

Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Top-up)

- **Business Management**
- **Business Management with Communications**
- **Business Management with Communications and Year in Industry**
- **Business Management with Industrial Placement**
- **International Business**

Developed, fully taught and awarded by University of Birmingham, UK

MODULE SYNOPSIS

ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE (PLACEMENT) (20 Credits)

This module involves a pre-final year placement relating to Communications or Marketing Communications, allowing students to apply theory to practice and gain an understanding of how theoretical models can be applied in the real world, whilst further developing the key communications skills which employers are increasingly seeking. The onus will be on students to find a placement, with the advice and assistance of the Business School and the University Careers Service, giving added value to students in terms of their employability.

The taught and reflective part of this module, post-placement at the commencement of the final year, enables students to analyse in depth working communications-based practices and assimilate wider and more advanced associated theoretical frameworks.

CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR (20 Credits)

This module covers the theoretical perspectives and contemporary research to give insight into consumer behaviour. Changing patterns of consumption and marketing technology applications are shaping businesses as they aim to market to the consumer more effectively. Case studies on the latest consumer behaviour technologies will be introduced to demonstrate how behaviour has developed in comparison to the traditional marketing channels.

The focus areas include:

- Role of technology and its subsequent impact on consumer behaviour, explored with digital consumption, online consumer behaviour, big data and data use
- Impact of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) with a focus on data privacy
- Changing customer journey in the context of Omnichannel and Uni-channel marketing
- Technological applications such as Marketing Automation and Augmented Reality
- Current issues and developments in behavioural, psychological and sociological thinking
- Responsible business and ethical consumption

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN MARKETING (20 Credits)

This module introduces relevant contemporary theories and prepares students to enable them to better deal with contemporary marketing challenges by equipping them with the relevant marketing competencies and transferable employability skills.

This module covers:

- Introduction to key market and marketing macro challenges
- Contemporary issues related to global marketing patterns and marketing in domestic and local regions
- Market influences in the digital age and changes in customer expectations and consumer demand
- Business to Customer (B2C), Business to Business (B2B), Customer to Customer (C2C) and Peer to Peer (P2P) relationships
- Marketing in new and high growth firms
- Product commercialisation and introducing new innovative products to markets
- Creation of customer value and co-creation with customers
- Marketing opportunity and new market creation

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON LEADERSHIP* (20 Credits)

The module is about understanding and explaining leaders and leading. We explore what leadership is – and debate the difference leadership makes and why. We introduce leadership theory – discuss the contribution(s) and limits of theory - and discuss and debate varieties of leadership experience across different 'real life' settings.

The module then introduces students to the ideas of critical reflection and self-reflexivity in leadership studies - and in relation to the 'actual & real' enactment of leading/leadership. We discuss and debate the limits and possibilities of leadership. In the small group seminars, we help students to begin to develop a sense of their own leadership potential and aptitude(s). Finally, students are introduced to the most recent thinking and ideas in leadership studies around leading in/for 'responsible business' and in relation to debates around diversity and inclusivity.

**Module is offered for intakes from 2025.*

MULTI-MEDIA CAMPAIGN PLANNING AND PRODUCTION* (20 Credits)

This module combines creativity, technology, and real-world case studies to equip students with the skills and knowledge to convey corporate narratives through digital content and traditional media in the dynamic communications field. Students will use a range of media tools and platforms to create imaginative campaigns directed at both internal and external audiences. Using communication theory and practice, students will research and develop compelling content to address contemporary issues in business and society, ranging from the impact of organisational change to societal challenges such as obesity and alcohol abuse. Students will examine the effectiveness of a range of communication tools, such as corporate narrative, branding, advertising, and social media.

Students are encouraged to apply academic theory to practical projects with a multimedia approach that uses podcasts, blogs, and video to engage audiences. Students work both individually and in collaborative teams.

**Module has been renamed from Creative Campaign Production to Multi-media Campaign Planning and Production from August 2023 onwards.*

CRISIS MANAGEMENT (20 Credits)

Successful crisis management aims to minimise the impact of disruptive events that can result in loss

of life, equipment, earnings, customers, reputation, market share or other future business prospects.

Previously, if a crisis arose, it was often assumed to be the result of a single flawed decision, often by one or more blameworthy individuals. In this view, a crisis was an aberration, an unfortunate accident as much a tragedy for the well-meaning and generally competent leaders who made the decision as for its more direct victims. In contrast, this module analyses the entire system, for example, factors that can precede and influence crisis such as policy changes, regulatory oversight, licensing criteria, financial concerns, environmental change, or organisational culture. Blending theory and practice, students will apply knowledge learnt in the analysis of real-world crisis management challenges.

DISSERTATION (40 Credits)

This compulsory module provides the opportunity to carry out independent research work over a period of two study blocks with the dissertation topic to be determined in consultation with a university supervisor. The process includes a written progress report in Study Block 1; a draft to be submitted to the supervisor in Study Block 2 and the final research version to be submitted towards end of Study Block 2.

Students on the Communications programme must write a dissertation with a communications focus.

EVENT AND FESTIVAL MANAGEMENT* (20 Credits)

This module introduce students to the concept of event and festival management and for students to apply relevant theory and practice. This module highlights the importance of events in various industries and students will learn how to plan/manage events and festivals. Students will also explore a range of industry-related issues and learn how events/festival businesses operate. With strong industry links in the UK and internationally students can engage with leading event and festival industry professionals.

This module will help equip students with the skills to adapt to the diversification and developments of the sector, with practical tasks allowing them to experience event delivery and festival content. This module also provides students with the opportunity to tackle the real-life challenges of engaging event and festival audiences in increasingly new and innovative ways.

**Module has been renamed from Event Management and Destination Marketing to Event and Festival Management from 03 August 2023 onwards.*

FUNDAMENTALS OF LEADERSHIP* (20 Credits)

This module is about understanding and explaining leaders and leading; exploring what leadership is and debating the difference leadership makes and why. Leadership theory, its contributions and limitations will be introduced, with discussion and debate on varieties of leadership experience across different 'real life' settings.

This module introduces students to the ideas of critical reflection and self-reflexivity in leadership studies in relation to the 'actual & real' enactment of leading/leadership, helping students to develop a sense of their own leadership potential and aptitude(s). Students will be further introduced to the most recent thinking and ideas in leadership studies around leading in/for 'responsible business' and in relation to debates around diversity and inclusivity.

**Module is offered for intakes before 2025.*

GLOBALISATION, INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS (20 Credits)

Modern day businesses are developing and competing in an increasingly dynamic and global context and shaped by institutional change as well as developments in knowledge, technology and innovation. In the present-day global business and institutional context, this module provides students with theoretical and empirical understanding of the economics and management of globalisation, innovation and their effects on competitiveness. The topics covered include global value chains and global innovation networks, clusters and national innovation systems as well as the challenges that the new technologies of digitalisation, automation and artificial intelligence pose to the competitiveness of firms.

INDUSTRY PLACEMENT A & B (120 Credits)

Industry placements will allow students to understand and apply analytical frameworks to problems, issues and decision making in the context of real business management. Students are expected to self-source their work placements in at least one functional discipline, such as Marketing, Communications, Procurement/Supply Chain Management, HRM, Accounting, Finance or Operations. The importance of the macro-environment in which organisations operate will be emphasised through explicit consideration of the macro-forces relevant to the disciplinary function which provides the application focus. The placements are subject to the University's approval and students will be assessed through a work-based essay. Support from the university's award winning careers team is available to guide students towards sourcing their placements and internships.

Business Management with Industrial Placement

Industry Placement A & B: 12 weeks work placement each

Business Management with Communications and Year in Industry

Industry Placement A: 12 weeks work placement

Industry Placement B: 24 weeks work placement

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING (20 Credits)

The first part of the module equips students with knowledge of main macro-economic concepts, theories and principles and basic tools and methods of economic analysis with relevance for business. The topics typically include the main macroeconomic variables (GDP, inflation, and unemployment) and their measurement, basic macroeconomic theory including models of short-run and long-run aggregate demand and supply, and economic growth. There will also be an overview of theories of unemployment and inflation; fiscal policy; monetary policy; and globalisation and international trade, providing a platform to discuss problems and policies in the international economy.

The second part of the module examines investment projects using discounting methods under the conditions of certainty and risk using both traditional and portfolio methods. There will be demonstration of how to calculate and use cost of capital for geared companies, and how to evaluate leasing projects.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (20 Credits)

This module introduces students to international human resource management and locates this in a comparative context to understand the management of people in organisations operating across nations and cultures, from employee, management and business system perspectives.

This module will examine key contemporary HRM policies and practices, such as recruitment, selection, training and reward and performance management across different international business systems. It

identifies and explains organisational impacts of international economic and business issues including social and political influences and legal requirements on HRM. The module also analyses the relevance of international employee mobility to global organisations and the appropriateness of various human resource strategies in the deployment of international personnel.

The module provides informed up-to-date comment and analysis on the implications of local/regional/global issues in relation to the management of human resources in international organisations.

INTERNATIONAL STUDY A & B (120 Credits)

This module exposes students to the differences in culture, business practice and socio-political-economic factors impacting on business.

Year 2

Students will have the opportunity to travel to the university's home campus in the UK, to study alongside UK-based students. They will live on the University of Birmingham campus and take the same examinations and assessments as local students over a period of four months. They will also participate in trips and activities.

Year 3

Students will have the opportunity to study at one of University of Birmingham's exchange partners in North America, Latin/South America, Europe, the Far East or Asia-Pacific region, subject to acceptance by the host institution and provided that this is not in the student's home country. Alternatively they may choose to study at the University of Birmingham's campus in Dubai. Like International Study A, students will study alongside with the institution's home campus students and take the local examinations and assessments.

MANAGERIAL FINANCE (20 Credits)

Corporate Finance is at the core of any comprehensive business education as it covers a range of important topics that are considered critical to managerial decision making. The module will draw on accounting, statistics, economics and several management disciplines to develop the first principle that should govern decision making within any size or form of business entity. This module will have an emphasis on Investment, Financing and Profit Distribution decisions while noting the tension between "theory" and "practice", ethical/societal issues in financial decision making, potential pitfalls etc.

MANAGING OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS (20 Credits)

This module covers the fundamental principles and practice of Operations and Project Management, focusing on the management of the firm (industrial, service, public sector or retail) at the micro level of the economy. Students will be exposed to the development and delivery of operational and project strategies that are congruent with the company's business and marketing strategies.

Comprising a series of themes in operations and project strategy, design, planning and control, and quality/improvement, the major topics covered are:

- Operations and project management in context
- Projects and their relationship to operations
- Operations and project sustainability

- Designing business and service processes
- Organisational and leadership issues in projects
- Product and service development as a project
- Planning and controlling resources for operations and projects, including inventory and capacity management, resource scheduling and control
- Risk in projects and operations
- Developing lean operations managing quality systems

MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION* (20 Credits)

This module provides students with an understanding of how organisations of all kinds operate and how different stakeholder groups interact with the organisation and each other including critically exploring the role of managers and managerialism in organisations. More specifically, the module introduces key organisational concepts and theories, which can be used to help us understand how organisations operate and how people operate within them. Topics covered throughout the module include culture, power, management styles and Leadership. We also explore how these concepts and ideas influence management practice.

The module takes a critical approach to organisational behaviour and management. We begin by discussing traditional managerialist approaches but also discuss critiques of many of these approaches as well as theories that do not encourage a managerialist approach. Throughout, the module encourages students to recognise the approaches and concepts covered in the managerial practices they are surrounded by or witness on a day to day basis. The module takes popular texts from cinema, television or fiction to explore the ideas presented.

Throughout, students will recognise the approaches and concepts covered in the managerial practices they are surrounded by, or witnessed, on a day to day basis.

**Module has been renamed from Organisational Behaviour to Management and Organisation from 15 May 2025 onwards.*

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND REPUTATION MANAGEMENT (20 Credits)

This module examines how reputations are built, and sometimes threatened or destroyed. It analyses the use of communications across a range of contemporary channels which influence perceptions of organisations. It will be demonstrated how reputation can be managed through use of PR planning techniques, due concern for ethical decision making, issues tracking and crisis communications planning. Interactive workshops bring a practical element for students of this module via workshops.

In pro-active reputation management the module analyses tools and techniques to assist with creative campaigns for competitive edge, including those which either support, or are integral to, marketing campaigns. At the end of the module, students will be equipped with core knowledge and frameworks to understand how to manage reputation in relation to brand image, employee behaviour, and ethical values.

In reactive reputation management the module includes analysis of contemporary case studies in crisis communication and how organisations seek to protect reputational capital when a crisis unfolds.

RESEARCH METHODS AND BUSINESS ANALYTICS (20 Credits)

This module provides fundamental training of the research process and the available methods of data collection and analysis in the wider Business Management context. Students will gain an in-depth

knowledge of research philosophy, research design, research approach, data collection, data preparation and data analysis including in-class sessions and workshops on more advanced analytical techniques for both quantitative and qualitative research. Software applications used in the analysis of both qualitative and quantitative research will be introduced through this module. In addition, core skills in writing research reports will be delivered from understanding literature reviews through to report completion.

There will be exposure to real-world business analytics applications and challenges, gaining familiarity with the practical aspects of business analytics, such as types of data, sources, extraction, cleaning and manipulation. The core concepts including but not limited to business intelligence, analytic techniques, visualisation, big data and cognitive computing will also be covered.

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS: THEORY AND PRACTICE (20 Credits)

This module covers irresponsible businesses that exploit marginalised communities, damage our ecosystems, unfairly distributing benefits, costs, risks and harm, and that feasible alternatives to business irresponsibility exist and are successful in different contexts. With the growing movement for change, driven by the growing visibility of the cumulative impact of the consequences of irresponsible actions and the benefits accruing from responsible businesses, this module will explore the challenges associated with responsible business transformation and to develop a conceptual and pragmatic set of responsible business competences to assist in this transformation.

STRATEGIC GLOBAL COMMUNICATION (20 Credits)

This module examines the theories, principles and practice of strategic stakeholder communications in an international context, with a focus on advanced level management and organisational communications, from both cross-cultural and analytical standpoints. It aims to equip future Marketing Communications specialists, and Public Relations leaders with the knowledge and frameworks to enable strategic communications mapping, engagement, relationship development and management.

The module will analyse strategic approaches to managing challenges, conflict, and negotiation with all stakeholders at a corporate, national and international level; and the role of leaders in strategic communications, providing frameworks for cross cultural approaches. Students will also apply contemporary frameworks for customer relationship management and reputation building in this module.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT (20 Credits)

This module allows students to understand the various approaches to strategic management in the complex internal and external environment, both national and international. Students will study, analyse and evaluate corporate strategies in complex cases; as well as review strategy implementation at the corporate and intercompany levels.

In this module students learn how to carry out a full and critical strategic audit of an organisation and its competitive environment. In doing so they are enabled to produce coherent and consistent report to detail a company's strategic priorities.