

Programme Specification

MSc International Business

For students entering in September 2018

PFTINTBUS1YM

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	12 months
Accreditation	
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

This programme pathway examines the strategic choices multinational enterprises (MNEs) need to make to compete in an increasingly global economy, while simultaneously paying close attention to the development and policy challenges that the actions of multinational firms create in an interdependent world, both from a developing and developed country perspective. This requires a holistic view of the international business environment, in terms of the competitive and investment milieu, which in turn is determined by the policies and regulations established by governments and supra-national institutions. The programme introduces conceptual frameworks and practical methodologies that make sense of the interaction between firm strategies, economic and development policies and changing environments in a rapidly globalising world.

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. They will also need to enhance their skills in communications (both written and oral), information handling, and analysis of context and cases in development. Students will work under pressure of time throughout the programme and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines. Career planning will be an integral part of the programme, both in the choice of programme and in its elective components. Graduates will have developed an international and multicultural perspective on business and will have also developed the managerial, professional and ethical skills required to become an effective global citizen in an international organisation. Graduates will therefore demonstrate a range of cognitive, personal and intellectual skills and techniques specific to International Business. They should be aware of cultural differences and the different approaches of a range of international students and be able to make adaptations to their natural styles to overcome difficulties. They will therefore need to develop and demonstrate relevant personal and interpersonal skills.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
MMM001	International Strategic Management	20	7
MMM056	Economics of International Business	20	7
MMM057	Contemporary Issues in International Business	20	7
MMM071	International Business Environment	20	7
MMM073	Theories of the Multinational Enterprise	20	7
MMM095	Multinational Enterprise, Strategy and Performance	20	7
MMM070	Study and Research Skills (non credit-bearing)	0	7

Compulsory text:

Students must choose THREE optional modules to the value of 60 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant handbook.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

This programme is only available for full time study.

Additional costs of the programme

There are no textbooks which you must buy and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs.

A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, electronic resources and computer facilities, are available through the Central Library and the Business School Academic Resource Centre.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically. Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

Optional modules:

Students must choose 60 credits of option modules so as to complete a total of 180 credits.

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 any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. 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

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery:

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.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 290 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms reflecting the aims of the module. Final assessment of the modules usually involves a two hour examination and coursework. A project supervisor is appointed for each student.

Assessment of taught modules in the Summer Term (April/May). Re-assessment of failed modules in August. Submission of the Contemporary Issues in International Business Project (about 8,000 words, which all students must undertake) in mid-August or a month thereafter where there are re-sits/first sittings.

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 dissertation or project.

Classification

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 a Master's degree

To qualify for Distinction, students must gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 60 or more for the Contemporary Issues in International Business Project and must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 50 or more for the Contemporary Issues in International Business Project, and must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for a Pass, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 50 or more for the Contemporary Issues in International Business Project. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

For a PG Diploma

To qualify for Distinction, students must gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits and must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits and must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Pass, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

For a PG Certificate

To qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.