

# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

## 1. Key Information

<b>Programme Title:</b>	MSc Aviation Security
<b>Awarding Institution:</b>	Buckinghamshire New University
<b>Teaching Institution(s):</b>	Buckinghamshire New University
<b>Subject Cluster:</b>	Security
<b>Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):</b>	MSc Aviation Security
<b>Pathways (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>FHEQ level of final award:</b>	7
<b>Other award titles available (exit qualifications):</b>	PG Certificate PG Diploma
<b>Accreditation details:</b>	United Nations/ International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Partnership/ Certificate
<b>Length of programme:</b>	2 years
<b>Mode(s) of Study:</b>	Part-time
<b>Mode of Delivery:</b>	Distance learning
<b>Language of study:</b>	English
<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s):</b>	PG Business and Management (2023)
<b>Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):</b>	N/A
<b>Course Code(s):</b>	MSASMTDP
<b>UCAS Code(s):</b>	N/A
<b>Approval date:</b>	July 24
<b>Date of last update:</b>	

## 2. Programme Summary

The requirement to provide adequate and appropriate security protection for air transport extends far beyond the requirement to simply screen passengers and their baggage. The breadth of operations and administrative support required to enable the successful management of air transportation against the background of severe risks make the sector unique and the focus of much interest in developing secure systems and processes. This provides you with an academically rigorous and work-related programme which will allow you to plan, devise and manage security issues within the aviation industry.

The programme is designed to meet the requirements of a range of disciplines which are intertwined with the aviation security sector. This programme is designed to be unique and provide you with an unprecedented opportunity in the sector with the absence of aviation security higher education qualifications globally. With our strong links to and expertise in the aviation security sector, this programme will capitalise on our existing specialisms and allow us to orientate you towards the current and future opportunities in the sector.

The course is designed to deliver an accessible postgraduate programme that reflects sector currency and assists in the drive towards further professionalism and research capabilities. It is delivered as a distance learning programme with a mix of synchronous and asynchronous delivery, which allows you to study at Level 7, alongside your career. Being a global programme, it is suitable for international learners who do not wish to travel to the UK to study.

The programme is delivered by both academics and industry professionals, creating a professional environment and forum for the exchange of ideas at postgraduate level. You will complete this master's level course by undertaking a research module, where you will develop and complete an agreed aviation security linked independent final project that best presents your abilities and interests.

### 3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

#### Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

- 1- Provide learners with opportunities to evaluate threats and risks associated with potential aviation security events and determine strategies and routes for the development of coherent and integrated protective measures
- 2- Develop learners to be able to critique and synthesise a range of theories and regulations for security management, design and planning in multiple aviation-linked environments
- 3- Prepare learners to research, apply and analyse concepts and theories of aviation security, safety and emergency management planning outside their context of experience and knowledge. This will allow formulation of concepts surrounding measures required to protect and prevent security situation development across a range of aviation organisational settings
- 4- Provide learners with opportunities to critically evaluate and theorise on roles and responsibilities, including multi-agency collaboration, regulation and enforcement of protection requirements for aviation
- 5- Prepare learners to critically evaluate research methods identifying an appropriate methodology to address, deliver and analyse a practice-based research issue through a dissertation
- 6- Equip learners to develop higher management transferable skills within the aviation sector in general and the aviation security and resilience in particular, thereby enhancing their employability and career prospects

## Programme Learning Outcomes

### Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
<b>K1</b>	Synthesise contextual problems of aviation security for your own operational and strategic environment.
<b>K2</b>	Articulate key security regulations and frameworks in the sector and their applicability and effectiveness for operations and management at a local, national and international level.
<b>K3</b>	Determine effective aviation security planning and implementation requirements.
<b>K4</b>	Articulate appropriate solutions to complex problems through reflection upon current issues, critical thinking and management techniques.
<b>K5</b>	Characterise appropriate and organisationally viable approaches to the development of interrelationships for effective long-term aviation security resilience.

### Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
<b>C1</b>	Reflect upon the value and disadvantages of experience and bias in aviation security threats and risks analysis.
<b>C2</b>	Analyse complex business problems, current issues and management techniques in providing aviation security measures.
<b>C3</b>	Investigate and address ethical and governance issues related to aviation security decisions.
<b>C4</b>	Differentiate between highly and less effective organisations in the context of aviation security planning and implementation.
<b>C5</b>	Appraise the rigour and validity of published research in its application to effective aviation security management.

### Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
<b>P1</b>	Initiate and create organisational management processes to provide and develop aviation security plans.
<b>P2</b>	Design and effectively implement aviation security communication plans and processes to support effective management.
<b>P3</b>	Implement integrated, effective aviation security programmes which can be applied in a variety of organisational circumstances both internal and external.
<b>P4</b>	Apply strategic aviation security management decisions in the context of organisational mission and objectives.

<b>P5</b>	Devise and generate organisational change management processes, particularly in relation to aviation security risk, emergency and crisis management requirements.
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### Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

<b>ID</b>	<b>Learning Outcome</b>
<b>T1</b>	Develop the processes and functions required for effective aviation security management and implementation of initiatives, both in personal and organisational contexts.
<b>T2</b>	Create adaptable management systems for the implementation of long-term direction of aviation security operational capability and wider management.
<b>T3</b>	Evaluate competing components of organisational activity to offer optimal opportunities for appropriate anticipation, response and recovery.
<b>T4</b>	Formulate original, insightful, and effective problem-solving capabilities in order to ensure support for management processes and capabilities.
<b>T5</b>	Advance capability to work independently in a self-directed fashion across a range of aviation security and general projects.

### Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens.

On this programme, attributes are developed through the practical application of acquired theoretical knowledge and skills within the context of the aviation security discipline and associated organisations (K1-5, P1-5). Additionally, attributes of deep understanding and critical analysis of ethical challenges and practices engulfing organisations working in the discipline and their social responsibility are demonstrated through a range of applied theoretical approaches (C1, C2, C3, C5).

Attributes of creativity and leadership skills are acquired through research project work, demonstrating self-development, leadership traits, innovation and problem solving of the current risks and challenges within the environment surrounding the aviation security discipline and preparing graduates for a range of employment roles (K4, C4, P1-5, T1-5).

## 4. Entry Requirements

The University's [general entry requirements](#) will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions/ exceptions:

- Any applicants who do not meet these requirements need to provide a valid English certificate [as detailed here](#). These certificates need to be studied within the past 4 academic years.

- English language skills to IELTS 7.0 with a minimum of 6.5 in each component, or (TOEFL 94, Pearson PTE 66 and ELLT 7).

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our [accreditation of prior learning](#) (APL) process.

## 5. Programme Structure

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
<b>Level 7</b>	<p><b>Core modules:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LAW7035/ Aviation Security Laws, Regulations and Compliance (20 credits)</li> <li>- LAW7036/ Aviation Security Threat, Risk and Impact Perspectives (20 credits)</li> <li>- LAW7037/ Aviation Risks and Security Challenges (20 credits)</li> <li>- LAW7038/ Organisations, Agencies and Air Travel Stakeholders (20 credits)</li> <li>- LAW7039/ Aviation Security and Organisational Resilience (20 credits)</li> <li>- LAW7040/ Security Culture and Security Management Systems (20 credits)</li> <li>- LAW7029/ Extended Independent work (60 Credits)</li> </ul>	<p><b>PG Cert</b>, awarded on achievement of 60 credits</p> <p><b>PG Dip</b>, awarded on achievement of 120 credits</p>

## 6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### Learning and Teaching

This distance learning master's programme is designed to accommodate the unique needs of learners, enabling them to deepen their knowledge and practice in the subject area, and critically review literature and professional practice. It provides access to those unable to attend university-based classes due to full-time employment, irregular work hours, remote locations, or differing time zones. The programme fosters the development of critical academic skills through various learning activities, enabling learners to apply these skills in practice or pursue further education. It promotes autonomous and organisationally oriented study, allowing learners to leverage their activities and experiences, often acquired through extensive careers.

**Distance Active-Led Learning:** This approach fosters an inclusive and accessible learning environment that promotes the acquisition, application, and critical analysis of knowledge. It cultivates post-graduate attributes and associated skills, including teamwork, problem-solving, communication, project management, leadership, reflection, and lifelong learning. Learning is facilitated through digital tools like Blackboard Collaborate, employing resources such as podcasts and vodcasts. Learners engage with tutors through live and recorded lectures, seminars, group work, discussions, blogs, wikis, tasks, readings, case study reviews, exercises, and debates. The delivery of material is phased and managed to support a self-paced learning approach, setting learners up for success. Learners also undertake self-directed personal study/research, involving extensive or focused reading. They have access to personal, module, and course tutors for individual tutorials. Learning is enriched by incorporating diverse media forms and insights from industry practitioners and experts. Guest speakers will be regularly invited to share their knowledge on the specific practice in order to provide a real-world experience to learners, in addition to providing a networking opportunity with the industry professionals.

### Assessment

This programme employs authentic formative and summative assessments, with assignments tailored to workplace requirements. This approach facilitates continuous learner development under comprehensive tutorial guidance. Assessments are conducted based on the criteria and weightings specified in the module descriptors, with module Assignment Briefs made available on the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) before module commencement.

The assessment strategy matrix is designed to balance the subject's foundational knowledge and skills, ensuring appropriateness in terms of level, quality, quantity, and timing. This design allows ample time for assignment completion and feedback reflection. The course offers a variety of assessment methods, including essays, reports, assessments on workplace activities, proposals, presentations, study skills planners, reflections, and independent research projects (Dissertations), providing learners with ample opportunities to showcase their abilities.

To foster progress towards summative assessment and instil discipline in meeting project deadlines, strategically placed formative assessment points are incorporated. These points provide clear guidance on feedback and feedforward strategies to achieve module learning outcomes. The formative approach fosters a collaborative environment among individuals,

groups, and tutors, encouraging dialogue and reflection on practices. It also enables learners to identify their strengths and areas for improvement. In the summative approach, implemented at each assignment checkpoint, evidence is sought to confirm the achievement of learning outcomes at the appropriate level. Feedback is provided against each assessment criterion, helping learners understand the links to the learning outcomes for each module.

Feedback, typically in written form and supplemented by verbal briefings and discussions, allows learners to reflect on their performance. Self-assessment is integral to learner development throughout the course and is embedded within the tutorial and critique system.

## Contact Hours

The MSc Aviation Security Management is a part-time distance learning programme and includes synchronous and asynchronous delivery. You can expect to receive approximately 3 hours of scheduled learning activities per week/ module in year one, while year two sees you engaging in approximately 6 hours of scheduled learning activities due to the concurrent running of year 2 modules and the research project module. You will receive support through tutorials either individually or as part of group drop-in sessions and activities. You are expected to engage in extensive guided independent study.

A full breakdown of contact hours can be found in individual module descriptors.

## 7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- [Regulations for Taught Degree Programmes \(2023\)](#)

## 8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news
- Student feedback mechanisms, including formal surveys, programme committees and elected student representatives
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, assessments, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling
- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

## 9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

## 10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – see detailed mapping below
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy

### Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement and any relevant Apprenticeship Standard to Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
A systematic and deep understanding of relevant knowledge about organisations within the field	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A critical awareness of current issues in business and management which is informed by leading edge research and practice in the field as well as by a proactive and independent approach to learning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
An excellent command of subject-specific academic and professional skills relevant to the field	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A critical awareness of current issues in Aviation which is informed by leading edge research and practice in the field as well as by a proactive and independent approach to learning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Conceptual understanding that enables students to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the field	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Application of relevant knowledge to a range of	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
complex situations, taking account of its relationship and interaction with other areas of the business or organisation.																				
Originality and creativity in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the field	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ability to evaluate and integrate theory and practice in a wide range of situations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ability to take an international perspective, including understanding the impact of globalisation on businesses, societies and the environment and the ethical implications	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
<b>Module Code (Core)</b>																				
<b>Level 7</b>																				
LAW7035 Aviation Security Laws, Regulations and Compliance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X
LAW7036 Aviation Security Threat, Risk and Impact Perspectives	X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X		X	
LAW7037 Aviation Risks and Security Challenges	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X			X	X		X		
LAW7038 Organisations, Agencies and Air Travel Stakeholders	X			X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X					X		
LAW7039 Aviation Security and Organisational Resilience	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X		X		X			X	X	
LAW7040 Security Culture and Security Management Systems	X		X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
LAW7029 Research Methods and Dissertation					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	