

Programme Specification

PPTCENBPDIDM

MA Board Practice and Directorship

(incorporating **PGCert Board Practice and Directorship**
and **PGDip Board Practice and Directorship**)

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For students entering in 2021/22

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	24 months with a 48 month registration period
Accreditation	AACSB, EQUIS
Programme Start Dates	Various

Programme information and content

The MA in Board Practice and Directorship is a postgraduate, post experience qualification programme that aims:

To provide participants with knowledge and understanding for enhancing director performance, applied research in governance, along with the skills necessary to complete a real world board level business challenge.

Today's typical organisational governance and strategic oversight challenges are impacted by globalisation; managing across borders; technological and digitalisation platforms; security; that place a greater demand on governance structures and strategic mechanisms to better enable highly capable empowered board members to dynamically assemble and disassemble the right strategic structures and capabilities (skills/knowledge/people). The board pressures are to multi-task; manage time; have up-to- date quality information; resolve dilemmas and engage collaboratively more effectively.

Each organisation and board is unique, where both are continuously influenced by external and internal factors for which research has to deliver timely, context specific, relevant solutions for higher impact.

This is a practice focused programme where each proposal includes self-development and a real live board level governance issue/dilemma/case that needs addressing. The objectives are:

- 1) To critically understand the characteristics and issues for enhanced director performance, research of governance problems and innovations at board level.

2) To contextually examine a unique board governance challenge for improving board effectiveness.

3) To demonstrate a positive impact from the applied research intervention to a real world governance issue, that benefits sustainability as outcome.

4) To share the key learning as a framework/model that is useful for director board/governance practices.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory modules. Each stage consists of 60 credits.

Compulsory Modules:

	Module	Name	Credits	Level
PGCert	MQM1BDE	Building Board and Director Effectiveness	20	7
	MQM1IRG	Investor Relations, Governance and Innovation	20	7
	MQM1HRB	Handling Risks at Board Level	20	7
PGDip	MQM2BIC	Board Information and Communications	20	7
	MQM2BRR	Board Reputation, Responsibility and Public Relations	20	7
	MQM2MCB	Mentoring and Coaching for Board Directors	20	7
MA	MQM3RAS	Research and Analytical Skills	0	7
	MQM3PPT	Private, Public or Third Sector Boards	0	7
	MQM3PBC	Practice Based Business Challenge	40	7
	MQM3BAC	Board Annual Conference	20	7

Compulsory text:

All modules on this programme are compulsory.

PATHWAYS

N/A

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The full MA programme comprises of the certificate, diploma and full master's stages as outlined above, and is being delivered as a part-time modular course. Students have the option to exit or take a stage break at the end of each stage of the programme, subject to the registration period outlined above.

Additional costs of the programme

N/A

Optional modules:

There are no optional modules on this programme.

Placement opportunities

N/A unless through a pre-agreed partnering institution.

It is anticipated that programme members on the MA programme will normally be in board level appointments for the duration of the programme.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Methods typically associated with learning transmission:

- Lectures and presentations – face to face or online with digital support materials
- Self-study; directed and self-directed, online using web-based resources or paper-based materials
- Research
- Collaborative learning
- Case studies
- Engagement with expert panel
- Set exercises
- Question and answers (oral and written)
- Workshops and group activities
- Problem solving
- One-to-one interviews
- Assignments
- Personal diary logs

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 212 hours which will include 15 full day workshops.

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

All Henley Business School programmes are accredited by the EFMD Quality Improvement System and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

Assessment

Certificate stage:

Each of the modules is assessed by an individual assignment and case- study analysis.

Diploma stage:

Modules are assessed by an individual assignment and case-study analysis.

Participants are additionally expected to maintain a reflective diary log.

The elective module Elective Mentoring and Coaching is assessed on reflective diary entries narrative and one-to-one interviews.

MA Stage:

Participants are expected to attend and participate in non-credit bearing modules in Research and Analytical Skills and a Practice Sector based module to prepare them for Master's level assignments. Participants are additionally expected to maintain a reflective diary log.

The Business Challenge module includes a six month board level business challenge that will be assessed as a written report.

At Master' s stage the Annual Conference module is assessed as abstract and full paper that will be submitted for and presented at the annual conference.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

The pass mark for all assessments is 50%. Programme members who fail an assessment are permitted one re-sit/resubmission per module at an appropriate point in the programme schedule. The mark for any resubmission will be capped at 50%. Students must also pass the non credit-bearing modules MQM3RAS and MQM3PPT which are marked as Pass/Fail.

If a programme participant does not re-submit within the specified time from the first assessment without an agreed extenuating circumstance a mark of zero will be awarded for that assessment. Students must pass all the modules they participate in.

It is normally expected that all the modules in each stage are completed prior to entry to the next stage of the MA.

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 Masters Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 50.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 50.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) Students must not have any mark below 50,

In addition, for all classifications above, students must obtain a Pass in MQM3RAS and MQM3PPT (non credit-bearing)

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) students must not have any mark below 50.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) students must not have any mark below 50.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) students must not have any mark below 50.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- (ii) students must not have any mark below 50.

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.

MA Board Practice and Directorship for students entering in session 2021/22

October 2020

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