MSc in Business and Management Research (part-time) **UCAS code:**
For students entering Part 1 in 2013/4

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Henley Greenlands
Programme length:	18 months
Date of specification:	16/Jun/2016
Programme Director:	
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Post-Experience Postgraduate Programmes
Accreditation:	AMBA, 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

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

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

The programme comprises four compulsory one-week workshops (plus optional activities from time to time). These are designed to build the Programme Member's knowledge and understanding of the research process, to enhance their skills by providing in-depth teaching and discussion and to enable practical experience of various methods and techniques. The compulsory workshops are:

Research and Personal Development	First week
Research Methods	Month 5
Qualitative Methods	Month 10
Quantitative Methods	Month 13

A number of assessed elements are required for progression through the programme, as follows:

MDD1ROI	Research Outline Interview	10	7
MDD1WP	Working Paper	30	7
MDD1CM	CDP1 Research Competencies	20	7
MDD1QTA	Quantitative Assignment	20	7
MDD1QLA	Qualitative Assignment	20	7
MDD1TC	Thesis Critique	20	7
MDD1PS	Pilot Study	10	7
MDD1RP	Research Proposal	50	7
MDD1CDP	CDP2 Plan: Personal and Consultancy Targets	0	7

Progression requirements

Assessment of the taught modules is continuous throughout the 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: Working Paper (Scoping Literature Review) and Research Methodology
- One assessment from: Qualitative Data Analysis, Quantitative Data Analysis and Thesis Critique (Evaluating Research)
- One assessment from: the Pilot Study and the Research Proposal

The programme may lead to progression to the DBA programme, which is assessed by means of 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.

The programme also includes an important element of competency development. This is achieved by the completion of a Competency Development instrument and the submission of one competency development review output during the MSc (The Research Methodology assessment). The competency instrument is used to evaluate strengths and development needs in the areas of Research, Consultancy and Personal Development.

Programme Members are required to present their work for assessment at least once per year of study at a Henley Research Colloquium.

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

Assessment and classification

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 have an assessment, the nature of which varies according to the aims of the module. The ‘Introduction to Research' module is assessed by presentation and all other assessment involves the submission of written assignments. 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 students and their learning
University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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 advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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 and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

Henley Business School provides a range of support for programme members and their learning. The Academic Resource Centre (ARC) is an on-site information resource at the Greenlands campus which holds an extensive and carefully selected collection of print and electronic resources, including remote access to a wide range of items, such as 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 Blackboard 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 learning materials as well as links to materials within the ARC.

Pastoral care is provided from several sources but a key part is played by Mentors. Each Programme Member is allocated a Mentor from the very start of the programme, 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 or 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 learning

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 usually 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
None

Placement opportunities

Programme Outcomes

<div align="center">Knowledge and Understanding</div>

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. The range of knowledge, theory, specialisms and philosophical paradigms that underpin research in the field of business and management	There are four compulsory 1-week workshops covering the following topics:
	• Introduction to Research
	• Research Methodology
	• Qualitative Techniques
2. Qualitative and quantitative approaches to research and their related epistemological perspectives	• Quantitative Techniques In addition there are a number of optional workshops together with

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

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.

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. Construct, collect, 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

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.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Assessment

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.