

**Higher Education Certificate in Management  
For students entering Part 1 in 2008/9**

**UCAS code:**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Programme length:	2 years
Date of specification:	11/Sep/2008
Programme Director:	
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	
Accreditation:	

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to develop understanding of organisations, their management, and the changing environment in which they operate; to encourage excellence and continuous improvement in the workplace; and to improve work performance by integrating a university education into the workplace.

**Transferable skills**

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving, and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Management is an inherently practical subject, and this programme is intended to have a direct, beneficial impact on the students in their work settings. All the skills covered in this programme are therefore transferable to the workplace.

**Programme content**

Number of credits: 120

Level: C

There is a Prior Experience Project module, 3 taught modules, and 1 project; all are compulsory. They are as follows:

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
CD1MG1	Prior Experience Project	20	C
CD1MG2	Managing people	20	C
CD1MG5	Project	40	C
CD1MG6	The Organisation, Its Resources and Operations	20	C
CD1MG7	The Organisation and its Environment	20	C

**Progression requirements**

To qualify for the Certificate of Higher Education in Management, all modules (including the project) must be passed at 40%.

**Summary of teaching and assessment**

There are two modes of teaching and learning and two corresponding types of learning materials.

First, there is teaching and learning through workshops: there are 11 of these, which take place once a month. Most of these are half day workshops; the remaining few are full day workshops. They involve case studies, lectures, and a variety of types of experiential learning such as simulation exercises and role-plays. Most of these workshops are provided by external consultants who are experts in their fields. Learning materials are in the form of workbooks which are provided for each workshop.

Second, there is self-managed teaching and learning using open learning materials. Students receive a substantial package of these open learning materials: there are five for each taught module, each of which

contains a detailed workbook. Students are expected to undertake a considerable amount of self-managed work, involving approximately 5 to 10 hours per week.

There is a Prior Experience Project assignment, one assignment on each of the taught modules and a project. The pass mark for both assignments and project is 40%. The project requires submission of a project proposal which is then discussed and approved by the tutor; a draft project, discussed once again with the tutor; and, finally, the project itself. The student has 8 months in which to complete the project.

### **Admission requirements**

Students are generally required to have at least two years experience of working in a managerial position. They are also required to show some evidence of open-mindedness to new ideas as well as interest in managerial issues specifically. There is no formal academic entrance requirement.

**Admissions Tutor:** the Programme Director

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Disability Advisors, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

### **Career prospects**

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

## Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

### Knowledge and Understanding

#### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. the major areas of organisational functioning
2. the relation between the organisation and its environment.
3. the importance of strategy in the competitive environment and the key components of an organisation's strategic system
4. financial and marketing concepts and their fit with business activity
5. how finance enables operational management to achieve predetermined organisational objectives
6. key principles of personnel management as well as the internal and external drivers of change
7. the role of information as a strategic management resource

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The major areas of organisational functioning and the relation between the organisation and its environment will be broad areas covered in each of the three taught modules. In addition, each module will introduce the elements of strategy, marketing, financial management, operations management, people management and information management. Each of the three modules will be taught through workshops: these involve case studies, lectures, and a variety of types of experiential learning such as simulation exercises and role-plays. Learning materials are in the form of workbooks which are provided for each workshop.

#### *Assessment*

Students' knowledge and understanding are assessed by three assignments, one for each module.

### Skills and other attributes

#### B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. synthesise information from books, discussion and workshops accurately and reliably and to sift and integrate this information into coursework assignments
2. challenge assumptions and previously unexamined opinions
3. create a well-organised and coherent argument based on evidence, in writing and in presentations
4. evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems
5. participate effectively in group discussion
6. reflect on their development as managers

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Through specific focus on topics, issues and texts in group discussion and personal study, students are enabled to develop critical modes of enquiry about the selection and treatment of material. The research and analytical skills needed for problem-solving and for the accurate and reliable communication of the results of their work, are practised in assignments and presentations, as is the ability to synthesise and sift information in order to create a structured and coherent argument.

#### *Assessment*

Module assignments test all aspects of intellectual skills.

### **C. Practical skills - able to:**

1. locate and synthesise relevant information from a variety of sources
2. use the University's library and IT to access sources and information relating to the subject
3. present an academic assignment which includes bibliographies and references in an appropriate format
4. use accounting terminology and conventions, budgetary procedures and be familiar with how these work in a given context
5. practise the principles of recruitment, selection, training and development, and appraisal
6. listen and communicate effectively in group discussion and communicate effectively in individual oral presentations
7. communicate the results of study/investigation accurately and reliably in writing
8. develop structured and coherent arguments in writing
9. carry out an audit of an organisation's internal and external environment
10. develop and implement a marketing plan
11. create basic profit and loss accounts
12. Interpret the main financial reports produced by an organisation
13. analyse the financial risks of projects at an operational level
14. apply key operations management concepts to an organisation
15. set standards and measure operational performance
16. use a range of techniques for analysing, forecasting and planning
17. critically evaluate different recruitment, selection, training and development and appraisal procedures prior to application for different purposes
18. conduct appraisals to achieve positive outcomes
19. identify different markets and the way they determine marketing objectives and customer focus
20. plan, implement and evaluate developmental activities at organisation, team and individual levels

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

All of the practical skills are developed in each module through the production of assignments and preparing for group discussion and presentations. They are also developed through the information gathering, reading and problem-solving which is needed to support these activities.

Most importantly they are developed in the project module. This module is self-managed, using open learning materials; students follow a sequence of discussions and exercises that focus on the material of the modules.

#### *Assessment*

The module assignments and project all test the students' assimilation and ability to use these skills.

**D. Transferable skills - *able to*:**

1. present findings and arguments cogently and coherently, both orally and in writing
2. listen and contribute effectively to group discussions and other team activities
3. locate, select and handle information using library and other written sources
4. locate, select, handle and present information using IT resources
5. work to deadlines and manage their time effectively
6. demonstrate a responsible attitude to attendance and participation in scheduled course activities
7. assess aptitudes in preparation for the development of their present career or a career change and/or for further academic study
8. demonstrate a range of numeracy skills appropriate at this level.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Management is an inherently practical subject, and this programme is intended to have a direct, beneficial impact on the students in their work settings. All the skills are therefore potentially transferable to the workplace.

The specific transferable skills listed in this section will be introduced in the three taught modules and put to practice in the project module. This module is self-managed, using open learning materials; students follow a sequence of discussions and exercises that focus on the material of the modules.

Students receive substantial tutorial support to guide them through the duration of the programme.

***Assessment***

Students' knowledge and understanding are assessed by the module assignments and the project.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**