

**THE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FOR THE BA/BSc IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS**

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>UCAS Code</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Mode of study</b>
N0L0	BA/BSc	BA/BSc (Honours) International Business, Finance and Economics	3 years	Full time
	BSc	BSc (Honours) International Business Finance and Economics with Industrial / Professional Experience	4 years	Full time
	BA/BSc (Ord)*	BA/BSc (Ordinary) International Business, Finance and Economics	3 Years	Full Time
	Diploma**	International Business, Finance and Economics	2 Years	Full Time
	Certificate***	International Business, Finance and Economics	1 Year	Full Time

\* Students are not permitted to transfer to an Ordinary route throughout the course of their studies. If a student does not meet the requirements of an Honours degree, then it is the decision of the Finals Examination Board as to whether an Ordinary degree is awarded. See <https://ughandbook.portals.mbs.ac.uk/Myassessment/RegulationsforUGawards.aspx>

\*\* A Diploma of Higher Education will be awarded to a student who:

Successfully completes Year 2 but terminate their studies at this point; or

Has exhausted all the opportunities to retrieve failed assessment, subject to the accrual of the appropriate number of credits. See

<https://ughandbook.portals.mbs.ac.uk/Myassessment/RegulationsforUGawards.aspx>

\*\*\* A Certificate of Higher Education will be awarded to a student who:

Successfully completes Year 1 but terminate their studies at this point; or

Has exhausted all the opportunities to retrieve failed assessment, subject to the accrual of the appropriate number of credits. See

<https://ughandbook.portals.mbs.ac.uk/Myassessment/RegulationsforUGawards.aspx>

## ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

<b>School</b>	Alliance Manchester Business School
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Humanities
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	University of Manchester
<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant QAA benchmark(s)</b>	Business & Management

### 2. AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME(S)

The programme aims to:

<b>01.</b>	Teach students knowledge and understanding of the international context of core business issues and provide sufficient latitude to allow students to decide the extent to which they specialise in particular disciplines relevant to international business.
<b>02.</b>	Provide students with an understanding of the basic technical & computational skills relevant for working in business-related occupations.
<b>03.</b>	Offer students an inter-disciplinary social science perspective on business that is strongly informed by leading contemporary research and which introduces students to competing and complementary perspectives on business issues.
<b>04.</b>	Equip students with transferable skills. (e.g. creative writing, critical analysis, information technology, problem solving, presentational, numeracy and literacy, written and oral communication) that will enable them to take a full, active and responsible role within the business community, whether this be through employment in businesses themselves or in a regulatory capacity.
<b>05.</b>	Prepare students for further study in relevant subjects at MA/MSc/PhD level
<b>06.</b>	Provide the opportunity for students who wish to gain a year's placement in industry and to place this work in the context of a student's professional development ('with Industrial / Professional Experience' variant only.
<b>07.</b>	Use various modes of teaching, learning and assessment, informed by current research, both in teaching methodology and in subject specialisms that are appropriate to enable students to develop a broad range of academic and practical skills during the course of their studies.
<b>08.</b>	Provide students with the academic and pastoral support that enables them to develop their potential, including the potential of those from non-standard educational backgrounds or those from different international educational contexts.
<b>09.</b>	Make students aware of the diversity of learning resources that are available in the School, Faculty, University, and elsewhere to facilitate their ability to learn independently or in groups.

ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 10. | Ensure the quality of our teaching through providing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating our performance and reviewing our practices. |
|-----|--|

**3. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME(S)**

	<b>A. Knowledge &amp; Understanding</b> At the end of the Programme students should be able to:
<b>A1.</b>	Understand the principles and theory of micro and macro economics as applied to business and management
<b>A2.</b>	Understand financial concepts and accounting practices for business
<b>A3.</b>	Understand the context within which business operates. This includes knowledge of recent literatures on globalisation, Post-Fordism, the changing organisation of business and the impact of new technologies.
<b>A4.</b>	Understand the different economic, political and sociological perspectives on the workings of the UK and other economies.
<b>A5.</b>	Understand the main current approaches to business strategy and broader debates about the impact of the 'new economy' on management decisions.

	<b>B. Intellectual Skills</b> At the end of the Programme students should be able to:
<b>B1.</b>	Critically analyse arguments, theories and policies in relation to business
<b>B2.</b>	Solve problems and provide individual argument in relation to particular business scenarios
<b>B3.</b>	Synthesise and evaluate data from a variety of different sources
<b>B4.</b>	Think through and assess the impact of economic and organisational contexts on business performance
<b>B5.</b>	Reflect on ones own work, as well as that of ones peers

	<b>C. Practical Skills</b> At the end of the Programme students should be able to:
<b>C1.</b>	Locate/process/collate data or literature in a suitable form for analysis
<b>C2.</b>	Input primary sources of information into database format
<b>C3.</b>	Use basic mathematical and statistical techniques to understand the decision making process within businesses
<b>C4.</b>	Present quantitative and/or qualitative information, together with analysis, argument and commentary, in report form
<b>C5.</b>	Correctly cite, acknowledge and reference sources

## ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

<b>C6.</b>	Present data and argument in oral form, both individually and in groups.
------------	--

	<b>D. Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities</b> At the end of the Programme students should be able to:
<b>D1.</b>	Apply research skills to the analysis of new and different companies
<b>D2.</b>	Effectively manage project work and successfully relate to other team-members
<b>D3.</b>	Use interpersonal skills to orally communicate ideas and arguments
<b>D4.</b>	Write reports
<b>D5.</b>	Manage time and work to deadlines

#### 4. THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

##### **BA/BSc (HONOURS) IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS**

The Programme is studied over three years, full-time (and four years full time for those who choose to undertake the 'with industrial / professional experience' route) . Students take course units worth a total of 360 credits over the three years whilst studying in Manchester, at 120 credits per year.

##### **Year 1: 120 credits**

Honours candidates are required to complete course units totalling 120 credits, including at least 50 credits, and not more than 70 credits in any one semester.

You also start your Personal Development Plan (PDP), designed to help you to assess your own skills, set goals for improvement, record your achievements and reflect on your experiences during your studies. In year 1, this forms part of your summative assessment for BMAN10780 Academic and Career Development.

More information is provided about PDPs via <https://ughandbook.portals.mbs.ac.uk/Myprogramme/Howyourlearningissupported/PersonalDevelopmentPlan%28PDP%29.aspx>

Course outlines for all of your first year course units are available via My Manchester - <https://my.manchester.ac.uk>

The full first year programme structure is available at:

<https://ughandbook.portals.mbs.ac.uk/Myprogramme/Coursechoicesprogrammestruclures/Programmestruclures.aspx>

## ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

### **Year 2: 120 credits**

Honours candidates are required to complete course units totalling 120 credits including at least 50 credits, and not more than 70 credits in any one semester.

You also continue with your Personal Development Plan.

Second year students are not permitted to take more than 20 credits of 1<sup>st</sup> year options.

Availability of options changes from year to year and pre-requisites/co-requisites apply. Full details are available via My Manchester at: <https://my.manchester.ac.uk>

The full second year programme structure is available at:

<https://ughandbook.portals.mbs.ac.uk/Myprogramme/Coursechoicesprogrammestruclures/Programmestruclures.aspx>

### **Year 3: For With Industrial / Professional Experience Students only**

Students out on industrial / professional experience in their third year will complete a placement log book throughout the duration of their work experience and within this will be required to submit a mid-placement and end of placement report.

The third year industrial / professional experience year will be graded pass/fail and is not included in the final degree classification weightings.

### **Final Year:120 credits**

Honours candidates are required to complete course units totalling 120 credits, including at least 50 credits, and not more than 70 credits in any one semester.

You also continue with your Personal Development Plan.

Final year students are not permitted to take more than 20 credits of 2<sup>nd</sup> year options.

Availability of options changes from year to year and pre-requisites/co-requisites apply. Full details are available via My Manchester at: <https://my.manchester.ac.uk>

The full final year programme structure is available at:

<https://ughandbook.portals.mbs.ac.uk/Myprogramme/Coursechoicesprogrammestruclures/Programmestruclures.aspx>

The contact hours policy for full time Alliance MBS Manchester based programmes is available at:

<https://intranet.mbs.ac.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=EzDDGoFp9pw%3d&tabid=84&mid=572>

**5. CURRICULUM PROGRESSION: INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR EACH YEAR**

Year	Intended learning outcomes
<p><b>Year 1 (Certificate of Higher Education)</b> Students who successfully complete the first year of study but terminate their studies at this point will be awarded a Certificate of Higher Education</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enable students to gain an awareness of the teaching and learning resources and related support systems available on the IBFE degree and in the School, Faculty and University through a comprehensive induction programme.</li> <li>2. Enable students to demonstrate that they understand the basic context within which companies operate and are able to produce essay-based work that addresses basic concepts and arguments.</li> <li>3. Enable students to demonstrate an ability to utilise rudimentary accounting, economic, mathematical and statistical techniques to understand the fundamentals of business analysis.</li> <li>4. Enable students to develop a knowledge, understanding and use of basic IT skills.</li> <li>5. Enable students to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- manage their resources and time, and prioritise workloads</li> <li>- learn effectively and independently</li> <li>- begin to work effectively as a member of a team or group</li> <li>- demonstrate an understanding of career management planning skills</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Year 2 (Diploma of Higher Education)</b> Students who successfully complete the second year of study but terminate their studies at this point will be awarded a Diploma of Higher Education</p>	<p><i>By the end of level 2 students should have:-</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrated that they have an understanding of business context, in particular an ability to locate business dynamics, organisation and performance within an international context</li> <li>2. Developed the requisite technical and mathematical skills to understand performance and decision-making within firms.</li> <li>3. Demonstrated that they have developed their research and analytical skills through an assessed essay.</li> <li>4. Demonstrated they have developed the intellectual and practical abilities necessary to collect, organise, interpret and evaluate ideas and evidence from a range of sources in order to address specified questions.</li> <li>5. Demonstrated that they are able to use their knowledge and learning to develop coherent and informed</li> </ol>

ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

	<p>analyses and answers.</p> <p>6. Demonstrated their ability to effectively present and communicate their work in a range of assignment formats, including presentation.</p> <p>7. Demonstrated their ability to plan their work, prioritise tasks and work effectively to deadlines.</p>
<b>Industrial / Professional Experience Year</b>	<p>After the Industrial / Professional Experience year students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make clear and concise written and oral communications, work effectively as a team, and demonstrate a professional and responsible approach to work roles in a commercial or industrial environment, with particular emphasis upon their own abilities and future development.</li> <li>2. Manage time and work to deadlines.</li> <li>3. Exercise initiative and self-reliance skills, and work independently.</li> <li>4. Use acquired knowledge/skills, powers of enquiry and logical thinking to solve problems.</li> </ol>
<b>Final Year</b>	<p><i>By the end of level 3 students should have:-</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrated their ability to initiate an investigation of a company within a sectoral and global environment through case study reports.</li> <li>2. Demonstrated that they have advanced their theoretical and substantive expertise in both the context of business and the measurement of firm performance.</li> <li>3. Demonstrated their ability to work with complex statistical models and apply them to argument.</li> <li>4. Demonstrated that they are able to work effectively and at a high standard to collect, organise, interpret and evaluate ideas and evidence from a range of sources.</li> <li>5. Demonstrated that they are able to use their knowledge and learning to develop coherent, informed and mature analyses and answers.</li> <li>6. Demonstrated their ability to effectively present and communicate their work in oral presentation and in sophisticated pieces of writing.</li> <li>7. Demonstrated their ability to plan their work, prioritise tasks and work effectively to deadlines.</li> <li>8. Been given the opportunity to attend sessions on career opportunities in employment and postgraduate study, organised by the subject area and the University's Careers Service</li> </ol>

## ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

### 6. **STUDENT INDUCTION, SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT** (in order to deliver the year learning outcomes)

#### **Student Induction**

- Pre-induction information, arrival packs and a formal one-week welcome programme for first year students (note - ongoing induction is carried on via BMAN10780 Academic and Career Development throughout the whole of the first year). This includes a Programme Director and PSS staff welcome meeting, an Alliance Manchester Business School Introduction to Undergraduate Services event, Alliance MBS Student Fair, Coach tour of Manchester, completion of Health & Safety course, Alumni/Careers Panel Discussion, administrative sessions, Introduction to Academic and Career Development lecture, Unismart lecture, student mentor meetings and an end of Welcome Week party.

- Induction activities for returning second and final year students.

- Supporting information on Alliance MBS online undergraduate handbook for all new and returning students and 'My Undergraduate Guide' brochure for all new students.

#### **Student Support and Development**

- Comprehensive Online Undergraduate Handbook available at <https://ughandbook.portals.mbs.ac.uk/>.

- Academic Advisor for first year students: All first year students will be allocated an academic advisor who will remain their adviser (wherever possible) for the full duration of their studies and will support on their academic development. Regular contact between student and academic adviser is embedded within BMAN10780 Academic and Career Development course via alternate week seminars which will take place throughout the full academic year. It is expected that students and academic advisors will engage either face to face (via regular office hours), by telephone, email or through Blackboard in the weeks where no seminar is taking place.

- Academic Advisor for second and final year students: In building on the relationship developed between Academic Advisor and students in the first year seminar sessions, IBFE students will remain with their original Academic Advisor (wherever possible). Formally recorded sessions will take place throughout the academic year between Academic Advisor and student with a focus on academic guidance as required (registration for course units, plagiarism, essay writing, preparation for exams, time management etc), encouraging students to complete their PDP and update and further develop their CV, writing references on request, gauging feedback on the student experience and understanding where and when to refer students on to other sources of assistance.

- Dedicated Undergraduate Assessment and Student Support Centre in Alliance MBS offering advice, guidance and support on any issues that affect a student's ability to study.

- Disability support: Details are provided in the Online Undergraduate Handbook.

- Dedicated Undergraduate Centre in Alliance MBS, providing Programme Offices and Administrative staff for all programmes.

- Student Representatives: serve on the Programme Committee, Undergraduate Committee and Student/Staff Liaison Committee, aiding in the decision-making processes which affect student experience. Student Representatives also attend a focus group in each semester to provide feedback on Alliance MBS Undergraduate processes. Further details are provided in the online undergraduate Handbook.

- Student Peer Mentor Scheme: Details are provided in the Online Undergraduate Handbook.



## ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

- Personal Development Planning: Personal Development Plans (PDPs) are aimed at helping students develop their awareness of generic transferable and subject-specific skills and are aimed at helping to improve independent learning and provide a record of academic learning and achievement. For all first year students, the PDP will form part of the summative assessment on BMAN10780 Academic and Career Development. PDPs for returning second and final year students will continue to be linked to academic advisor sessions throughout the programme of study. Students will meet with their academic advisor in a series of meetings to concentrate on the development of the PDP and further development of their CV. Students can then arrange individual meeting with their academic advisor as necessary.

- Extensive library, computer and other learning resources.

- The first year course BMAN10780 Academic and Career Development is intended to support and develop students throughout their first year of study by incorporating study skills sessions, academic advisor contact and the opportunity for students to undertake an early piece of formative assessment which is marked by the academic advisor. Written feedback will be provided on this piece of work, as will be the opportunity to discuss this further face to face with the academic advisor.

- IT Skills sessions offered at central IT Services. Details on the Online Undergraduate Handbook.

- Case competitions: Opportunity for involvement in business case competitions, e.g. Copenhagen Business School, University of Southern California and McGill.

- Employability/Careers planning: The School ensures a range of opportunities for students to develop their employability and career planning skills both within and outside of the curriculum. Students on IBFE will have the opportunity to develop career management planning skills as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> year BMAN Academic and Career Development course unit. All undergraduate full course unit descriptions include an employability section which highlights to students the transferable/employability skills they develop as part of each specific course unit. The School also ensures that students have access to a variety of tailored events that enable them to further their career aspirations, including: alumni/networking sessions, employer drop in sessions, successful applications session, applying for and securing an internship session, postgraduate student options session. Alliance MBS also has many links with many employers and students are encouraged to attend talks and seminars provided by employers. For some, these will be included within the curriculum (i.e. guest lectures) and for others these will be organised by Alliance MBS affiliated societies or by the Careers Service/Alliance MBS. Students are also encouraged to attend the University Careers Service and any presentations which may have particular interest to IBFE students.

### INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE YEAR

(Applies to students on the 'with Industrial/Professional Experience' variant of the programme).

- The industrial experience year is supported by a network of pre-departure and reintegration meetings, completion of a placement log book and dedicated support via the International and Placement team.

## 7. PROGRESSION AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Details of progression rules are included in the Online Undergraduate Handbook <https://ughandbook.portals.mbs.ac.uk/Myassessment/RegulationsforUGawards.aspx>

**Date of original production:**

June 2004

ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

<b>Date of current version:</b>	September 2015
---------------------------------	----------------