

International Business and Management MSc Programme Specification

Academic Year:	2026/2027
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Target Degree Award:	Master of Science (MSc) International Business and Management [Level 7]
Intermediate Awards:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) or Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) [Level 7]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students
Programme Start Month:	September or January
Programme Duration:	12 months full-time (September intake); 15 months full-time (January intake); 15 months full time (May intake)
Subject Benchmark:	Master's in Business and Management (Quality Assurance Agency 2019)

The MSc International Business and Management award is recognised to provide exemptions by [The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants \(ACCA\)](#). This means that by successfully completing the programme, students are eligible for credit towards professional examinations.

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford is accepted. [View our Student Contract for further details](#). Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Minor Modifications Schedule

1. July 2025: Annual Changes for the 2025 academic year, including changes to academic regulation.
2. May 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry including changes to modes of study.

Programme Overview

In accordance with the University's mission 'Making Knowledge Work', the School of Management aims to provide programmes that educate students as a manager and business specialist and thus improve the quality of management as a profession.

The Master's in International Business and Management is aligned with the expertise within the International Business Marketing and Branding Research Centre and is designed to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills in business and management as well as to reflect best practice and innovative thinking and research in international business to enhance their utility and employability in this field. The programme cultivates the ethos of an engaging

and inclusive learning community that is responsive to different learning styles and allows each student to develop to their full potential.

The Master's in International Business and Management is grounded in the main concepts and theories that focus on key elements of contemporary international business and views from a strategic perspective. The programme is supported by experienced academics associated with the International Business Marketing and Branding Research Centre. Members of this research centre have a reputation in the field and provide significant insights into key areas of international management. The aim is to produce fully rounded managers by combining international business and management with a detailed treatment of other subjects concerned with the management of organisations. Throughout this programme, students will have opportunities to develop research and analytical skills, real-life problem-solving capacities, and the personal and interpersonal skills needed to succeed prepare individuals for employment. This programme will appeal to those who wish to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to their studies and have an international orientation towards business and management.

Further, there are many opportunities to take part in exciting extra-curricular activities. The Faculty's own Career Booster professional development programme will offer opportunities to advance intellectual and employability skills (e.g. critical thinking, communication, team work, problem solving). The School of Management is dynamic with a diverse and active Faculty and wider University. It arranges numerous events and opportunities each semester beyond the taught modules to engage with not only academic but also policy and practitioner events and issues. These include invited speakers, seminars, workshops, activities and conferences.

The programme is commensurate with the UK QAA Benchmark for a Type 2 (Career Entry) Master's Degree in Business and Management and is suitable for students from a wide range of backgrounds with first degrees in any subject from an approved university, or an acceptable professional qualification. Structured in three distinct stages (see below for further details) the programme represents 1800 hours of study or 180 UK credits, necessary for the award of a Master's degree.

On graduation from this programme students will have developed a portfolio of work that demonstrates competence and employability and will thus be well-placed to access a range of career opportunities in international business and management. Therefore, graduates from this programme will be able to contribute to business and society as a whole whilst applying the highest professional standards and will be capable of identifying their own professional development requirements. Equipped with the skills, knowledge and critical faculties required to operate and thrive in the contemporary business environment, these graduates will be ideally placed to pursue a career in a wide range of international business environments.

This MSc degree programme offers exemptions from professional examinations in the UK and internationally for the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA). This means you can save time and money if you choose to pursue certification after completing this course. Exemption details can be found on the [ACCA Exemptions Calculator](#) website.

Programme Structure and Student Journey

The International Business and Management MSc programme comprises a taught component and a research element. The students will study 120 credits of taught modules and undertake 60 credits of independent research projects which culminates in the writing of their dissertation.

There are two cohorts of students in each academic year- a September and January intake. The two cohorts run alongside each other, with students in January studying modules in a different order to the September intake. The January intake will commence the programme by studying semester 2 modules and complete the taught element of their programme alongside the September cohort. However, they start their dissertation in the summer by choosing their topic and knowing their supervisors. The January intake will have until March of the following year to complete their dissertation/advanced research report, thereby completing their studies in 15 months.

This programme is completed within 4 semesters. Students entering the full-time programme in September or January will study modules in a different order to each other as follows:

Table 1: Student journey comparison between September and January start

September Start	Study Period and Year	January Start
Start Taught Component with Semester 1 Modules	Autumn Semester 1, Year 1	/
Conclude Taught Component with Semester 2 Modules. Start Dissertation.	Spring Semester 2, Year 1	Start Taught Component with Semester 2 Modules
Continuation of Dissertation.	Summer Semester 3, Year 1	Start Dissertation.
Submission of Dissertation in September - complete programme. Graduation in December.	Autumn Semester 1, Year 2	Conclude Taught Component with Semester 2 Modules. Continuance of Dissertation.
/	Spring Semester 2, Year 2	Submission of Dissertation in March - complete programme.
/	Summer Semester 3, Year 2	Graduation in July.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- A1. Develop management professionals with a sound theoretical understanding of organisational activities, the interrelationships that exist between them and the complexities that arise in the international management of these.
- A2. Develop students' competence in a range of analytical and personal skills necessary to enable them to make an effective and immediate contribution to the performance of an organisation in a range of functional areas.

- A3. Develop a critical awareness of the current issues affecting the multinational/ international context and the knowledge, skills and expertise to assist organisations in achieving a sustainable business future.
- A4. Help those with knowledge and expertise in other disciplines to make the transition to the business and management world and assist them in developing their existing skills and knowledge within the business and management context.
- A5. Provide the knowledge and skills to assist students to take an active role in their future development as professional managers in a dynamic and changing global environment and to contribute effectively to their chosen profession.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Degree award of Master will be able to:

- 1. Explain the context in which organisations conduct their business and how the business environment influences strategic and operational decision making in a national and international context.
- 2. Describe in detail the functional activities of a business and the difficulties and management complexities that arise because of the interrelationships that exist between them.
- 3. Effectively communicate complex ideas clearly, both orally and in writing to a broad range of recipients.
- 4. Critically discuss and evaluate the key issues in cross-border organisations and how this impacts the international business environment and the management of strategy and expectations in the constituent countries.
- 5. Synthesise and critically appraise emerging information and knowledge using quantitative and qualitative techniques to generate creative solutions to a range of business problems.
- 6. Develop solutions to complex business problems through the application of appropriate theoretical models, frameworks, and decision support techniques.
- 7. Develop original solutions to complex problems, and to work cooperatively with others providing ethical leadership in effecting change.
- 8. Develop the knowledge and skills required to practice as a professional manager through critical self-awareness and reflective practice skills.
- 9. Design, conduct and manage research into a range of business and management issues/activities to inform the development of business strategies.

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategy for this programme is based on principles of constructive alignment, diversity and inclusion. It employs a well-developed range of formative and summative assessments tasks which are designed to help students to develop and demonstrate knowledge

and understanding as well as a skill set in accordance with the learning outcomes for the programme overall and for specific modules. Our overall strategy aims to develop ability to succeed in a global context, and to assist individuals to take effective roles within them in a balanced and diverse range of assessment tasks.

The formative assessment strategy includes monitoring student's learning throughout each semester, using a range of class and seminar activities, personal tutors, project supervision and a variety of coursework, including essays, reflective notes, literature reviews, oral or audio-visual presentations, and group and individual tasks for which formative feedback is given.

The programme is summatively assessed by a mixture of assessed coursework, case studies, group projects and multimedia presentations. Assessment is integrated with learning and teaching to support and demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes for individual modules and the programme as a whole.

Learning outcomes 1, 2, 3 are focused on knowledge of international business and management. They are assessed by a mixture of individual pieces of coursework and group work, including [multimedia] presentations.

Learning outcomes 4, 5 and 6 are focused on subject specific skills aimed to equip students with the practical ability to contribute in their chosen profession. They are assessed by a mixture of individual pieces of coursework and group work, including [multimedia] presentations.

Learning Outcomes 7, 8 and 9 are focused on the transferable skills that are so important to employability, such as communication, practical creativity and self-awareness. They are assessed by a mixture of individual coursework, group coursework, individual and group presentations (including multi-media), and individual coursework.

The dissertation is a capstone module assessing all learning outcomes. The dissertation involves carrying out an extended piece of written work involving an original and in-depth investigation of a programme-specific issue.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

This programme aims at integrating applied and theoretical knowledge with assessment processes that test both knowledge of the discipline and understanding of its application and limitations. The learning and teaching strategy put significant emphasis on the development of analytical, practical, and interpersonal skills. Throughout the programme, students will be actively engaged in a diverse range of learning activities designed to develop your capacities for thoughtful analysis and reflective practice online and face to face. Teaching on the programme will take different formats and will be directed, supported and reinforced through a combination of online lectures, tutorial, face to face on campus, small group seminars, group task and discussions, simulations, personal research and guided self-study, and directed reading. Sessions may be delivered weekly or in blocks. Small group sessions will use case studies and simulations with formative feedback given in class. Students will be guided to suitable primary and secondary data sources and be required to conduct research and presentation exercises. These activities will all be further supported by the use of a virtual learning environment.

In addition to learning within modules, personal academic tutors will support individual academic development, by helping in analysing learning needs, developing appropriate learning strategies that enable students to reflect on their own progress. Building many and varied opportunities to engage with and learn from each other into the programme is integral to fostering an inclusive learning environment. University wide there is support available for students for academic skills, information literacy and programming language learning.

Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations for postgraduate taught courses published on the University's Website ([Regulation 9](#)).

Award of the Masters degree requires 180 FHEQ Level 7 credits and achievement of the award learning outcomes. Students who exit the programme with 120 or 60 credits completed may be eligible for an intermediate award in line with the regulations.

Curriculum

The Master's degree in International Business and Management is built on a foundation of general management and International Business modules.

This programme also provides the opportunity for granular personalised learning and specialism where students can choose a module option in Semester 2 and/or attend the International Master's Summer School.

Table 2: International Business and Management Modules (cores/options) FHEQ Level 7

Code	Module Title	Credit	Period	Selection
SIB7501-B	Strategic Management	20	Sem 1	Core
MAR7501-B	Marketing Planning & Strategy	20	Sem 1	Core
SIB7508-A	Economics for Global Business	10	Sem 1	Core
SIB7509-A	Multinational Corporations in Emerging Economies	10	Sem 1	Core
SIB7503-B	Globalisation and Contemporary Issues in International Business	20	Sem 2	Core
SIB7502-B	Principles and Practices of International Business	20	Sem 2	Core
SIB7504-A	Cross Cultural Management	10	Sem 2	Core
SIB7506-A	International Master's Summer School	10	Sem 3	Option 1
SIB7505-A	Corporate Social Responsibility	10	Sem 2	Option 2
SIB7504-A	Cross Cultural Management	10	Sem 2	Option 3
SIB7510-A	Global Corporate Governance	10	Sem 2	Option 4
AFE7508-A	International Finance	10	Sem 2	Option 5
EAE7501-A	Entrepreneurship and Innovation	10	Sem 2	Option 6
SIB7507-Z	International Master's Summer School (attendance only)	0	Sem 3	Option

This programme offers the Summer School as attendance only (Z) which allows you to select a second taught Semester 2 module within your 10 available credits. You may not study SIB7506-A and SIB7507-Z together.

The final stage involves the completion of the Dissertation which is an extended piece of written work involving an original and in-depth investigation of a programme-specific issue. The Dissertation module stands for 60 credits and also includes a block of taught teaching on research methods. Research methods will provide students with the necessary training to enable a systematic understanding of elements such as research contribution, research design, data collection and quantitative analysis methods, which will assist them in completing their own individual research project.

Students entering the programme full-time in September are due to submit their dissertation after 12 months. Students entering the programme in January are due to submit their dissertation after 15 months.

Table 3: International Business and Management Dissertation (FHEQ Level 7)

Code	Module Title	Credit	Period	Availability
MAL7501-E	Dissertation	60	NsYear	September starters submit the following September
MAL7501-E	Dissertation	60	NsYear	January starters submit the following March
MAL7501-E	Dissertation	60	NsYear	May starters submit the following July

Study Abroad Opportunities

This programme is not designed to include a study abroad component. However, students can choose to study abroad for Semester 1 or Semester 2 at specified approved partner Universities. This “study abroad semester” is a cost- and time-effective way of getting international experience alongside your education.

Any student wishing to study abroad for a semester should first contact the International Opportunities Team to explore the opportunities and funding in place and, secondly, the Faculty Exchange Coordinator to check if the available options and relevant modules are in line with the University requirements. Following these checks, the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator will liaise with the relevant Programme Leader to validate the modules and the semester exchange. Further information about [study abroad opportunities](#) is published on the University’s website.

The list of Study Abroad Semester partners is a subset of the Study Abroad partners offered and changes year-to-year depending on the curriculum offered. This option can be available ONLY if the modules offered by the host institution allow the student to meet the learning outcomes of the Bradford Programme Stage.

The semester exchange requires students to study only modules suitable to the Bradford programme stage when abroad. Therefore, all modules selected for the exchange will have to be mapped to the Bradford programme learning outcomes and be approved by the Programme leader in Bradford in advance of the exchange. During the exchange, if the student needs to change the modules, this can only be done after approval of the Bradford Programme Leader. If the student fails a module abroad, the student must explore the possibility of re-taking any exams at the host university and immediately inform the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator.

During the exchange, students will have support from the relevant University services. All credit successfully obtained whilst on study abroad semester will count towards the students final degree.

Admission Requirements

We are proud to be [one of the most inclusive universities in the UK](#). All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances.

We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant's potential to thrive at university and beyond.

As the programme is taught in English, all applicants are required to have proficiency at GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English Language. Alternative RQF Level 2 qualifications such as Key Skills are also acceptable if equivalent. For international students, the level of English required is listed on the [University of Bradford English language requirements website](#).

Exceptionally, holders of a UK degree awarded within 2 years prior to entry to the Bradford programme may be exempt from these English test requirements. International applicants who do not meet the IELTS requirement can take a [University of Bradford pre-sessional English course](#).

A typical entry profile for the MSc International Business and Management will be an undergraduate bachelors degree passed at 50%, such as a UK Honours degree classified 2:2 or above, or its equivalent in any discipline from an approved higher education institution. This is generally equivalent to an International degree grade percentile average (GPA) of 2.5 out of 4.0 or 6.5 out of 10, or overall average of 70 from 100%. Examples of other equivalent international qualifications are provided on the [University of Bradford page for a country or region](#).

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications and students returning to study (aged over 25 years of age on entry). Equivalent professional qualifications will also be eligible if supported with appropriate practical experience. For such applicants, evidence of interests and any work experience will be assessed by interview.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about [recognition of prior learning decisions](#) on the University website.

People thinking of studying with the University of Bradford don't need to wait for the start of the year to contact our Disability Service. The University can arrange for anyone to talk to this team about what support is on offer at Bradford including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the [request support form](#).

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/international-business-and-management/>