

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

MSc International Business Economics**Managed by Oxford Brookes Business School**

Date approved:	February 2018
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2020

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended*	Nature of amendment	Reason for amendment
26/4/2018	<p>Following modules were added as compulsory:</p> <p>P58822 / ACFI-7012 P58836 / ACFI-7015 P58865 / ECON-7052</p> <p>Following modules were added as optional:</p> <p>P58837 / ACFI-7016 P58838 / ACFI-7017 P58839 / ACFI-7018</p> <p>Following modules status was changed from comp to Opt:</p> <p>P58872 / BMGT-7043 P58881 / BMGT-7048</p> <p>Following changed from Opt to Comp:</p> <p>P58823 / ACFI-7013</p> <p>Following alt comp modules were deleted:</p> <p>P58833 / BMGT-7028 P58897 / BMGT-7049 P58898 / BMGT-7050 P58819 / BMGT-7024 P58862 / BMGT-7037 P58815 / BMGT-7021</p>	To enhance the economics and finance content within the programme. To teach research methods in a context that is more tailored to economics studies.
28 February 2019	A number of changes were made to the modules on the programme.	To create a more coherent and streamlined offering.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University, Oxford
Language of study:	English
Final award:	Master of Science in International Business Economics
Programme title:	International Business Economics
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	PGD-IBE: Postgraduate Diploma in International Business Economics PGC-IBE: Postgraduate Certificate in International Business Economics
Brookes course code:	BU89 / MSC-IBE
UCAS code:	33331
JACS code:	N120
HECoS code:	See guidance note G2.2, section 1
Mode of delivery:	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
Mode/s and duration of study:	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) – 12 months Part-time (face to face/on-campus) – 24 months
QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	Master's degrees in Business and Management (2015)
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	N/A
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/ Specific Regulations http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/current/specific/b4/

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

Rationale for distinctiveness of the programme

This programme combines both business and economic theory with practice. Students can come with little prior knowledge of either international economics or business and put their own emphasis on these two related disciplines. The programme attracts participants from across the globe and thus the learning environment provides students with a truly multi-cultural experience and international networking opportunities. There are excellent employment prospects for economists with these skills in business and finance, government agencies and management consultancy.

Aims of the programme

The MSc in International Business Economics is designed to enable students, whose background is not necessarily related to economics or business, to develop conceptual understanding of the relationships between economic variables, the role of various institutions, such as governments, foreign exchange markets, and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as well as of the key principles in management and development of organisations, information technology and finance. Building on this theoretical knowledge, it then further enables students to analyse and critically evaluate issues related to international business activities such as trade protection, foreign direct investment, fiscal and monetary policies, international organisational structures, strategic decision making, corporate governance, transition economies and regional developments. It also provides the students the ability to understand the causal relationships between various economic variables, critically evaluate the strategic decision-making process in business, and have an insight into global business policy issues. The purpose is to acquire the quantitative and economic analysis skills required to understand underlying economic principles and to have an insight into the way institutions and business practices operate in an international context.

Profiles of staff teaching on the programme can be found at <http://business.brookes.ac.uk/about/staff/>.

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and principles of business economics and their relevance and relationships to the competitive world of business, finance and professions.
2. Analyse and critically evaluate the theories and institutions of business economics and finance, and appreciate their relevance to international business activities
3. Explain the context, nature and significance of business functions, and activities, from an international business economics perspective.
4. Explain the impact of the business environment on business decision-making from a strategic management and international business economics perspective.
5. Show a detailed understanding of international business economics and finance theory and practice.

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

6. Demonstrate the ability to undertake research on topics relevant to the context and content of international business.

7. Demonstrate an understanding of business and economic theories and the ability to subject these to critical analysis (also fits 3.1).
8. Demonstrate understanding of theories and methodologies underpinning systematic research and the ethical issues that inform research methods (also fits 3.5).
9. Construct a complex argument using the integration of information from a variety of sources (also fits 3.4).
10. Undertake research to inform the compilation of academic reports.

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

11. Demonstrate the ability to engage in reflective practice and to plan future personal development.
12. Critically evaluate evidence and the arguments of others using judgement to assess the validity of conclusions drawn.
13. Demonstrate competence in self-management, independent learning, communication, team-working, problem solving and using information technology (also fits 3.4).
14. Work to a brief, delivering results to a deadline.
15. Apply a range of skills, including: report writing, presentation skills, problem solving and decision-making, team working, verbal communication, managing self and self-development, research skills and information technology (also fits 3.2 and 3.4).

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

16. Select and use appropriate analytical and research tools (also fits 3.2).
17. Analyse and evaluate data from a range of sources.

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

18. Appreciate different approaches to decision making from an international business perspective.
19. Critically evaluate the opportunities and threats for individuals, business and national communities deriving from the economic forces of globalisation.

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
ACFI-7011	Finance and Strategy	20	7	Compulsory	100% CW
ACFI-7012	Financial Markets and Institutions	20	7	Compulsory	100% CW
ACFI-7013	International Finance	20	7	Compulsory	100% Exam
ACFI-7015	Research Project	60	7	Compulsory	100% CW
ECON-7001	Principles of International Business Economics	20	7	Compulsory	100% CW
ECON-7002	Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics	20	7	Compulsory	100% CW

ACFI-7016	Financial Modelling	10	7	Optional	100% CW
ACFI-7017	Corporate Governance	10	7	Optional	100% CW
ACFI-7018	Corporate Social Responsibility	10	7	Optional	100% CW
BMGT-7011	International Business in Practice: Study Trip	0	7	Optional	100% CW
BMGT-7015	Regional Studies: Developing Economies of Asia, Africa & Latin America	20	7	Optional	100% CW
BMGT-7024	Consultancy Project	10	7	Optional	100% CW
BMGT-7034	Planning for New Business Ventures	20	7	Optional	100% CW
BMGT-7036	Independent Study	20	7	Optional	100% CW
ECON-7052	Applied Financial Econometrics	20	7	Optional	100% Exam
INSE-4001	Academic English for Postgraduate Studies	0	4	Optional	100% CW
INSE-4002	Academic English for Postgraduate Research	0	4	Optional	100% CW

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

For the PG Certificate and PG Diploma there are no compulsory modules. Students must achieve 60 Credits for the PG Certificate and 120 Credits for the PG Diploma from the above list of modules.

4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Critical Self-awareness and Personal Literacy and as well as Research Literacy have a central role within the Masters programme. This is reflected through the Quantitative Methods for Business and Economic (QMBE) module and through the Research Project module. In the QMBE students acquire basic knowledge of statistics and have opportunities to engage in teamwork and to develop leadership skills. A key element of the module is the development of methods of data analysis including the use of relevant computer packages. The focus in the learning environment is hands-on practice using packages such as Excel to manipulate and interpret the key forms of financial and quantitative information needed by managers. Therefore, digital literacy skills are also developed through the use of the virtual learning

environment and of statistical packages for data gathering, estimation, interpretation and reaching conclusions with business decisions. The Research Project module ensures that students are exposed to a range of generic methodological issues, techniques and study skills which they are expected to incorporate within their coursework on their other modules and which prepares them ultimately for conducting their own research project or dissertation. Consideration of ethical issues involved in conducting research is also an important feature of learning on the module.

As this is a conversion Masters there is also an emphasis on developing the skills of Academic Literacy. Thus semester one modules in Principles of International Business Economics and Financial Markets and Institutions introduce and assess students' understanding of the key concepts, theories and analytical tools required by any manager to contribute fully to organisational success. The teaching methods and working environment within class also ensures that learning outcomes related to Critical Self-awareness and Personal Literacy are also achieved. Class activities (case study analysis, problem-solving exercises, presentations (individual and group-based) are interactive and student-led and ensure that students have the opportunity to develop individual and team building skills. Classroom experience also ensures that students develop their learning within a cross-cultural context as students on this course come from many different countries and cultures and in-class work and group based assignments require them to work effectively together.

In semester two students begin their study of the two core modules: Finance and Strategy and International Finance. There is a range of elective modules, allowing either an economics or business focus. The core modules develop students' ability to handle complex concepts and apply these to practical policy issues/solutions. Students are encouraged to engage in critical debates such as on the welfare impact of globalisation from an intercultural perspective. Central to these debates is ensuring students engage with the ethical and social and not just the economic impact of the phenomenon of globalisation.

At the end of the taught modules students have the choice to pursue either a Dissertation topic or to do a Synoptic Research Project. Both options aim to bring together and assess students' ability to integrate the knowledge based as well as the transferable skills discussed above.

Assessment on the module conforms to the University's Assessment Compact and students receive an Assessment schedule outlining how assessment in each module is designed to achieve the Programme Learning Outcomes.

The programme provides for a balanced assessment load with both coursework and examinations, depending on their elective choices.

The programme is worth 180 M level credits. Most modules are worth either 10 or 20 credits, with the exception of the Research Project which is worth 60 credits. The modules are designed so that each credit equates to approximately 10 hours of learning. Modules such as ACFI-7012 Financial Markets and Institutions, which are worth 20 credits, involve 200 hours of study with 36 of these in class and 164 in self-managed study. Therefore modules such as Corporate Governance, worth 10 credits, involve 100 hours of learning with 18 of these in class (lectures, seminars, workshops etc.) and 82 of these in self-managed study time preparing for seminars, undertaking research for coursework and meeting to collaborate on group work etc.

Assessment regulations

The programme conforms to the University's Academic Regulations; Specific Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Programmes

<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/current/specific/b4/>

The Programme also embeds the principles and practices within the Brookes Assessment Compact.

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/ocslid/consultancy/consultancy-areas/>

Assessments are carefully designed to contribute to formative developmental feedback and can incorporate peer feedback as well. All module guides include specific assessment criteria which are clearly communicated and an assessment calendar is also produced.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a second class honours degree (2:2) in any academic discipline, or equivalent overseas degree from a recognised institution or equivalent professional or other qualification.

Applicants who possess a diploma rather than a good degree may be eligible for entry provided they have compensatory work experience and can demonstrate career development.

This course attracts students from a wide range of backgrounds and nationalities. Applications are welcome from those in work and seeking continuing professional development.

Entry will also be subject to two satisfactory references (one of these must be an academic reference).

Please also see the university's [general entry requirements](#).

English language requirements

If English is not your first language you will need to satisfy the university's English language requirements:

- IELTS minimum level 6.0 (with a minimum of 6.0 in reading and writing and 5.5 in listening and speaking) or equivalent
- If you have completed your undergraduate degree in the UK (at least one full year of study) you will automatically meet our English language requirements

Please also see the university's [standard English language requirements](#) .

6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED

Not applicable

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

In an increasingly competitive job market, a globally focused qualification such as the MSc in International Business and Economics is highly desirable. This programme provides you with the quantitative skills, economic analysis skills together with a multicultural learning environment in order to prepare you for a career as a professional business analyst or manager in the private sector, government agencies, multinational corporations and international institutions. On the practical side, our Careers Centre offers support in developing CV and interview skills, and provides regularly updated job vacancy information. Additionally, visiting speakers from a range of organisations contribute to the programme. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in educational visits to a range of potential employer organisations such as Lloyds of London Insurance Market. Students also have access to the activities of organisations such as the Brookes Entrepreneurship Society, which organises events bringing students together with employers from a range of industries and from the public sector.