

Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

Programme Title:	
MSc Risk Management	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	MB1RIM9
UCAS Code:	N/A
Name of Final Award:	Master of Science, MSc
Level of Qualification:	Level 7
Regime of Delivery:	Flexible & Distributed Learning: Blended Learning
Mode(s) of Delivery:	Part time
Typical Length of Study (Years):	Two Years
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	N/A

Brief Description of the Programme

The contemporary Risk Manager requires a range of tools and techniques to counter the severe threats facing society and businesses. This can be achieved by developing and applying risk management frameworks both as academics and practitioners. This Masters degree programme in Risk Management provides students with an academically rigorous and work-related programme which will allow them to plan for, devise mitigation of, and manage risks in an unplanned situation, such as disaster or emergency, as well as day-to-day settings such as enterprise risk within industry. Drawing on best practice and regulatory guidance from risk practitioners and academics, the programme will challenge and stimulate learners and inspire innovative thought and new approaches to risk management.

Programme Aims

- 1 Develop in students an integrated and holistic perspective on risk management through a study of organisations, risk and mitigation in individuals, groups and organisations, in strategic, tactical and operational capacities.
- 2 Enable students to anticipate and address risks that may adversely affect an organisation thereby helping to ensure future organisational resilience and sustainability.
- 3 Equip students with an advanced understanding of concepts and current issues in risk management.
- 4 Prepare students for a senior leader career through the development of enhanced personal and interpersonal skills and, in particular, leadership capability and skills in risk management and related activities.

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| 5 | Develop the reflective and critical thinking as well as analytical and research skills needed to make logical arguments and creative contributions that improve risk and resilience management and leadership practice. |
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Programme Learning Outcomes

The Bucks Graduate Attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. The attributes are developed through the programme.

ID	Learning Outcome
Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)	
K1	Identify, discuss and critically evaluate global contemporary issues relating to risk management, and relate these to their strategic, tactical and operational environments.
K2	Demonstrate critical consideration of key concepts, issues and theories related to the development of risk management across a range of organisations.
K3	Assess organisational change requirements due to the impact of external and internal factors and understand their implications
K4	Become a reflective practitioner: appraising and reflecting on learning and performance enabling the evaluation and solving of complex problems.
K5	Choose appropriate and organisationally viable approaches to the development of interdepartmental relationships for effective long-term prevention or mitigation of risks.
Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)	
C1	Generate, develop and communicate ideas, manage and exploit intellectual property, gain support, and deliver successful outcomes through the application of risk management principles.
C2	Analyse facts and circumstances to determine the cause of a problem and identify appropriate solutions.
C3	Devise and generate organisational risk management processes.
C4	Produce, manage and implement integrated and effective risk management programmes which can be applied in a variety of organisational circumstances, both internal and external.
C5	Make effective strategic risk management decisions which are closely linked to achieving an organisation's goals.
Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)	
S1	Demonstrate an awareness of how political and cultural values - including the student's own - have an impact on responses to, and rival interpretations of, Security and related subjects
S2	Appraise the need for individuals and organisations to manage risk responsibly and behave ethically in relation to social, cultural, economic and environmental issues
S3	Make ethically sound judgements in relation to research carried out by others or oneself
S4	Critically apply the principles of Governance, Risk and Compliance to display ethical and social responsibility.
S5	Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research in its application to effective Risk Management

Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)

L1	Develop and deliver, both in personal and organisational contexts, the processes and functions required for effective management implementation of initiatives
L2	Evaluate and balance competing components of organisational activity to offer optimal opportunities for appropriate risk management techniques to anticipate, respond and recover from disruption.
L3	Formulate and develop original, insightful and effective ideas in order to ensure and support risk management processes and capabilities.
L4	Work independently and in a self-directed fashion across a range of enterprise, risk management and general projects.
L5	Plan, design and prepare appropriate and adaptable risk management systems for the implementation and long-term direction of resilience and wider management of organisations.

Programme Structure

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g. full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The level indicates the relative academic difficulty which will increase through the programme. Passing modules will reward you with academic credit. The amount of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Our [Academic Advice webpages](#) provide more information on the structure of taught awards offered by the University.

Level Seven

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
SE701	Threat, Risk and Impact Perspectives	30	C	Yes
MB712	Global Risk	30	C	Yes
MB713	Enterprise Risk Management	30	C	Yes
MB720	Risk Leadership and Management	30	C	Yes
SE705	Research and Dissertation	60	C	No

Learning and Teaching Activities

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

How will students learn

Following a one-day induction workshop held at the High Wycombe campus and recorded for those unable to attend, modules are delivered using the Blackboard VLE and at two on-campus two-day workshops per module. The face-to-face workshops will operate on a minimum in-class attendance of five students. If this threshold is not reached, an online, virtual workshop may be implemented.

Each module, except for SE705 Research and Dissertation, is of 15 weeks duration. The modules have a distance learning pre-study phase followed by a blend of distance learning and two on-campus workshops. Throughout the modules, there will be emphasis on applying the various principles, theories and practices to the student's individual business, work role and employment requirements or aspirations. The course will encourage students to relate their current, or former, workplace observations and experiences to the material and hence critique and influence their risk management practice.

Students will be able to access support mechanisms and module tutors through email, telephone, Blackboard, VoIP and face-to-face. There will be students who are unable to attend workshops; and in these cases, the normal range of activities (such as tutor input, discussions, group work and tutorials) are provided and managed in the virtual learning environment supported by detailed tutor interaction with each student. Additionally, all the workshop sessions will be digitally captured and made available as video and audio recordings. This strategy allows a tutor-student relationship to be built and developed effectively. The range of online activities will relate to topics that are set in a scheme of work for the module. Learning outcomes are applied to the content throughout the modules; and are a constant and underpinning element of all activity. A consistent approach in this is the relationship of theory to practice. Students are introduced to theories and content; further discussion applies this to their experiences and workplace. Core texts are recommended and students are assisted to further reading by the use of Blackboard and Library databases; the key texts will be provided within the University Library provision of e-books.

Understanding of concepts will be developed through directed reading, and by exercises developed in Blackboard, with suggested answers. Supplementary material will be available to help students use appropriate research methodologies and to direct them towards wider and current industry and sector research materials and sources. The use of email and discussion facilities in Blackboard will be encouraged as an important contributor to the exchange of ideas and theories; this is especially important when considering the range of student backgrounds and experience levels, all of which enables individuals and groups to draw upon broader knowledge.

Students will be expected to undertake independent study to develop their topic knowledge and evaluation skills to appropriate levels. In the programme students will be guided towards techniques and resources to support their activity and to begin to develop postgraduate level capabilities as early as possible within the programme. Therefore, there will also be activity between tutors and students in the effective development of research methods and capability and their application.

Additional Course Costs

There are costs associated with all studies, additional to the tuition fee, which require consideration, when planning and budgeting for expenditure. Costs are indicative and for the total length of the course shown unless otherwise stated and will increase with inflation; depending on the programme they may include equipment, printing, project materials, study trips, placement activities, DBS and/or other security checks.

The students should have a computer [desk or laptop] and an internet connection. MS Office365 is available as part of the package which will work on Mac as well as Windows OS and Linux. A good quality webcam and headset is also recommended for any virtual tutorials. Workshop accommodation and subsistence is not included in the course fee.

Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or 'stage' of the course.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad (Hours)
Year One	105	495	0
Year Two	200	1000	0

Assessment Methods

The [Assessment and Examination webpages](#) provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

The assessment strategy is designed to give students the opportunity to focus on the demands of evaluating theories and their application by providing the opportunity to produce a written assignment. Thus, assessments contain both the results of self-directed study and discursive elements to promote the development of critical evaluation skills appropriate to master's level. The assessments will link the indicative content with the learning outcomes within the context of practical business situations.

All assessment is undertaken through application of the criteria and weightings outlined on the Module Descriptors. Module Assignment Briefs will be published on the University VLE at the start of each module.

Formative assessment is given by VLE and during workshop discussion. Short tasks that build understanding, knowledge and confidence will be based around case studies and video-based tasks. In addition, there will be a peer-review formative where students will be paired off to mark each other's work; this is a very effective method of building understanding of the requirements for analytical and evaluative work and the structuring of written assignments.

The module assessments are designed to encourage a disciplined approach to programme deadlines and to ensure that students develop and demonstrate the capability to not only provide written work but to self-analyse, reflect and develop their own approaches and academic views. In the summative assessment and in marking, evidence will be sought to recognise that the learning outcomes of the assignment have been achieved at the appropriate level. Feedback will be provided against each of the assessment criteria so that the students can understand the associated links to the learning outcomes for the module. Feedback is written and provided via Turnitin in accordance with University Regulations. Students are given an opportunity to reflect on feedback.

Self-assessment becomes an important part of the students' development during the course and is implicit throughout the tutorial and critique system. The opportunity for disagreement and reasoned justification of student work is present throughout the assessment method to incorporate the lessons learned as well as theories and applications studied during the programme, but also to amend and update their original ideas based upon feedback, further tutor interaction and their own research and studies.

Classification

Calculation of final award:

The final award of MSc in Risk Management is based on the completion of 180 L7 credits, including the SE705 Dissertation Module.

For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our [Results webpages](#). These include the criteria for degree classification.

Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

It is anticipated that students will be drawn from the following profiles:

- Employees who are currently working in, or have the potential to work in, a role where they have responsibilities for ensuring that risk management is incorporated into operations, and who may wish to gain a Master's degree level academic award in this important area.
- Individuals who have experience and skills in security management provision, consultancy or management, as generalists or specialists.
- Mature applicants who have been out of the education system for some time and who wish to focus on developing a career in this subject.
- Graduates from other relevant (Security, Risk and Resilience UG) HE programmes offered by the University, and others, who wish to continue their professional and academic development.
- We would expect to be able to offer this programme to our graduating RAF cohorts from the BA (Hons) Organisational Capability Development; BA (Hons) Protective Security Management; BA (Hons) Organisational Security Management as well as the BA (Hons) Security Consultancy degree.

Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?

No

Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

The opportunities for employment and promotion across a range of sectors within the varied risk management disciplines will be enhanced by the knowledge gained exploring the topics covered by the programme. The vocational relevance of knowledge, skills and assessment are important factors in the teaching and learning methods of this degree. Throughout, the links between academic theory and practical outcomes for the individual and their organisations will be examined and emphasised. Risk management encompasses a range of activities from project management to board level participation, it is anticipated that this programme will provide students with the capability and confidence to maximise their opportunities within risk management and related industries.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules. Please refer to our [Credit Accumulation webpages](#) for further guidance.

In particular, those students who have completed the School's Level 7 Certificate in Security Management will be exempted from SE701 and MB712 and will not need to be referred to the University APL panel. A copy of the Certificate will be checked. Also graduates of the Frontier Risks SRMC Course will be eligible for exemption from SE701 and MB712 in the same way.

Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

Progression Board

At the end of the first academic year, there will be a progression board where students will be assessed and if both first year modules (SE701 and MB712) have been passed, then the student will progress to year two. If one or both modules are failed, then there will be the opportunity for referral work.

Referral Opportunities

As with any award at Buckinghamshire New University, if a student has not received a pass mark (normally 40%) for a module or piece of assessment, they may be required to be reassessed in the component(s) that they have failed.

For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our Results webpages.

Appendices

Quality Assurance

Awarding Body:	Buckinghamshire New University
Language of Study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):	L7 Business Management in lieu of subject specific SBS
Assessment Regulations:	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice)
Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?	No
Date Published / Updated:	February 2019, November 2020

Other awards available on programme (Exit Qualifications)

Please refer to the *Academic Qualifications Framework* for Exit Qualifications recognised by the University and credit and module requirements.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	PG Cert Risk Management
Credits requirements:	60 Credits
Module requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SE701 Threat Risk and Impact Perspectives MB712 Global Risk
Learning Outcome	

The student will be able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rationalise and determine the relative value of threat risk and impact analysis and management as contributors to Risk Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and diagnose conflicts and linkages in Risk Management disciplines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesise theoretical and applied approaches to threat, risk and impact analysis and management to resolve organisational strategy issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically evaluate the effects and consequences of different personal behaviours, traits and approaches on effective threat, risk and impact countermeasure selection in the organisational context
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically analyse a range of contemporary risk management events, in the context of global operations, with reference to governance and compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse current international GRC practice and develop, through synthesis of appropriate measures, a range of coherent and integrated risk management strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically evaluate and discuss the specific issues related to those who depend on reliable risk management in the preparation, response and recovery capability required in entities of all sizes operating globally.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	PG Diploma Risk Management
Credits requirements:	120 Credits
Module requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SE701 Threat Risk and Impact Perspectives MB712 Global Risk MB713 Enterprise Risk Management MB720 Risk Leadership and Management
Learning Outcome	
In addition to the LOs above the student will be able to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically evaluate a range of risk events in the context of contemporary enterprise, including security, risk management operations 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse current international ERM practice and develop, through synthesis of appropriate ERM measures, a range of coherent and integrated risk management strategies 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically discuss the specific issues related to those who depend on high levels of enterprise risk management and critique the role ERM plays in the preparation, response and recovery capability required in entities of all sizes in modern settings. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devise and prepare for implementation a framework for an entity based on a cause agnostic approach to Enterprise Risk Management 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically evaluate theories of leadership and management, distinguish, contrast and discuss in the context of risk and enterprise risk management applications 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse current practice and theory to develop, through synthesis of appropriate measures, a range of coherent and integrated leadership and management strategies suitable for risk decision making with imperfect information 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically analyse ethical aspects of leadership in high risk environments and high reliability organisations to formulate concepts and applications of just cultures. 	