

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	MSc International Business (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Certificate PG Diploma
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Birkbeck Business School
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September, January* (*for full-time only)
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMSBUINL_C TMSBUINJ_C (January start)
HECoS Code	100080
Start date of programme	Prior to 2008/9
Date of programme approval	Prior to 2008/9
Date of last programme amendment approval	April 2024
Valid for academic entry year	2024-25
Programme Director	Dr Odile Janne
Date of last revision to document	19/04/2024

Admissions requirements

1. Normally a second class honours degree in any area.
2. An overseas qualification of an equivalent standard obtained after a programme of study extending over not less than three years in a university or educational institution of university rank.
3. A professional or other qualification obtained by written examinations approved by the college.
4. Relevant experience may be taken into consideration in the case of non-standard applications.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

The programme provides a comprehensive and rigorous postgraduate education in the field of international business. It is most suitable for graduates who are in, or seek to, pursue a career in management with multinational companies or companies engaged in international business, or relevant government departments, non-government organisations, and international agencies involved in or related to international business.

The programme also provides a foundation for those wishing to undertake doctoral research in international business.

Distinct Features:

The MSc International Business promotes interdisciplinary study in the field of international business. It provides graduates with a critical research-based knowledge and expertise of a broad range of key issues in international business and management and the opportunity to focus on specific areas of study according to their personal interests or career requirements. These areas include strategy, marketing, human resource management, business ethics, globalisation, sustainability, and development. It also provides core training in principles of international business, business analytics and research methods.

Graduates of the MSc International Business will have developed knowledge, skills, and competencies to be able to:

- Analyse problems in international business, both in conceptual and practical terms;
- Carry out research in the field of international business and management, in terms of critical appraisal; theory development; and the application of theories, concepts and principles with the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods; and
- Understand international business and the multi-disciplinary context in which this knowledge exists.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year, October start					
7	BUMN176H7	Introduction to Analytics and Business	15	Compulsory	T1
7	MOMN007H7	International Business: Theories and Issues	15	Compulsory	T1
7	BUMN004H7	International Human Resource Management	15	Compulsory	T1
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	Compulsory	T2
7	MOMN009H7	International Business Strategy	15	Compulsory	T2
7	MOMN075H7	International Business and Sustainable Development	15	Compulsory	T3
7	MOMN074H7	Globalization: forces, players and management	15	Compulsory	T3
7	MOMN032H7	International Business Ethics	15	Compulsory	T3
7	BUMN184Z7	PG Dissertation Preparation	0	Compulsory	
7	BUMN061D7	MSc Dissertation	60	Core	
Full-time – 1 year, January 2025 start					
Spring and Summer terms 2025					
7	BUMN004H7	International Human Resource Management	15	compulsory	Spring
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	compulsory	Spring
7	MOMN009H7	International Business Strategy	15	compulsory	Spring
7	MOMN032H7	International Business Ethics	15	compulsory	Summer
7	MOMN075H7	International Business and Sustainable Development	15	compulsory	Summer
7	MOMN074H7	Globalization: forces, players and management	15	compulsory	Summer
7	BUMN184Z7	PG Dissertation Preparation	0	compulsory	
Autumn term 2025					
7	BUMN176H7	Introduction to Analytics and Business	15	compulsory	Autumn
7	MOMN007H7	International Business: Theories and Issues	15	compulsory	Autumn
7	BUMN061D7	MSc Dissertation	60	Core	
Part-time- 2 years, October start					
Year 1					
7	BUMN176H7	Introduction to Analytics and Business	15	compulsory	T1
7	MOMN007H7	International Business: Theories and Issues	15	Compulsory	T1
7	MOMN009H7	International Business Strategy	15	Compulsory	T2

7	MOMN075H7	International Business and Sustainable Development	15	compulsory	T3
7	MOMN074H7	Globalization: forces, players and management	15	Compulsory	T3
Year 2					
7	BUMN004H7	International Human Resource Management	15	Compulsory	T1
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	Compulsory	T2
7	MOMN032H7	International Business Ethics	15	Compulsory	T3
7	BUMN184Z7	PG Dissertation Preparation	0	Compulsory	
7	BUMN061D7	MSc Dissertation	60	Core	

T1=Autumn term, T2=Spring Term T3=Summer term

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (see relevant section below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures (pre-recorded) and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

Essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, practical assessments (of your work in a lab/studio), case studies, problems to solve.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

Subject Specific:

- A critical understanding of international business in relation to the related fields of management, business, and organisation studies, including knowledge of the foundation literatures and understanding and awareness of current research trends.
- A critical awareness of current research and research issues in a selection of specialist topics within the field of international business.
- A critical and thorough understanding of a broad range of qualitative and quantitative social science research methodologies, their epistemological underpinnings, and their specific application in management and business research methods.
- Critical thinking and independent judgment to confront a whole range of issues in international business, both in conceptual and practical terms.

The learning outcomes have been developed in response to important external factors such as the need in the labour market for graduates of a rigorous, postgraduate education in international business and management that imparts a broad range of academic skills as well as employment-related training involving personal, skills development and other transferable or generic skills. Inter-collegiate and external examiners, the ESRC and research colleagues in other Schools and universities as well as the practice of constant monitoring of similar programmes offered elsewhere also provided important external factors to the development of learning outcomes.

Internal factors have also played a key role in developing the learning outcomes. The postgraduate programmes in International Business are research-based, with each module taught by an active researcher in that area. Current research developments within each module are, consequently, an important internal factor determining its learning outcomes. Other important internal factors are student feedback mechanisms, which are in place as part of effective quality assurance procedures to identify and address student concerns. These include the regular meetings of the Postgraduate Student Staff Liaison Committee held once a term, comments received directly from students via e-mail and other forms of communication, and student evaluation questionnaires in respect of individual modules and the programme as a whole.

Intellectual:

- The ability to analyse both quantitative and qualitative data, including the use of advanced qualitative and quantitative methods.
- General transferable cognitive skills in analytical and critical reasoning, including the ability to understand abstract ideas and relate these to practice.

Practical

- An understanding of research design and the formulation and analysis of research questions.
- The ability to conduct an independent research investigation in an academically rigorous and ethically responsible way, selecting and employing sound research methods appropriate to the topic of study and relating the study to both existing research in the field and to practical real-world problems.
- Bibliographic skills, including the ability to conduct literature searches using electronic databases such as the Social Science Citation Index.

Personal and Social:

- Practical transferable communication skills, including in presentation, discussion and writing.
- Practical transferable planning and organisational skills.

Careers and further study

You will find International Business graduates in the following kinds of roles: international business analyst, international economic development analyst, international manager/executive; consultants in the private and public and sectors; working for organizations in the public and private sector, including international organisations.

The MSc International Business also provides a strong foundation for PhD research in the area.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services](#). This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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