

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	BSc (Hons) International Business Studies BSc (Hons) International Business Studies with Foundation Year BSc (Hons) International Business Studies (Top-up)
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Business
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	BSc (Hons) International Business Studies
Pathways (if applicable)	
FHEQ level of final award:	Level 6
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Diploma of Higher Education International Business Studies Certificate of Higher Education International Business Studies
Accreditation details:	
Length of programme:	3 years 1 year (top-up)
Mode(s) of Study:	Full-time
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Business and Management (March 2023) QAA FHEQ (Level 6) 2014
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Professional Standard
Course Code(s):	BSINBUFT – Full-time BSINBUFY – with Foundation Year BSINBUTU – Top-up
UCAS Code(s):	IBS3 IBS4 – with Foundation Year
Approval date:	December 2023
Date of last update:	March 2025

2. Programme Summary

This programme is designed to prepare you for a successful career in international business. You'll gain the knowledge, skills, and behaviours needed to excel in various roles, whether in large corporations, small businesses, or as an entrepreneur.

What You'll Learn:

- **Teamwork and Cooperation:** Enhance your ability to form and work in diverse teams.
- **Project Management:** Develop agile project planning and management skills.
- **Leadership Across Borders:** Learn to lead and manage teams in different countries.
- **Problem-Solving:** Become an adaptable problem solver.
- **Business Tools:** Apply legal, financial, and ethical tools for organisational success.

Why Choose This Programme?

- **Global Career Opportunities:** Ideal for those aiming for a career overseas or in multinational companies.
- **Future-Focused Learning:** Build a strong foundation to become a future-ready manager in a dynamic business world.
- **Active Learning:** Benefit from hands-on learning and real-world assessments by experienced academic and business professionals.

Top-Up Option: If you have already completed a Foundation Degree or other Level 5 business award, you can complete this programme in one academic year by taking final year modules to earn your full undergraduate degree.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. Develop students' ability to apply research, writing, numerical, digital and personal skills within an international business context.
2. Provide students with opportunities to critically appraise relevant knowledge and understanding of organisations across the globe, differences in the external environment in which they operate and management theory.
3. Support students in the development and application of a range of skills for a career in business and management, for example, managing people and projects, communication, cultural intelligence, working in diverse teams, research and appropriate technologies.
4. Develop students' ability to critically reflect on the effectiveness of their own skills and knowledge, as part of a commitment to ongoing professional development.
5. Encourage the examination of contemporary and strategic issues in international business through the application of relevant analytical concepts, models and theories.
6. Facilitate the evaluation and demonstration of an informed understanding of ethical responsibilities contributing to their professional values and their role in organisations and society in the 21st century.

7. Develop skills of independent learning, analysis, synthesis and critical thinking through the application of business and management concepts and principles and the related underpinning theories, in order to evaluate and solve problems in a wide range of business organisations and situations.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

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

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Apply knowledge and expertise of organisational management in different national cultures to a range of international business contexts
K2	Assess the ways in which multinational organisations operate in the global business environment
K3	Utilise a range of contemporary and appropriate technologies in developing and communicating solutions for a global context
K4	Apply relevant theories, models and tools for the effective operation of organisations operating across borders
K5	Demonstrate an awareness of sustainability issues relating to international business

Analysis and Criticality (C)

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

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Evaluate international business theories and models related to social responsibility and sustainability
C2	Analyse the utility of a range of digital media and technologies to support international business operations
C3	Apply a critical lens to the internal and external organisational factors of international business
C4	Critically evaluate relevant options for the start-up and management of a range of international business endeavours

Application and Practice (P)

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

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Apply relevant theories to business issues in an international context
P2	Use a range of relevant models to recommend relevant courses of action to increase operational efficiency in an international context
P3	Demonstrate effective leadership and team working in diverse teams
P4	Independently initiate projects in a range of complex contexts, using a range of appropriate skills and resources

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

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

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Exhibit interpersonal skills for effective management and leadership
T2	Communicate information, plans and recommendations accurately and reliably in a manner fit for purpose and audience
T3	Demonstrate the use of business acumen in finance, marketing and/or human resource management
T4	Employ independent learning skills in a range of academic and professional tasks to an advanced level

Graduate Attributes

At BNU, we focus on developing graduates who are ready to make a positive impact in the 21st-century job market. Our key attributes include:

- **Knowledge and Application:** Applying what you learn to real-world situations.
- **Creativity:** Thinking outside the box to solve problems.
- **Social and Ethical Awareness:** Understanding your role and responsibilities in society.
- **Leadership and Self-Development:** Growing as a leader and continuously improving yourself.

How You'll Develop These Attributes:

- **Entrepreneurship and Reflexive Thinking:** Learn to think like an entrepreneur and reflect on your experiences.
- **Modern Business Practices:** Gain a global perspective on how businesses operate through practical activities.
- **Agile and Critical Thinking:** Develop the skills needed to adapt and think critically in any situation.

Core Pillars of the Programme:

- **Creativity:** Explore innovative solutions in business.
- **Social and Ethical Responsibility:** Understand the ethical implications of business decisions.
- **Leadership and Self-Development:** Enhance your leadership skills and personal growth.

Through these themes, you'll gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by global organisations today.

4. Entry Requirements

To join this programme, you need to meet the University's [general entry requirements](#), plus the following:

- **UCAS Points:** Typically, you'll need 88-112 UCAS points or equivalent. However, we assess each application individually.

- **Professional Experience:** If you don't meet the entry requirements but have relevant professional experience, you may be invited for an interview to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding.
- **Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL):** Previous study or professional/vocational experiences may count towards your learning and allow you to skip certain modules.
 - Applicants with an HNC in a business-related subject will be eligible for advanced standing entry to Level 5;
 - Applicants with an HND in a business-related subject will be eligible for advanced standing entry to Level 6
- **English Proficiency:** You should have an IELTS score of 6.0 overall, with at least 5.5 in speaking, listening, reading, and writing (equivalent to CEFR B2 level for UKVI compliance).

Top-Up Programme: To enrol in the one-year top-up programme, you need to have 240 higher education credits (including 120 credits at Level 5) from a business-related undergraduate programme.

5. Programme Structure

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Other Exit Awards Available
Foundation Year	<p>Core modules: BAM0001 Developing Personal Effectiveness (no credits) BAM0002 Business in Practice (no credits) BAM0003 Research in Practice (no credits) BAM0004 Business in Society (no credits) BAM0005 Communications in Practice (no credits) BAM0006 Live Learning Project (no credits)</p>	N/A
Level 4	<p>Core modules: BAM4020 Principles of Marketing (20 credits) BAM4051 Sustainable Globalisation: Innovations for a Shared Future (20 credits) BAM4052 Finance for International Business (20 credits) BAM4053 Managing People Across Cultures (20 credits) BAM4054 Global Strategies in Digital Business (20 credits) BAM4055 EDI and Global Citizenship: Promoting Inclusivity Worldwide (20 credits)</p>	Certificate of Higher Education , awarded on achievement of 120 credits at Level 4
Level 5	<p>Core modules: BAM5028 Data Analytics for Business Decisions (20 credits) BAM5065 International Trade (20 credits) BAM5067 Leading and Managing Diverse Teams (20 credits) BAM5068 The Responsible Business (20 credits)</p> <p>Option modules: <i>Choose two of the following option modules</i> BAM5063 The Business Communicator (20 credits) BAM5064 Intergenerational Business: Family Business Growth Strategies (20 credits) BAM5066 The Entrepreneurial Mind (20 credits) LAW5034 Business Law and Practice (20 credits)</p>	Diploma of Higher Education , awarded on achievement of 240 credits, including a minimum of 120 credits at Level 5

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Other Exit Awards Available
Level 6	<p>Core modules: BAM6006 Sustainable Strategic Agility and Innovation (20 credits) BAM6012 International Finance (20 credits) BAM6014 Independent Professional Project (40 credits) BAM6039 Supply Chain Resilience (20 credits)</p> <p>Option modules: <i>Choose one of the following option modules</i> BAM6011 International Marketing (20 credits) LAW6040 International Law (20 credits)</p>	<p>Ordinary Degree, awarded on achievement of 300 credits, including 60 credits at Level 6 and 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5</p>

Please note:

- Only students enrolled on the Foundation Year option will take Foundation Year modules
- Not all optional modules will be available every year.
- New optional modules may be introduced later to keep the programme up-to-date with changes in the subject area.
- Students on the top-up programme will enter directly at Level 6.
- Not all teaching institutions (partners) will offer all options. Check the specific version of this programme specification for the relevant partner.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

The programme combines in-person classes with effective use of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and flipped learning. You'll experience a mix of teaching styles, including:

- **Lectures:** Short, focused lectures to deliver theoretical information, supported by handouts, web resources, and the VLE.
- **Tutorials:** Small group or one-on-one sessions to support lectures and discuss assessments.
- **Practical Sessions:** Simulations, live briefs, and role plays based on real-life scenarios.
- **Seminars:** Large group debates or small group discussions, sometimes following a video.
- **Other Activities:** Industrial visits, guest lectures, and computer-aided learning tools.

Assessment

Assessments are varied and tied to real-world contexts, allowing you to demonstrate your skills practically. They include:

- **Level 4:** A mix of summative and formative assessments to build your foundational knowledge, skills, and behaviours.
- **Levels 5 and 6:** Assessments that apply theoretical and practical knowledge in professional contexts, supported by frequent formative assessments.
- **Final Project:** Develop an authentic business artefact, such as a policy, business plan, training course, or marketing campaign, to showcase your critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Contact Hours

Expect around 12 hours of scheduled learning activities per week, including lectures, seminars, and workshops. Detailed contact hours are provided in individual module descriptors.

7. Programme Regulations

This programme follows the *Regulations for Taught Degree Programmes (2023)*.

8. Support for learners

We have several systems in place to help you succeed in your studies:

- **Personal Tutor:** You'll be assigned a Personal Tutor who will provide both pastoral and academic support throughout your programme.
- **Programme Handbook and Induction:** You'll receive a handbook and an induction at the start of your studies to help you get started.
- **Library Resources:** Access a wide range of books, journals, and databases, many available electronically, with support from trained library staff.
- **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE):** Use Blackboard, accessible via PC, laptop, tablet, or mobile device, for your online learning needs.
- **MyBNU Portal:** Access all university systems, information, news, record your attendance, and view your personalised timetable through the MyBNU portal.

- **Academic Registry:** Get general guidance on university regulations, exams, and other aspects of your course administration from the Academic Registry staff.
- **Central Student Services:** Benefit from support teams for academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability, and counselling.
- **Bucks Students' Union:** Receive free and confidential advice on university processes from the Students' Union Advice Centre.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU ensures the quality of learning and teaching on your programme through various mechanisms. You can provide feedback on your programme through:

- **Feedback Questionnaires:** Formal surveys and anonymous module check-ins.
- **External Surveys:** Participation in national or external surveys.
- **Programme Committees:** Share your thoughts via appointed student representatives.
- **Informal Feedback:** Directly to your programme leader.

Quality and standards are maintained through:

- **Programme Approval:** An initial event to approve the programme for delivery.
- **External Examiner Reports:** Annual reports following external moderation of assessments.
- **Annual Monitoring:** Annual review of the programme overseen by the University's Quality Assurance Committee.
- **Periodic Subject Reviews:** Held every five years.
- **Sector Compliance:** Other compliance and review mechanisms.

10. Internal and external reference points

The design and development of this programme have been guided by the following reference points:

- **Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)**
- **QAA Subject Benchmark Statement:** Detailed mapping provided below.
- **PSRB Standards of Proficiency (SOP) for the Chartered Management Institute**
- **BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework**
- **BNU Grading Descriptors**
- **University Strategy, Thrive 2028**

Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement to Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Benchmark Statement: Business and Management (March 2023)	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)				Application and Practice (P)				Transferable skills (T)			
Benchmark requirement (Typical level):	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	P1	P2	P3	P4	T1	T2	T3	T4
Knowledge and understanding: a solid and substantial knowledge and understanding of the broad range of areas of business and management and the complex relationships between these and their application to practice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓				
Skills: A command of subject-specific skills as well as proficiency in generic skills and attributes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Critical perspective: A view of business and management which is influenced by a wide range of appropriate learning sources, including evidence of an independent approach to learning and critical evaluation						✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
Application: the skills and abilities to apply knowledge in complex and contemporary organisational environments, and some capacity to develop and apply their own perspectives to their studies, to deal with uncertainty and complexity, to explore alternative solutions, to demonstrate critical evaluation and to integrate theory	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Values: An ability to integrate the values of global social responsibility.	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓

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)				
	Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	P1	P2	P3	P4	T1	T2	T3	T4
Level 5																		
BAM5028 Data Analytics for Business Decisions			✓				✓	✓			✓		✓		✓			
BAM5056 International Trade		✓						✓	✓		✓		✓		✓			
BAM5067 Leading and Managing Diverse Teams	✓			✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
BAM5068 The Responsible Business	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Level 6																		
BAM6006 Sustainable Strategic Agility and Innovation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓		✓			✓
BAM6012 International Finance		✓					✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
BAM6014 Independent Professional Project				✓					✓	✓			✓		✓			✓
BAM6039 Supply Chain Resilience		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓			✓