

MSc International Management and Accounting For students entering in 2010

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading Henley Business School
Programme Length:	12 months
Date of specification:	June 2010
Programme Director:	Ms Verna Care
Board of Studies:	Management (Postgraduate)
Accreditation:	None
Total number of credits required:	180

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a thorough postgraduate education in the field of international management, with a specialism in accounting and its international aspects. The programme is distinctive in its international flavour, with strong emphasis on international business themes relevant for analysing the dynamic global business challenges of the 21st century. The compulsory modules provide a critical understanding of current management theories and accounting practices. Students will develop a practical understanding of the application of theoretical concepts and they will learn to evaluate alternative theories and practices, and to make judgements on their applicability to complex and changing business situations.

Transferable skills

The programme requires a substantial amount of independent reading, research and study, and students are expected to take personal responsibility and show initiative in developing their knowledge and understanding of the field of study. In following this programme students 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. Students will learn to work independently, under time pressures, and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines. Career planning, via choice of modules taken, will be an integral part of the programme.

Programme content

Compulsory Modules		Credits	Level
MMM001	International Strategic Management	20	7
MMM023	Dissertation (incorporating Study Skills)	40	7
MMM026	Study Skills (non- credit bearing)	-	7
MMM048	Managing People and Organisations	20	7
MMM062	International Financial Reporting 1	20	7
MMM063	International Financial Reporting 2	20	7
EITHER:			
MMM006	Global Marketing Management	20	7
OR:			
MMM043	Principles of Marketing	20	7

Plus: Students must choose **TWO** option modules to the value of 40 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Administrator, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Handbook. There is no guarantee that in any one year all modules will be available. New option modules may also be added.

Students may choose to substitute MMM023 (Dissertation, 40 credits) with a project (20 credits) below, plus **ONE** additional optional module to bring the total to 180 credits for the year.

EITHER:

MMM049 Accounting and Finance Project 20 7

OR:

MMM030 Contemporary Management Practice 20 7
(inc. summer research project)

Progression requirements

Assessment of taught modules in May/June; re-sit failed modules in August/September; submit project by Friday of the second week of September, or by a month thereafter if there are re-sits.

Students wishing to proceed to a higher degree by research should normally have obtained an average of at least 60% in the modules and at least 60% in the Accounting and Finance/Contemporary Management Practice Project or dissertation.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among the modules, especially in the proportion of time allocated to lectures, classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms reflecting the aims of the module. Final assessment of the modules normally includes an examination (normally weighted at 70%) and coursework (normally weighted at 30%). However, there are exceptions, with some modules based only on coursework. A project supervisor is appointed for each student.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 – 100% Distinction

60 – 69% Merit

50 – 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 – 49% Work below threshold standard

0 – 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degrees

To pass the MSc students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall in 180 credits including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 in modules MMM030 Contemporary Management Practice Project and MMM049 Accounting or Finance Project. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/Exams/pgaward08-09.pdf>

For PG Diplomas

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more in 120 credits and have no mark below 40 in modules MMM030 Contemporary Management Practice Project or MMM049 Accounting Project. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/Exams/pgaward08-09.pdf>

For PG Certificates

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more in 60 credits and have no mark below 40 in modules MMM030 Contemporary Management Practice Project or MMM049 Accounting and Finance Project. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/Exams/pgaward08-09.pdf>

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. Applicants whose degree result is below the required level, or whose degree is from a university where the standard is not likely to be well known to the admissions committee, will require GMAT 600. International students whose native language is not English should either have a university degree taken in English, an IELTS score of 7.00 or an equivalent qualification. References are also taken into account. Acceptance is at the discretion of the Director of Studies.

Admissions Tutor:

The Programme Director is responsible for admissions.

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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate 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 website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

Career Prospects

Graduates from this programme will enhance their employability in a range of careers related to their first-degree discipline or in a general business management role. Graduates will also be equipped to move into the more specialised accounting or finance function of a business or into an accounting and finance institution. As the programme offers an international perspective, career prospects are likely to be international. The programme would also serve as a basis for further academic study in the discipline

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

None

Educational aims of the programme

The programme provides a thorough postgraduate training in international management. With an emphasis on theory and practice it aims to produce graduates capable of using their knowledge and understanding in a commercial context, and partaking in international business.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Alternative models of management and international business
2. Most recent developments in relevant empirical work, business and management practices, and the international business environment
3. The international and cultural environments, and regulatory and ethical framework affecting

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Formal lectures, guest lectures from industry, discussions, individual and group presentation, group exercises, case studies, guided readings and guidance on key sources of reference material. Feed back and guidance are important elements complementing an emphasis on self -study



international business and management.

4. The structure and practices of selected international business enterprises. Management within these enterprises
5. An understanding of the importance of international business in driving change in management practices and business cultures throughout the world.
6. Causes and nature of international differences in financial reporting.
7. Interpretation of financial statements in an international context.

Assessment

Unseen examinations and coursework comprising of long essays. Seminar presentations are also used as a means of assessment in some modules.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

1. Structure, analyse, and evaluate theoretical issues, and practical business dynamics and challenges.
2. Think logically and analytically and to understand the difference between positive and normative statements.
3. Identify key business and management relationships and evaluate them with reference to practice
4. Comprehend the rapidly evolving state of management and international business knowledge and factors influencing both the change and the pace of change

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Students are frequently challenged in all teaching situations to complete logical arguments, analyse problems and alternative strategies, and justify statements. Long essays, debate, group work, and presentations provide the principal vehicle for developing intellectual skills

Assessment

Unseen examinations and coursework, case study analysis, dissertation.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. Evaluate current theoretical and empirical research in the field of study.
2. Evaluate alternative business strategies.
3. Evaluate the behaviour, culture and strategy of firms.
4. Effectively apply key professional skills learnt in classes to the business world.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Students 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 lectures and seminars emphasises the use of statistical and empirical evidence and the strengths and weaknesses in alternative theories,

5. Draw on knowledge to present arguments in the areas of financial markets, governance and reporting.
6. Evaluate alternative policies.
7. Interpret financial statements.
8. Perform calculations in certain areas.

methodologies, and international business practices.

Skills are achieved through lectures, seminars, presentations, case studies, and group exercises

Assessment

Long essays, presentations, and unseen examinations.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means.
2. Evaluate his/her own academic professional performance.
3. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations.
4. Manage change effectively and respond to changing demands.
5. Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development (personal Development Planning).
6. Manage time, prioritise workloads and manage personal emotions and stress.
7. Understand career opportunities and begin to plan a career path.
8. 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. This is reinforced by the breadth and depth of the syllabuses for each module and the highly structured system of deadlines for assessed work, and examinations, which develop the students' skills of time management. Oral skills are developed through lecture and seminar discussions and individual and group presentations.

Assessment

Unseen examinations and coursework.

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