

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

**MSc in International Trade and Logistics****Managed by Oxford Brookes Business School**

<b>Date approved:</b>	February 2017 (Programme first validated in September 2006 )
<b>Applies to students commencing study in:</b>	September 2018

## RECORD OF UPDATES

<b>Date amended*</b>	<b>Nature of amendment**</b>	<b>Reason for amendment**</b>

## SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Awarding body:</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Teaching institution and location:</b>	Oxford Brookes University, Oxford
<b>Language of study:</b>	English
<b>Final award:</b>	Master of Science (MSc)
<b>Programme title:</b>	International Trade and Logistics
<b>Interim exit awards and award titles available:</b>	PGD-ITL: Postgraduate Diploma in International Trade and Logistics PGC-ITL: Postgraduate Certificate in International Trade and Logistics
<b>Brookes course code:</b>	BU88 / MSC-ITL
<b>UCAS code:</b>	33326
<b>JACS code:</b>	N120
<b>HECoS code:</b>	See guidance note G2.2, section 1
<b>Mode of delivery:</b>	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
<b>Mode/s and duration of study:</b>	1 Year for full time 2 Years for part time Maximum duration is 5 years.
<b>QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:</b>	<a href="#">Master's degrees in Business and Management (2015)</a>
<b>Professional accreditation attached to the programme:</b>	Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport <a href="https://www.ciltuk.org.uk/">https://www.ciltuk.org.uk/</a>
<b>University Regulations:</b>	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: <a href="http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/">http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/</a> Specific Regulations for <a href="http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/current/specific/">http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/current/specific/</a>

## SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

### 2.1 Rationale for/distinctiveness of the programme

This programme forms an important part of the Business School's post-graduate portfolio and contributes to the University's strategy of providing diverse and high quality Master's programmes. The programme also provides an opportunity for staff researching trade and logistical disciplines to filter their expertise into the Business School's master's portfolio.

The programme offers students from a wide variety of backgrounds the opportunity to undertake further study towards a master's degree in International Trade and Logistics. The programme is a conversion programme and forms part of the Business School's portfolio of MSc programmes.

The programme offers students an opportunity to gain relevant knowledge, skills and competencies, which will be of great value for a career or as a stepping-stone to higher degree studies. Whatever you have previously studied, based upon the Business School's experience with other conversion master's programmes, we know that you can do well. You should now have greater maturity and will have gained study skills, which can be applied to this programme. Furthermore the need for integration between the functional areas of the subject area will be made apparent. This should be of particular value to students unfamiliar with business and management.

Lifelong learning is a fairly modern concept and the MSc should be seen as another step in this process. The programmes are aimed primarily at recent graduates from countries all over the world but will also be attractive to those wishing to make a career change.

### 2.2 Aim/s of the programme

Logistics is about managing and controlling the activities along a chain of supply, with the objective of creating sustainable competitive advantage in international trade. It is no longer enough to 'push' products through the supply channel, in the hope that customers may like them. You will learn how customer 'pull' strategies help to meet the expectations of ever more demanding customers. You will analyse how customised products and services, quick response deliveries and state-of-the-art information systems, make international logistics a key enabler of business strategy in international trade.

Your course will include exposure to a range of international business issues, before you specialise in the techniques of effective logistics, project and contract management.

The MSc International Trade and Logistics is designed to enable students from any previous subject discipline to obtain a thorough grounding in the key areas of knowledge that relate to international trade and logistics. It then seeks to build on this knowledge by providing students with the ability to identify, analyse and critically evaluate a range of business related issues and problems, develop a range of possible alternative responses to these issues and problems and from these options select the most appropriate course of action, bearing in mind the wide variety of stakeholders upon which business decisions impact.

## SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

### 3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

1. Be able to identify, analyse and critically evaluate a range of issues and problems related to International Trade and Logistics, develop a range of possible alternative responses to these issues and problems and from these options select the most appropriate course of action, bearing in mind the wide variety of stakeholders upon which business decisions impact. (also 3.5 Active Citizenship)

2. Explain the context and significance of various business functions and activities, and understand their interrelated nature in terms of the manner in which they impact on the business decision making process, particularly in the fields of international trade and logistics.
3. Have developed an understanding of the key concepts of areas such as HRM, Operations Management, Information Systems, Marketing, Organisational Development and Finance and their relevance and relationship to the business management decision making process.
4. Be able to approach a problem or issue from a variety of perspectives and to accept that more than one right answer to a question might exist. (also 3.5 Active citizenship)
5. Be able to analyse the international business environment from a variety of perspectives and to critically evaluate the relationship between the business environment and business decision making at all levels within the business organisation.

### 3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

6. Demonstrate the ability to undertake research, both in groups and individually, on topics relevant to the context and content of international trade and logistics.
7. Analyse and evaluate data from a range of sources being mindful of issues such as bias and subjectivity, factoring in such considerations where appropriate in a manner that is transparent to an interested third party. (also 3.4 Digital and Information literacy)
8. Demonstrate understanding of theories and methodologies underpinning systematic business and management research and the ethical issues that inform research methods.
9. Undertake individual and team based research to inform the compilation of academic reports and presentations for a variety of purposes and to culminate in a sustained piece of substantial individual research.

### 3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

10. Learn through reflection upon experience of self and others and conceptualise this into both personal learning and personal development plans, modifying these plans over time where appropriate.
11. Demonstrate the ability to engage in reflective practice and to plan future personal learning and development on an ongoing basis. (also 3.5 Active citizenship)
12. Demonstrate increasing competence in self-management, independent learning, communication, team-working, problem solving.

### 3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

13. Understand and be able to demonstrate an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to business problem solving as well as a more functional, specialist approach. (also 3.2 Research literacy)
14. Select and use appropriate analytical and research tools, being prepared to adapt and modify such tools when necessary. (also 3.2 Research literacy) and become a confident, agile adopter of a range of technologies for personal, academic and professional use.
15. Construct a complex argument using information drawn from a variety of sources, integrating, synthesising and critically evaluating this information when required. (also 3.1 Academic literacy)

### 3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

16. Explain the impact of the national and international business environment upon business decision making.
17. Appraise the ideas and arguments of others using judgement to assess the validity of conclusions drawn, being aware of the different cultural perspectives that operate to inform ideas and issues.
18. Appreciate that business decision making needs to be informed from a variety of stakeholder perspectives of a national, international and inter-cultural nature.

## SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

### 4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
P58809 / BMGT-7016	International Trade and Globalisation	20	7	Compulsory	100% Written Exams
P58810 / ECON-7001	Principles of International Business Economics	20	7	Compulsory	100% Written Exams
P58813 / BMGT-7019	Project and Contract Management	20	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P58815 / BMGT-7021	Research Methods	10	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P58842 / ACFI-6004	Finance and Accounting for Business	10	6	Compulsory	100% Written Exams
P58867 / BMGT-7039	Procurement and Supply Chain Management	10	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P58868 / BMGT- 7040	Physical Logistics and Distribution	10	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P58871 / BMGT-7042	Business Strategy	10	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P58872 / BMGT-7043	Operations and Process Management	10	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P58876 / BMGT-7046	Developing Skills for Business Leadership	10	7	Compulsory	100% CW
<b>One Module from:</b>					
P58833 / BMGT-7028	Client Project	50	7	Alternative Compulsories	100% CW
P58897 / BMGT-7049	Synoptic Research Project	50	7	Alternative Compulsories	100% CW
P58898 / BMGT-7050	Dissertation	50	7	Alternative Compulsories	100% CW
P58335 / BMGT-7011	International Business in Practice: Study Trip	0	7	Optional	100% CW
P58860 / BMGT-7036	Independent Study (restricted)	20	7	Optional	100% CW
U70313 / ELSS-4001	Academic English for Postgraduate Studies (non-credit)	0	4	Optional	100% CW
U70314 / ELSS-4002	Academic English for Postgraduate Research (non-credit)	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

The nature of the programme ensures that graduates of the MSc International Trade and Logistics can seek professional exemptions and/or accreditation and quick route to membership in the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport.

This programme is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport.

## SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

The design of this Master's programme has utilised the combined experience of postgraduate tutors and reflects a desire by the programme team to build upon the tried, tested and continually revised approaches applied on related postgraduate programmes.

A core value of the programme is to provide the opportunity for students to develop the ability to work as an individual or within a team and experience team building skills within cross-cultural contexts. The latter is achieved by recruiting students from many different countries and cultures. Students on the programme will therefore come from a wide variety of backgrounds and have experienced different teaching and learning methods and environments. It will become apparent that Oxford Brookes University has a very student-centred approach. For example the relationship between tutors and students tends to be very informal to encourage dialogue and mutual understanding throughout the learning process.

Classes are designed to provide sequencing and integration within and between modules therefore attendance is considered compulsory. Team teaching is a feature of most modules to give students exposure to as wide a variety of expertise as possible. In addition group and teamwork activities are frequently assessed and depend for their success on students being available to take part in classroom discussions.

Completion of the programme will enable individuals to obtain rewarding jobs and look at the world with confidence, presenting great opportunities for those individuals equipped with the appropriate knowledge, skills talents, and enthusiasm.

### **The development of the Brookes Attributes**

The MSc International Trade and Logistics programme and the Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods of the programme are designed so that the following five core postgraduate graduate attributes are developed:

#### **a) Academic literacy**

The programme develops students' ability to engage in current critical debates within the business management discipline and the ability to communicate complex ideas to both expert and non-expert audiences, even in the absence of a complete set of data.

#### **b) Research literacy**

The programme develops students' ability to design and undertake a research project in the business management discipline, use appropriate methodology and solve complex problems in novel situations. Our research active staff ensures that students are aware of current research within the discipline, and are able to critically evaluate it.

#### **c) Critical self-awareness and personal literacy**

The programme develops students' ability to demonstrate commitment to continuous self-improvement. Our graduates will be able to lead and organise self and others; take personal responsibility in unpredictable and complex situations; make sound and appropriate decisions; and to inspire and interact with others in diverse environments.

#### **d) Digital and information literacy**

The programme develops students' ability to become a confident, agile adopters of a range of technologies for personal, academic and professional use. They will be able to use appropriate technology to search for high-quality information; critically evaluate and engage with the information obtained; reflect on and record learning, and professional and personal development; and engage productively in relevant online communities.

## **e) Active citizenship**

The programme develops students' ability to show cross-cultural awareness, and value human diversity. Our graduates will be able to work effectively, and responsibly, in a global context and they will become responsible global citizens, actively engaging with issues of equity and social justice, sustainability and the reduction of prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination.

## **Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods**

The teaching, learning and assessment strategies of the programme are interrelated and are designed to develop the Brookes Attributes. The aim of the programme team is to provide a learning environment where students will readily participate in the learning process. Students will be actively involved with and contribute to their own learning through structured activities and discussions led by tutors and students. The emphasis will be upon an applied approach to resolving environmental, managerial and individual issues informed by theoretical models and acquired practice utilising the accumulated knowledge within the programme community.

In order to best address the development of the Brookes Attributes, the following Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods have been incorporated into the delivery of the programme.

Students will be encouraged to relate knowledge, understanding and skills to real organisational issues. The use of models and analytical frameworks drawn from management and systems traditions which illuminate business and managerial dilemmas, will be used alongside tools and techniques traditionally deployed by those charged with responsibility for the management of people. These activities, plus the opportunity for students to work in groups with other programme members from different backgrounds and experiences provides the opportunity for a learning process, which is shared and experiential. A profile of knowledge, understanding and skills that will be developed is given in each module guide issued by the Module Leaders during the programme.

Teaching methods will be student centred within a lecture/seminar or workshop approach to programme delivery. Classes could involve tutor input, analysis of case studies, problem-solving activities, computer-based business simulations, presentation of papers, analysis of data for decision making and directed reading and research. Students will be encouraged to contribute through both individual and group activities during classes with tutors but also in similar activities outside of normal class contact time that are student led. For example, outside of classes students will be expected to organise themselves to undertake group or individual research activities, directed reading, prepare presentations and reports, analyse case studies and where appropriate prepare themselves for examinations.

The programme has an emphasis on the development and application of research skills, reflecting the view that a career in business is likely to depend increasingly on your capacity for conducting well-grounded empirical and literature-based research and analysis. The dissertation is a self-managed activity organised by students, and supported by a tutor in the role of Supervisor who will provide regular feedback on progress.

Visiting lecturers with specialist expertise, practitioners and careers advisors with practical experience will also contribute to a wider understanding of the relevance of the programme to today's dynamic environment.

The Business School also has a well-developed series of research seminars to which students are expected to attend. Tutors have a wide range of research experience and interests and this body of research and expertise will be available to students to facilitate and guide their own research projects and assignments. These research interests also feed into the teaching process and provide a core of research on which students may draw in the course of their learning.

Assessment methods are designed to support the teaching and learning process and will test the application of learning to workplace activities. The assessment strategy is informed by the Brookes Assessment Compact. To find out more about the Brookes Assessment Compact, please visit:

[http://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/ocslid/resources/assessment/assessment\\_compact\\_09.pdf](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/ocslid/resources/assessment/assessment_compact_09.pdf)

Assessment is initially designed at programme level, to ensure an appropriate mix of methods, such as coursework and examinations. Assessment at module level has to measure the achievement of all of the module learning outcomes, and for each component of assessment, the particular module learning outcomes which are being assessed are identified. The module learning outcomes have been designed so that when all modules have been passed, the programme learning outcomes have been achieved.

Programme activities will prepare students for the assessment process through structured activities with both peer and tutor feedback. The assessment of the modules (see 4.1) is predominantly 100% coursework, apart from Principles of International Business Economics and Finance and Accounting for Business whereby the assessment is 100% examination.

Assessment criteria set out within the assignment activity will assist internal and external assessors to reach a decision regarding the student's work. Assessors will provide written and or verbal feedback to students regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the work, and make suggestions of how the work could be improved.

### **How student time is divided between different teaching and learning methods**

Self managed study time is comprised as follows:

- Class preparation including reading, reflection and research to allow an interchange of ideas, examples and experiences
- Guided and supported reading to enhance learning and understanding
- Assignment preparation, individually and in groups
- Planning and co-ordination of a variety of tasks
- Examination preparation

Taught/ Active learning hours are comprised as follows:

- Timetabled and supervised hours of study where designated teaching facilities are provided with access to the tutor either face to face or via the Virtual Learning Environment.

Each module will require your active contribution in terms of both self-managed study time as well as face-to-face taught sessions. A typical 20 credit module will have 36 contact hours and will require an additional 164 hours of individual study. A typical 10 credit module will have 18 contact hours and will require an additional 82 hours of individual study. However, the subject area and the programme level teaching and learning strategy may necessitate a deviation from the above contact hours.

### **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. 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

This programme has been designed to prepare our graduates for employment, which is evidenced by the programme's professional accreditation. The programme design and development have been informed by consultation with our stakeholders: primarily with our students, our external examiners, the accrediting professional body and employers.

We regularly invite guest lecturers from industry, we participate in events organised by professional bodies, we organise company visits and we bring practice close to theory in our curriculum through case study analysis, Client Project, and International Business in Practice: Study Trip We, at Oxford Brookes Business School, believe in continuous improvement, consequently this programme is continuously monitored and developed to meet the changing needs of the external environment. This ensures that our graduates' knowledge and skills are up-to-date, relevant and therefore our graduates are ready for employment when leaving the University.

Students will also have the option compete in a Business Simulation Game, where they will effectively manage a virtual organisation and have to make decisions in the interest of the company. This will introduce students to the dynamics of both the internal and external environments of business.