MSc Business and Management Research
For students entering in 2009

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	Henley Business School at The University of Reading
Faculty:	Henley Business School
Programme length:	18 months
Date of specification:	30th July 2009
Programme Director:	Dr Richard McBain
Board of Studies:	School of Management at Greenlands
Accreditation:	EQUIS and AACSB

Summary of programme aims

The programme is designed to provide programme members, who will already have management experience and who may have a wide range of prior academic backgrounds, to enhance their capability to undertake rigorous and relevant research either as a means of entering doctoral-level study, or to undertake research or consultancy in an organisational context. It provides a broadly-based understanding of the principles and practice of business and management research, its main approaches and methods, as well as of the context of that research. The programme will build on prior experience and qualification, in an area related to management and business, through a structured programme of study covering the principles of research design, the formulation of research problems, alternative philosophical and epistemological positions underpinning different research approaches, and key techniques of quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Transferable skills

The programme requires a substantial amount of independent reading, research and study, and Programme Members are expected to take personal responsibility and show initiative in developing their knowledge and understanding of the field of study. In following this programme, Programme Members will develop capabilities for managing and organising a research project, including writing-up and disseminating research in a way consistent with professional practice and ethical principles. They will also have the opportunity to enhance and develop their skills relating to communication (oral and written), presentations, information handling, problem solving, team-working, and the use of information technology. Programme Members will learn to work independently, under time pressures, and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines. The programme will help to prepare those Programme Members seeking to progress to the DBA programme, which is based on independent study, with the support of a supervisor.

Programme content

Module Code		Credits	Level
MDD1IR	*Introduction to Research*	10	7
MDD1WP	*The Literature Review*	30	7
MDD1CM	*Research Methodology*	20	7
MDD1QT A	*Quantitative Data Analysis*	20	7
MDD1QL	*Qualitative Data Analysis*	20	7

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MDD1TC	*Evaluating Research*	20	7
MDD1PS	*Pilot Study*	10	7
MDD1RP	*Research Proposal*	50	7

Part-time study arrangements

This programme is intended for part-time study. Teaching is organised in four 1-week workshops, each of which will address several modules. The contact time is shown at Appendix 1.

Progression requirements

Assessment of the taught modules is continuous throughout the Programme. Programme
To pass the MSc, Programme Members must pass all modules with a minimum mark of 50%.

A maximum of three resubmissions are allowed on the following basis:
- One assessment out of the following modules: The Literature Review and Research Methodology
- One assessment from: Qualitative Data Analysis, Quantitative Data Analysis and Evaluating Research
- One assessment from: the Pilot Study and The Research Proposal

Programme Members who gain an average mark of 60% for all modules, including 60% for the Research Proposal, will be eligible to proceed to the DBA Programme.

The programme may lead to progression to the DBA programme, which is assessed by means of two papers of publishable standard, two competency development targets, and a thesis. Programme members wishing to proceed to a higher degree by research, including the DBA programme, must have obtained an average of at least 60% in the modules and at least 60% in the Research Proposal.

There are no separate awards either for a Post-Graduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate in Business and Management Research.

Summary of teaching and assessment

A variety of study materials are provided for each module and all will involve a mix of classes, and individual and group work.

All modules, apart from the introductory module ('Introduction to Research'), have an assessment, the nature of which varies according to the aims of the module. All assessment involves the submission of written assignments and there are no examinations.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a first degree (the equivalent of a British upper second class honours degree) together with a merit in a Masters Degree in a management or business-related subject area. References are also taken into account. Acceptance is at the discretion of the Programme Director. Applications from candidates who do not meet the normal entry qualifications go before an Admissions Panel. Under the category of equivalent qualifications are degrees from recognised international universities and a number of professional/vocational qualifications.

Admissions Tutor: The Programme Director is responsible for admissions.

Support for Programme Members 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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online (www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

Henley Business School provides a range of support for Programme Members and their learning. The Academic Resource Centre Library which is an on-site information resource at the Greenlands campus holds an extensive and carefully selected collection of print and electronic resources. It is complimented by the Online Learning Resource Centre which provides remote access to a wide range of items, including business and management databases, reading lists, the Academic Resource catalogue, online dissertations and other resources. IT resources in the Library are enhanced by the IT resources across campus.

The HenleyConnect portal is the virtual learning environment supporting Programme Members studying on the Henley MSc programme. It is designed to allow Programme Members to work both together and as individuals in a single online workspace, and contains core MBA learning materials as well as links to materials within the Learning Resource Centre.

Pastoral care is provided from several sources but a key part is played by Mentors. Each Programme Member is allocated a Mentor, who has a number of roles including the provision of pastoral support to help them overcome any personal obstacles they encounter in the learning process, whether these are teaching, study concerns, or work-life balance issues. Mentors also support the Personal Development aspect of the Henley MSc. In addition Programme Members are able, where necessary, to access some of the support services of the wider University, such as the Disability Office and Study Advisors.

Career prospects

Programme Members who have followed the MSc in Business and Management research work in or with a wide range of organisations in management or consultancy positions, or academic positions, typically in business schools. Graduates of the programme will typically seek to

proceed to the DBA Programme and will aim to develop further their practice in management, consultancy or academic contexts.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

None

Educational aims of the programme

Programme members on this programme will develop a deep and systematic understanding and critical awareness of current and pervasive issues relating to research in business and management. The aim is to produce graduates who are able to undertake rigorous and relevant research in an organisational context.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The range of knowledge, theory, specialisms and philosophical paradigms that underpin research in the field of business and management
2. Qualitative and quantitative approaches to research and their related epistemological perspectives
3. The main research methodologies used by researchers in business and management research, including experimental design, action research, survey methods and ethnographic approaches
4. A wide range of research methods including questionnaires, interviews, observation, textual and discourse techniques simulation and secondary data processing
5. Techniques for analysing qualitative and quantitative data using information technology and appropriate software
6. The ethical dimension of research in business and management
7. The research process and research project planning

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

There are four compulsory 1-week workshops covering the following topics:
- Introduction to Research
- Research Methodology
- Qualitative Techniques
- Quantitative Techniques

In addition there are a number of optional workshops together with Research Colloquia. The teaching and learning methods include lectures, discussions, individual and group presentation, group exercises, case studies, guided readings and guidance on key sources of reference material. Feedback and guidance are important elements complementing an emphasis on self –study.

Assessment
Coursework comprising of assignments including a research proposal. There are no examinations. Each student is required to present to at least one Colloquium per year. Please see Appendix 1 for a summary of the assessments pertaining to each module.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to: 1. Analyse and evaluate theoretical and practitioner issues in business and management. 2. Think logically and analytically about issues in research in a business and management context 3. Analyse and evaluate evidence derived from research 4. Structure, evaluate and present arguments relating issues in research or in business and management	*Teaching/learning methods and strategies* Programme Members are frequently challenged in all teaching situations to complete logical arguments, analyse problems and alternative strategies, evaluate data and justify statements. Long assignments, discussions, group work, and presentations provide the principal vehicle for developing intellectual skills **Assessment** Coursework comprising of assignments including a research proposal, and presentations.
C. Practical skills – able to: 1. Evaluate current theoretical and empirical research in the chosen field of research. 2. Evaluate alternative business and management research strategies and apply appropriate strategies in research. 3. Evaluate and apply appropriate techniques for analysing data. 4. Effectively apply key research skills learned on the Programme to the organisational context. 5. Search libraries and on-line data sources 6. Structure and argue a case in writing and orally	*Teaching/learning methods and strategies* Programme Members are required to undertake and understand a wide range of reading, both of specific references and through researching their own sources of information. Discussion in workshops emphasises the use of empirical evidence and the strengths and weaknesses in alternative theories, methodologies, and research practices. **Assessment** Long assignments and presentations.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means.
2. Demonstrate self-awareness and evaluate his/her own academic professional performance.
3. Utilise rational and creative problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations.
4. Show sensitivity to events and feelings, manage change effectively and respond to changing demands.
5. Use a range of learning resources and takes responsibility for personal and professional learning and development (personal Development Planning).
6. Manage time, prioritise workloads and manage personal emotions and stress.
7. Information management skills. e.g. IT skills.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies
The presentation of well-researched written work is a fundamental element of the programme and requires the application of all the skills listed. This is reinforced by the breadth and depth of material covered in the modules and the schedule for submissions of assessed work, which develop the Programme Members' skills of time management. Oral skills are developed through lectures and workshop discussions and individual and group presentations.

Assessment
Long assignments and presentations.

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 Programme Members, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.

Appendix 1: Summary of Assessment and Study Hours

Programme Element	Study hours	Contact Time	Assessment Requirement
Introduction to Research	100	3 days	Formative assessment – including competence assessment
The Literature Review	300	2 days	Individual Working Paper
Research Methodology	200	4 days	Competence Development Report
Qualitative Data Analysis	200	4 days	Individual assignment
Quantitative Data Analysis	200	4 days	Individual assignment
Evaluating Research	200	2 days	Thesis Critique
Pilot Study	100	1 day	Individual Report
The Research Proposal	500	2 days	Individual proposal (15,000 words)