skills.
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>Teaching and Learning methods: The principal methods of teaching and learning include: Lecturing, Directed reading, Class discussion of research articles, Small group and class discussion of case studies linking theory and practice, Student-led seminars and presentations, Supervised individual assignments, Supervised group exercises, Supervised independent research for dissertation, Online learning through Moodle.</p> <p>While lecturing is a major vehicle of knowledge transfer in the postgraduate programmes in International Business, most modules use a mix of other methods of learning and teaching with lectures, all of which are peer reviewed, e.g. group exercises, case studies linking theory and practice, and seminars involving group work and presentations. There are several modules in which lectures are combined with small group discussions in which even more interaction between students and between students and group leaders are possible, thus helping to harness appropriate social interactive behaviour and the ability to work in teams, while actively pursuing the advancement of knowledge. Active participation at lectures and individual assignments, including the supervised independent research for dissertation, provide other avenues for interactive learning. Individual assignment and the supervised independent research for the dissertation are designed to assess the ability of postgraduate students to take responsibility for their own learning and time management, to search for information, and to carry out work to set deadlines.</p> <p>Assessment methods: The learning outcomes determine the method of assessment for each module of the programme. The assessment of most modules that form the postgraduate programmes in</p>
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International Business is by a combination of coursework (of various forms) and an unseen formal, written examination at the end of the Autumn term or during the Summer term. In order to arrive at an overall mark for each module, the marks awarded for the coursework and examination are combined together in ratios that vary across modules, but in most cases a 25%:75% ratio applies in determining the respective weight of coursework and examination in the determination of the overall mark for each module.

Final Examinations provide a rigorous test of the core knowledge, understanding and analytical skills of students and encourage careful revision and the consolidation of core learning in general and specific subject areas.

The coursework aims at the development and assessment of students' critical understanding of academic knowledge and process-based research skills. All coursework assess the ability of students to take responsibility for their own learning and time management; to search for information; and to carry out work to set deadlines. They test a number of subject-specific, and other intellectual, practical and personal and social skills to include inter alia: the ability to locate, extract and analyse qualitative and quantitative data from different sources as a basis for decision making and justification of resource deployment; the ability to construct an argument in written English; to critically evaluate arguments and evidence; to critically appraise existing views and debates; and the ability to describe and justify international management and business decisions. Apart from providing quantitative assessment, coursework provide opportunities for detailed qualitative feedback to students, thus enhancing the learning process on a regular basis throughout the programme. Coursework can take several forms:

a) Written exercises and essays are used to assess the ability to work through quantitative and qualitative problems; construct an argument in written English; critically evaluate arguments and evidence; appraise existing views and debates; and assess the ability to describe and justify management and business decisions.

b) Group Assignments are used to evaluate the ability to communicate appropriately with peers and supervisors (oral and written), foster co-operation, trust and loyalty; use computer technology for communication; and work in teams.

All assessed work is marked in accordance with the Common Awards Scheme. The criteria are linked explicitly to the learning outcomes, and distinguish clearly between the achievements required for each range of marks in the distinction, merit, pass and fail categories.

Timetables indicating when the various modules are taught or when the various forms of coursework for each module are to be submitted are published in the Postgraduate Handbook, which is updated annually prior to the start of each academic year.

The award of the MSc International Business degree and intermediate awards is governed by the Common Awards Scheme.

18	Programme Description
	<p>This programme can be studied: full-time over 1 year or part-time over 2 years.</p> <p>Students complete eight modules and write a 12,000-word dissertation.</p> <p>Postgraduate Diploma: Requires students to have passed modules to the value of 120 credits.</p> <p>Postgraduate Certificate: Requires students to have passed modules to the value of 60 credits.</p> <p>Two sets of degree structure, 1 and 2 year studies, are provided below.</p>

19	Programme Structure			
Full-Time programme – 1 year (October 2022 start)				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	MOMN010H7	Principles of Organization and Management	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN007H7	International Business: Theories and Issues	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN009H7	International Business Strategy	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN008H7	The Dynamics of Global Capitalism: Theory and Practice	15	Compulsory
7	BUMN061D7	MSc Dissertation	60	Core
7		Option modules – from closed list, see below	30	Optional
7		Option modules – free choice from any postgraduate modules in the Department of Management	15	Optional
Full-Time programme – 1 year (Jan 2023 start)				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
Spring and Summer terms 2022/23				
7	MOMN009H7	International Business Strategy	15	Compulsory
7	BUMN074H7	Multinational Financial Management	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN074H7	Globalization: forces, players and management	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN025H7	International Marketing	15	Compulsory

7	MOMN008H7	The Dynamics of Global Capitalism: Theory and Practice	15	Compulsory
7	BUMN184Z7	PG Dissertation Preparation	0	Compulsory
Autumn term 2023				
7	MOMN007H7	International Business: Theories and Issues	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN010H7	Principles of Organization and Management	15	Compulsory
7	BUMN061D7	MSc Dissertation	60	Core
Part-Time programme – 2 years (October start)				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	MOMN010H7	Principles of Organization and Management	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN007H7	International Business: Theories and Issues	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN009H7	International Business Strategy	15	Compulsory
7		Option module – from closed list, see below	15	Optional
7		Option modules – free choice from any postgraduate modules in the Department of Management	15	Optional
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	Compulsory
7	MOMN008H7	The Dynamics of Global Capitalism: Theory and Practice	15	Compulsory
7	BUMN061D7	MSc Dissertation	60	Core
7		Option module – from closed list, see below	15	Optional
Indicative list of modules for closed options:				
7	BUMN070H7	Economics for Managers	15	Optional
7	MOMN074H7	Globalization: Forces, Players and Management	15	Optional
7	MOMN032H7	International Business Ethics	15	Optional
7	BUMN004H7	International Human Resource Management	15	Optional
7	MOMN025H7	International Marketing	15	Optional
7	BUMN074H7	Multinational Financial Management	15	Optional
7	BUMN085H7	Principles of Marketing	15	Optional

Status*

Year of entry: 2022/23



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

20	Programme Director	Dr Odile Janne
21	Start Date <i>(term/year)</i>	Prior to 2008/9
22	Date approved by TQEC	Prior to 2008/9
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Prior to 2008/9
24	Date(s) updated/amended	12 December 2022 (for Jan 23 start)