MA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, CULTURE AND LANGUAGES
Our MA in International Business, Culture and Languages (IBCL) provides you with the academic and professional skills you need to pursue a career in an international business or organisation.

Key features of our programme

- Top-quality teaching by experienced university academics
- You will join a diverse, international student cohort
- A supportive learning environment with small class sizes
- Work experience integrated into the programme (for a minimum 12-week period)
- Study either full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years)
- Gain work experience anywhere around the world (subject to visa restrictions)
- Pick up a new language from scratch through an additional module
- A dedicated careers service
- Focus on essential transferable skills, in particular: research skills, report writing, presentations, team work capabilities, and effective time management.

What is the IBCL?

The IBCL is an intensive business studies course combined with intercultural communication skills. It is for students who wish to begin a career in international business but haven’t necessarily studied business before.
WHY CHOOSE OXFORD BROOKES?

We understand the need for more teaching contact time through lectures, workshops and tutorials. You’ll learn from experienced, qualified university teachers and have regular face-to-face contact with your tutors.

Studying at Oxford Brookes gives you access to university facilities such as an excellent library and IT resources, sport and leisure facilities, a dedicated student careers service, a nursery, medical and dental facilities and student support services that include academic and personal counselling.
Semester 1 – based on campus in Oxford
You will intensively study the key business concepts that will prepare you for a professional environment. You will take modules that cover:
- Intercultural Communication
- Principles of International Business
- International Management
- EU Institutions and Policies OR Globalisation in the 21st Century

Semester 2 – work placement
From January onwards you will bridge the gap between theory and practice by working for an international organisation for a minimum of 12 weeks. You will complete:
- The core module: The Content of Business Research
- A business research project (10-12,000 words) related to the work placement/environment OR,
- A dissertation (12-15,000 words) on a topic related to business studies, global issues or cultural understanding.

Enhance your language skills
You’ll have the opportunity to take a language module while on campus. You can choose to either learn a new language or upgrade an existing one.

Study on campus
You can choose to write a dissertation while staying on campus rather than completing a work placement if you prefer. This route would suit you if you envisage pursuing further academic study such as a PhD.

Study while you work
If you are already employed in a relevant environment and are able to complete the first semester of study, the rest of the MA can be completed within your current role.

On this course you will be taught by lecturers who draw their modules from both academic and professional careers. This means that you will benefit from their professional experience and connections, whilst learning to apply theory to their real-life examples.

Dr Irène Hill
PhD, MBA, SFHEA
Irène has over 25 years of experience in teaching and consultancy in the UK and across Europe. She is a specialist in EU institutions and Policies, and lecturer in French business and culture. She has advised managers relocating to France or to the UK.

Nigel Bryant
PGDipPM, PGDCS, CertITP, CPsychol, AFBPS, MCIPD
Nigel is a Chartered Occupational Psychologist. His specialist area is Intercultural Communication. Nigel has 30 years of experience working as a HR consultant with multinational companies. He is the author of several articles and books including the recently published Manor Farm, a sequel to George Orwell’s Animal Farm.

Dr Esteban Devis-Amaya
PhD, MSc
Esteban has a background in academia, and has studied at the University of Southampton and the London School of Economics. He has a PhD in Transnational Studies and an MSc in Global Politics. He is a specialist in globalisation, migration and identity.

Mark Hull
MBA, BSc (Econ), FRSA
Mark is a former industrial CEO, consultant and economist. He teaches business, economics and finance at Brookes. He has worked across four continents for small, medium, and large organisations, including IBM, the British Government, and the International Monetary Fund.

Richard Searle-Barnes
MBA, MCIM (Chartered)
Richard’s early career in international publishing with both global and small commercial organisations took him around the world, working in partnership with locally based organisations. Through this work he cultivated his interest in Fair Trade and justice in international trade.
Richard combines business with academia to consider and evaluate different approaches to international economics, supply chain management and how businesses can apply best practice for people, planet and profit.

“This course bridges the gap between language skills and the business knowledge that employers are looking for. The information and support from tutors is invaluable from a business and academic perspective, and also in terms of job applications. During the internship element of the course, I gained valuable experience. This has enabled me to start working for a leading European communications agency following an internship with the European Commission: something I had never considered two years ago.”

Peter Hughes, MA graduate. Peter carried out a placement at the European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection; he is now a Social Media Strategy and Analytics professional.
**WORK PLACEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT**

For your work placement you can choose to be based anywhere in the world. Students have previously secured internships at companies and institutions including:

- United Nations Development Programme
- Oxfam
- OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) in France
- European Commission

The course opens up a wide range of opportunities for careers in publishing, public relations, marketing, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations. It is also a good base for further postgraduate study. Recent graduates have been employed as a:

- Political Analyst (European Commission)
- Operations Assistant (United Nations)
- Global Portfolio Analyst (Heineken International)
- Editor (Oxford University Press)

“We give students the opportunity to use the language and analytical skills they gain during their course and apply them in the working environment.”

PRIME Research UK, student work placement provider

“I couldn’t recommend undertaking a placement highly enough. My internship at Cancer Research UK was an amazing opportunity to apply my knowledge to the non-profit sector. During this year I gained invaluable knowledge, work experience and transferable skills.”

Lubica Trvalcova, graduate, now working for Harley-Davidson Financial Services

“I believe that it is crucial for a student to undertake work experience in order to link academic study to ‘real-world’ employment. On placement, my skills and abilities were enhanced, my confidence improved, and working and studying at the same time emphasised the importance of workplace learning.”

Ambra Garofolo, MA student on placement at Oxford Innovation Services

“The working environment is one of the most positive experiences I’ve had in my working life. The organisation puts the personal development of its employees at the forefront. I was given more responsibilities than I expected to have as an intern. I was able to manage different small projects and had creative freedom in developing communications. As part of their production, I regularly liaised with Oxfam’s communications division, which encompasses copywriters, graphic designers, videographers and photographers. This was definitely a good learning experience for me, because it involved briefing others on specific projects and providing them with feedback on their work. I learned that working with people on a project is a matter of confidence and empathy, as well as how important it is to stay on top of things and communicate frequently about the small steps involved.”

Hanna Krayer, MA graduate who carried out a placement at Oxfam head office in Oxford. Now Marketing and Communication Executive at Oxfam

“My course will definitely help my future career because it has offered me an understanding of business but also of the European Union. Furthermore, this course has helped improve my ability to work in a team, and, by being in a multicultural environment, I have acquired important intercultural skills.”

Alexandra Ciucu, MA graduate, now working as a Marketing Executive in London
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING

Entry requirements
You should normally hold a good first degree. You may also be asked to include a recent piece of academic work (approx. 1000 words in English). A final decision about a candidate’s suitability is normally based on interview, or by alternative arrangement.

Applicants are welcomed from a variety of academic disciplines, as well as those in work and seeking continuing professional development. Admission is normally open to those with a good undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent) or other professional qualification relevant to one of the key areas of study, or an appropriate linguistic background.

Students with a first language other than English are required to give evidence of a good degree as well as minimum IELTS score 6.5, with 6.0 in reading and writing and 5.5 in listening and speaking, or equivalent. For more information see: www.brookes.ac.uk/international

How to apply
Please apply through UCAS Postgraduate.

Funding
- Oxford Brookes graduates are eligible for a 10% discount on postgraduate tuition fees
- The UK government offer postgraduate loans to eligible UK/EU students

Visit our website for details of scholarships, bursaries and other funding sources. www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/finance

10% discount for Oxford Brookes alumni

STUDYING IN OXFORD

Living in Oxford
Oxford is one of the world’s most beautiful and historic cities. With over 30,000 students, it is more than a centre of education and learning - it is also a rich cultural hub with a wealth of cinemas, theatres and museums, far exceeding many other cities of its size.

There is a world of dining opportunities as well as bars, clubs and typically English pubs famous for their legendary customers, including JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis. Performances of live music range from classical concerts at the intimate Holywell Music Room to jazz, reggae, rock and indie at venues such as the O2 Academy on Cowley Road.

Oxford has over 50 parks, meadows and nature reserves to discover as well as Britain’s oldest botanic garden – all ideal spots for a quiet walk or picnic with friends. Of course, your time in Oxford wouldn’t be complete without spending a summer afternoon rowing or punting on the river.

Library resources
In addition to our own excellent libraries and resource centres, Oxford Brookes also offers you access to the world-renowned Bodleian Library - one of the oldest libraries in Europe and home to over 12 million printed items. This is an amazing resource that can be invaluable when completing your dissertation.

Careers Support
You will be offered careers advice and support from your tutors and from specialised counsellors at our Careers and Employment Centre. They provide a drop-in service offering one-to-one career coaching sessions, help with completing job applications and interview practice.
Department of English and Modern Languages

For more information about the IBCL:

www.brookes.ac.uk/IBCL