

Programme Specification

MSc International Business (full-time)

PFTZINTBUSHM

For students entering in 2027/28

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	MSc International Business (full-time) - 12 months
Accreditation	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS)
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	QAA Type 1: Specialist master's degrees

Programme information and content

This programme 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. Students 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.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc International Business (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Critically evaluate key academic concepts within management in the context of international business.
2	Assess and evaluate various sources of information (both qualitative and quantitative) relevant to the context of international organisations.
3	Develop and apply critical thinking and analytical skills in the context of international business.
4	Communicate complex information clearly and effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences (both specialist and non-specialist), drawing on original creative thinking through a synthesis of different academic and practical knowledge relevant within your chosen professional field.
5	Apply investigative, inquiry, and research skills required for gathering and making sense of various sources of information from a range of cultures.
6	Apply approaches that encourage positive outcomes, demonstrating an appreciation of diversity and multiculturalism in order to promote fairness and inclusivity in the context of international businesses, working in teams as a microcosm of wider society.
7	Develop practical experience of real business situations (where appropriate via simulations) in order to showcase your ability to explain and critically evaluate the global context in which organisations operate through the lens of key academic concepts within management.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

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

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
MMM001	International Strategic Management	20	M
MMM071	International Business Environment	20	M
MMM095	Multinational Enterprise Strategy and Performance	20	M
MMM143	International Business and the World Economy	20	M
MMM172	Managing Across Borders	20	M
MMM173	The Evolution of Multinational Enterprises	20	M

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Henley Business School.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

This programme is only available for full time study.

Placement opportunities

Students can opt to take MMM175 Work Placement and Project, which includes a placement opportunity.

Study abroad opportunities

Students can opt to take MMM156 International Applied Challenge, which includes an opportunity to engage in an international study visit with a partner university.

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

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.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS)

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests) and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

N/A

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 Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

[An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits]

[AND

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a

mark of at least 60% in the dissertation]

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

[An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits]

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits

(iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

[An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits]

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

[An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits]

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

(ii) no credits with a mark below 40%

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

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.

Students can choose the International Applied Challenge at a foreign study visit location either virtually or via direct travel (following institutional decision). In the latter case, students may need to fund travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs, alongside visa costs if applicable. If students choose the Work Placement & Project module, they will be responsible for all costs concerned with undertaking the work placement.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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.

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20 August 2026

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