



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information	
Awarding Institution	University of the West of England, Bristol
Teaching Institution	University of the West of England, Bristol
Delivery Location	University of the West of England, Bristol
Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition	No
Faculty responsible for programme	FBL
Department responsible for programme	Bristol Business School
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	N/A.
Highest Award Title	Doctor of Business Administration
Default Award Title	N/A
Interim Award Titles	PG Cert Management Research, PG Dip Management Research
UWE Progression Route	N/A
Mode of Delivery	Part Time
ISIS code/s	N12W42
For implementation from	January 2019

Part 2: Description**Definitive Approach and Philosophy of the Award**

The DBA is a strategic initiative in the Business School intended to allow experienced managers an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and skills to meet the higher intellectual and professional practice demands of their organisation roles. Its aim is to facilitate the application of existing theory and knowledge to major work place issues. The overall aims of the programme are:

- Significant contribution and enhancement of professional practice through the application of existing knowledge and development of theoretical frameworks
- Focus on existing real business issues through critical review and systematic application of theory and research knowledge to professional practice
- Provide significant opportunity for considerable personal development to achieve higher level effectiveness as a professional practitioner
- Create demonstrated impact upon an organisation through their work

A key element of the philosophy and approach centres on the development not only of intellectual knowledge and practitioner skills of the student, but also wider personal development (Vitae Researcher Development Framework). The aim is to develop professionals to become more critical and reflexive in their working practice. To this end continuous personal guidance and mentoring form an integral part of the student experience. This is achieved through a Doctoral Development Plan that provides a written reflection on learning is continuously developed with the student's supervisory team. The supervisory team led by the DoS provides individual guidance throughout the programme.

Educational Aims

The Doctorate in Business Administration is designed to enhance executive level professional practice in business and management through the application, creation and evaluation of theoretical frameworks and research findings to increasingly complex real business issues. Its purpose is to provide a high-level set of learning opportunities combining structure, a community of practice and independent research in a practitioner context.

At the end of the programme graduates will be able to conduct independent and original research, applying the latest knowledge from academic journal articles and/or original thinking to novel context in order to address organizational issues. They will be able to demonstrate their work has impact on the organization.

Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

- Award is made based on completion of taught elements and a supervised research project/project portfolio
- Research projects are normally located within the candidate's profession or practice
- Candidates must demonstrate an original contribution to knowledge in their subject, field or profession, through original research or the original application of existing knowledge
- Candidates must demonstrate and evidence impact during (not post) research.
 - Impact relates to research that results directly in professional, organisational or policy-related impact that is direct result of the work

Regulations

A: Approved to [University Regulations and Procedures](#)

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in many specialist areas of management, dependent upon the project and optional modules selected.

The programme consists of two distinct parts and therefore two sets of learning outcomes. Part 1 is the taught phase of the programme preparing students to embark on their thesis research project. Learning outcomes of part 1 illustrate the core knowledge, skills and capabilities a DBA student will be able to demonstrate to successfully progress to part 2. The programme level outcomes are those demonstrated through successful completion of part 2.

The following Programme Learning Outcomes are derived from the QAA Doctoral Characteristics and the [UWE Doctoral Descriptor requirements \(PGR2.2.1R\)](#).

The mapping below indicates where a learning outcome is a primary focus of a module and will be assessed.. Opportunities for other learning outcomes that are not assessed may be present in a module but are not identified.

Learning Outcomes:	Research Principles & Practice in	Ways of Knowing;	Discovery: Research Methods	C-suite	Research Thesis
Create and interpret new knowledge, through original research, of a quality to extend the forefront of the discipline and/or demonstrate impact.				✓	✓
Plan, manage and deliver projects, justifying appropriate methodological choices while recognising, evaluating and minimising the risks involved, the impact on the environment and with regards to sustainable business.	✓	✓	✓		✓
Search for, discover, access, retrieve, sift, interpret, analyse, evaluate, synthesise, manage, conserve and communicate, from a range of sources, a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of business research.	✓			✓	✓
Critically review current thinking in business research and clearly articulate the connection between theory and business practice, articulating how philosophical, epistemological and ontological assumptions impact on the research process, application of research findings and the creation of knowledge.		✓	✓		✓
Make informed judgements, including reflective and reflexive practice, on complex issues in business research and be able to communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Exercise professional standards in research and research integrity, and engage in professional practice, including ethical, legal, and health and safety aspects	✓				✓

Part 4: Programme Structure

The programme consists of two parts. Part 1 is the taught phase of the programme preparing students to embark on their thesis research project. The four 30 credit modules must be completed and passed within part 1 before the student can progress to part 2 (research phase). Part 2 is the undertaking of the research project and production of a thesis. The programme will commence with an induction to studying with UWE and to the programme specifically. The taught modules will facilitate building cohort identity and peer support.

Students are supported and supervised from the start of their studies, with a Director of Studies appointed to guide them from their first day and be their first point of contact for the whole of their course. The Director of Studies will provide formative feedback on module work, guide the student in creating the doctoral development plan that captures their learning journey and will be part of their final submission, and guide them on capturing background data that will be used as a benchmark for evidence of impact due to changes they make.

The Director of Studies will assist in composing a supervisory team such that a second and sometimes third supervisor is in place as appropriate, usually from the beginning of Part 2. Where students are based overseas a geographically local second supervisor will normally be appointed as part of the supervisory team. The supervisory team will be reviewed by the Faculty Research Degrees Committee at the beginning of Part 2 (doctoral research phase) to ensure that it remains suitable to provide appropriate support to the student during the conduct of their independent research project. The Director of Studies and supervisory team will carry out their role in accordance with PGR Academic Regulations and Procedures.

During the research phase (part 2) students will also be supported in the development of a range of transferable skills and researcher attributes via the UWE Graduate School Researcher Skills Development Workshop series. The workshop programme is designed to map closely to the skills and attributes contained within the national [Vitae Researcher Development Framework](#). Running throughout the academic year these include workshops on IT software data management and referencing, academic writing skills, research governance and ethical research practice, undertaking the Progression Exam, preparing the Final Thesis, Perfect Posters and presentations etc.

The Graduate School also runs a Thesis Boot camp and a Residential course at Buckland Hall, Powys. All of these workshops and courses are free to UWE PGR students and are also a good way to meet other PGR students from all disciplines across UWE.

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/research/postgraduateresearchstudy/skillsdevelopment.aspx>

Overview	<u>Part 1</u>	Taught Phase		Non-Compulsory
		Core		
	Year 1 Skills Development	Research Principles and Practice (30 credits)	Ways of Knowing: Research Methodologies (30 credits)	
	Year 2	Discovery: Research Methods (30 credits)	C-suite (30 credits)	MBA/MSc modules. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be taken as additional learning • Not required but may add to student learning • Currently mainly face to face teaching only
	<u>Part 2</u>	Research Phase		
	<i>Progress Review Points</i>			
	Year 3:	Research (project): RD1 (within 6 months from start of Part 2)		
	Year 4:	Research Progress Exam (within 18 months from start of Part 2)		
	Year 5:	Research, and progress review PR2/3 as appropriate (by 36 months from start of Part 2)		
	Year 6:	Research and final submission (by 54 months from start of Part 2)		
	Final Assessment	Thesis Submission		
		Earliest submission - 48 months from start of the award Latest submission - 72 months from start of the award		

Part 4: Programme Structure

ENTRY		Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Awards
	Part 1	UMCDNL-30-M Research Principles and Practice in Business Management 30 Credits UMCC64-30-M Ways of Knowing: Research Methodologies 30 Credits UMCC46-30-M Discovery: Research Methods 30 Credits UMCDNM-30-M C-suite 30 Credits	MSc/MBA modules as desired	Interim awards: PG Certificate in Management Research (60 Credits) PG Diploma in Management Research (120 credits)

		Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
	Part 2	Doctoral Research Project Award of the doctorate is based on a supervised research project, projects or portfolio. Student and Director of Studies can decide how best to provide evidence of compliance with UWE Doctoral requirements (PGR2.2.1R) but work must be presented as a thesis of up to 60,000 words. The thesis is to include a chapter for the 'Doctoral Development Plan' that gives a reflection on learning and impact.	MSc/MBA modules as desired	

Part time:

The programme as described is part-time. A full time option would require all four modules to be undertaken, either in the first year of study or during the first two years. Progression points for part 2 (years 3 and onwards) would occur every 12 months for FT PGRs rather than at 18 month intervals for PT PGRs.

Part 5: Entry Requirements

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply with the following additions/exceptions*:

- Candidates have a Masters qualification or equivalent
- English language with an IELTS score of 7 or above and evidence of working and/or study in an English-speaking environment

A hallmark of the learning environment on the DBA is that all students contribute to the pool of experience in which their collective learning is grounded. Students will be expected to demonstrate as part of the application process that they have sufficient appropriate work experience for this purpose and that they have the ability to create impact within an organisation. It is unlikely that anyone with less than two to three years' experience will be able to meet this requirement.

All shortlisted applicants for the DBA will be interviewed.

*Those without a Masters qualification but with significant work experience will be considered by the DBA programme director on an individual basis.

Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks

Set out which reference points and benchmarks have been used in the design of the programme:

All aspects of PGR study at UWE including the requirements for progress review and final assessment processes are detailed in the online [Graduate School Handbook](#).

UWE Academic Regulations and Procedures, 2017/18

<http://www2.uwe.ac.uk/services/Marketing/students/Student%20advice/Regulations-documents/2017-18/Academic-Regulations-2017-2018.pdf>

NB. PGR Regulations and Procedures are detailed in the [Graduate School Handbook](#):

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/research/postgraduateresearchstudy/currentpgrresearchers/graduateschoolhandbook.aspx>

Used as central guiding document to specify the programme.

UWE Bristol Code of Good Research Conduct

The policy and code apply to all researchers conducting research at or under the auspices of UWE, Bristol. This includes academic staff, professional service staff, students and visiting researchers. For the purposes of PGR research the Director of Studies is the designated UWE Project Manager.

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/research/researchgovernance/codeofgoodresearchconduct.aspx>

QAA Doctoral Degree Characteristics

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Doctoral-Degree-Characteristics-15.pdf>

[Strategy 2020](#)

The DBA aligns with all of the University Strategy priorities. *Outstanding learning*, through the use of the latest technology to enhance the learning experience and allow for remote study. *Ready and able graduates*, training managers in academic skills that are applicable to the workplace. *Research with Impact*, central to the DBA is the research project that must evidence impact on the organisation. *Strategic Partnerships*, as the DBA allows closer links to be forged between academia and practice.

[QAA UK Quality Code for HE](#)

Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks

-Framework for higher education qualifications (FHEQ) and particularly Chapter B11: Research Degrees

[University policies](#)

AACSB <http://www.aacsb.edu/>

The course was checked against AACSB Standards, though no specific guidance for Professional Doctorates is provided.

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First CAP Approval Date	University Validation panel 10 July 20 link to RIA		
Revision ASQC Approval Date <i>Update this row each time a change goes to ASQC</i>		Version	2
Next Periodic Curriculum Review due date	<i>Academic year in which next Periodic Curriculum Review due (6 years from initial approval or last Periodic Curriculum Review)</i>		
Date of last Periodic Curriculum Review			