

Programme Specification

BSc Agricultural Business Management

For students entering Part 1 in September 2016

UCAS Code: D4N2

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BSc Agricultural Business Management with Industrial Training - 4 years

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with an appreciation of business management and agriculture, with the ability to pursue careers in commercial and practical management within agriculture and related industries.

The objectives of the degree are to:

- Develop the student's understanding of the economic, technological and organisational principles that underlie the practice of business management, particularly in the agricultural and rural sectors
- Enable the students to learn how to apply such principles to the management of agricultural and other businesses
- Develop a critical appreciation of the techniques and concepts available to assist effective execution of the business management function; and
- Develop the range of personal and transferable skills that are expected from 'Reading Graduates' in order to become successful managers, leaders, advisers and communicators.

Part 1:	Introduces you to the core skills and knowledge through a number of introductory modules examining the social, economic and environmental factors influencing agricultural businesses, in addition to learning about the rural economy that businesses have to function within and issues surrounding food production and security. In addition, students will be given training in economics and the mathematical and statistical ideas used by applied economists and business managers working in the agricultural, food and rural sectors. Learning will be delivered via lectures, practical sessions, case studies and a programme of farm visits and consultancy exercises. Students will also go on a field study tour to see a range of farming types, businesses and systems, particularly those not common in the Reading area, and to encourage team building amongst students.
Part 2:	Provides you with the more demanding aspects of business management and agricultural science building on the learning from Part 1. Students will study crop agronomy and animal production as well as further developing their ability to analyse and interpret data in the context of agricultural businesses.

Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to develop their understanding of business planning and strategy and apply it via real life case studies. This will allow students to prepare for the work place. Students choose and develop a final year research project of their choice culminating in the writing of a dissertation which develops their project management and research skills in an area of interest.
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Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP1A02	Introduction to Agricultural and Food Systems	10	4
AP1A12	Introduction to Crop Production	10	4
AP1A24	Introduction to Livestock Production	10	4
AP1A25	Agriculture in Practice	20	4
AP1AE20	Humans and the Environment	10	4
AP1EE1	Economics 2	10	4
AP1EE3	Economics 1	10	4
AP1EQ4	Quantitative Methods 1	10	4
AP1SB1	Introduction to Management	10	4

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and across the University, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or pathways such that the students can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations. Students also have the option to select a language module.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP2A20	Agricultural Field Study Tour (Agric and ABM)	10	5
AP2A36	Animal Production	10	5
AP2A61	Experimentation and Data Analysis	10	5
AP2A64	Farm Business Management	20	5
AP2A66	Crop Agronomy	20	5
AP2EQ1	Research Methods and Data Analysis	10	5
AP2SB2	Financial Management	10	5

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and across the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director and timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or pathways such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations. Students also have the option to select a language module.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

If you are undertaking a year-long placement or a year-long study abroad, students will take one 120 credit module as follows:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP2PP1	Professional Placement	120	5
Or			
AP2SA3*	Professional Placement with Study Abroad Experience	120	5

As part of the Industrial Training Year, students have the option to take either a full year (minimum of 40 weeks) in full time employment or, with approval from the module convenor and programme director, a shorter work placement (minimum of 20 weeks) combined with a study abroad semester. *Students will only be eligible for AP2SA3 if they meet the criteria and if places are available in overseas institutions – places are not guaranteed.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits
AP3A54	Business Management (Case Studies)	20
AP3A81	Dissertation	40
AP3A82	Business Planning and Control	20

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules mainly from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and across the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or pathways such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations.

Additional costs of the programme

You should ensure that you bring with you to University a pair of wellington boots (£15) and/or sturdy footwear e.g. walking boots (£50 – 100) for farm visits (should you need to purchase these, approximate costs are in brackets).

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2016.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

If you take the 4 year degree with Industrial Training, you are required to undertake a compulsory placement as part of your Programme (see section above on Placement). You will be supported in finding this placement.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, seminars/tutorials, laboratory and field practicals and supervised project work.

The contact hours for your Programme will be approximately 250-300 hours in Part 1, 250-300 hours in Part 2 and 200 - 250 hours in Part 3 and will depend upon your module combination; however information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module descriptions.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework, assessed via a range of methods.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Part 1

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 of this programme, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1 and

(iii) achieve a credit weighted average mark of not less than 40% over the compulsory modules; and

(iv) a mark of not less than 30% in each compulsory module.

If you gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Certificate of Higher Education. The Part 1 Examination does not contribute to the classification of your degree.

Part 2

The Part 2 examination is used to assess a student's suitability to proceed to Part 3 of their programme. It also determines eligibility for the Diploma of Higher Education. In addition, the marks achieved in the Part 2 Examination contribute to the classification of your degree.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, student must achieve a threshold performance at Part 2. If you gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Diploma of Higher Education.

Placement Year/Year Abroad (or combination thereof)

Students are required to pass their year out in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the placement year, study abroad year or combination thereof.

Students who fail the placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Four-year programmes, including placement year or study abroad:

Normally:

Part 2 one-third

Placement Year not included in classification

Part 3 two-thirds

(Where a student fails a placement year or study abroad year, which does not contribute to classification they transfer to the three-year version of the programme)

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BSc Agricultural Business Management for students entering Part 1 in session 2016/17
20 March 2017

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