



## **Programme Specification**

### **International Business Management {Top-Up} [Villa]**

Version: 2027-28, v2.0, Validated

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## Section 1: Key Programme Details

### Part A: Programme Information

**Programme title:** International Business Management {Top-Up} [Villa]

**Highest award:** BA (Hons) International Business Management

**Awarding institution:** UWE Bristol

**Affiliated institutions:** Villa College

**Teaching institutions:** Villa College

**Study abroad:** No

**Year abroad:** No

**Sandwich year:** No

**Credit recognition:** No

**School responsible for the programme:** CBL Bristol Business School, College of Business and Law

**Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:** Not applicable

**Modes of delivery:** Full-time

**Entry requirements:** For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

**For implementation from:** 01 September 2027

**Programme code:** N1SA13

## Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

### Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

**Overview:** The BA (Hons) International Business Management (top up) at Villa College offers students a current and integrated practice-based business education covering the main underpinning theoretical, functional and operational areas of business, with a specific focus on the international dimensions of business and management. Alongside support to develop personally, professionally, and academically.

Building on prior relevant learning, the curriculum aims to challenge students in their ways of thinking, behaving, and learning. The Educational Development Strands of professional development, research and academic skills, sustainability, and development of entrepreneurial mindsets are embedded throughout the year of study.

As a practice-focused programme, students engage with authentic learning, teaching and assessment approaches throughout. This final year programme consists of real-world practice modules including a capstone module which draws together learning into practice with a direct emphasis on student centred practice-led activity which is CV enhancing and “real world”.

**Features of the programme:** The BA(Hons) International Business Management (top up) will give you a solid grounding in the fundamentals of business management, with a focus on the international dimensions of business. This is a programme for students with an interest in what it means to work in and with international and global business.

This one year programme also has the following distinctive features:

**Transferable enterprise employability skills:** The programme focuses on developing a diversified skill set, including technical competencies, digital literacy, critical thinking, ethical values, and communication skills. This approach aims to produce graduates who are work-ready and able to succeed and flourish.

**Practice-Led & engaged with industry:** Grounded in a practice-led approach, the curriculum integrates cutting-edge research from ethics and sustainability. This provides students with practical insights. Engaging closely with employers, entrepreneurs, and professional bodies as relevant, students are encouraged to explore diverse applications of acquired skills. Integrated activities, such as fieldwork, pitches and industry guest lectures, enrich the learning experience and offer networking opportunities.

**Digital Capability:** Technology literacy will be essential for future business leaders to thrive and the programme recognizes the importance of digital literacy and integrates this into teaching students to use a range of digital tools effectively. Whilst the changes in this area are rapid, emerging technologies (ET) including Artificial intelligence (AI) are transforming modern business. As Business educators, we embed critical thinking and practical application that motivates learners to embrace new technologies and understand how they will be applied in future enterprises.

**Sustainability:** Students will study core modules that focus on ethical and sustainable practices, in addition our programme aims to inspire students to embrace sustainable innovation. Through practical application and use of real-world case studies, students are challenged to consider their role in shaping a sustainable future.

**Professional Practice development:** A distinctive feature of the programme is the academic and professional development stream, which cuts across the year of the programme and is embedded as a core module in the curriculum. This stream supports students' developmental journey, offering learners group mentor support and providing the structure to allow students to develop a compelling narrative of their degree journey to present to potential employers.

**Educational Aims:** The overarching aim of the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy is that "our students will enjoy a personalised, inclusive and transformative experience that empowers them to be engaged, committed and passionate learners who thrive in our university environment and achieve their best".

The BA (Hons) International Business Management (top up) degree actively seeks to provide personalised experiences for all learners, grounding student learning in the international business environment and international context directly through the core modules which have an significant international focus. Wherever appropriate this is also supported through engagement with professionals and authentic assessments that afford students' opportunities to test out concepts in practice and reflect on their own experience of organisations in global contexts.

Student achievement is supported by a clear professional practice and personal development strand of transferable skills and entrepreneurial mindsets over the year that facilitates the transition into, through, and beyond, the programme, and which underpins enterprise, employability, and lifelong learning.

#### Educational Aims:

1. Provide students with high quality learning and teaching experiences that are practice-led, and sustain a culture of student-centred learning, incorporating current research to ensure learning is research-informed
2. Provide students with an in-depth knowledge and critical understanding of organisations and management of profit and not for profit businesses and the changing global environment in which they operate;
3. Develop students' independent thinking and informed understanding of critical contemporary business issues and theoretical debates to work with academic theory in practice;
4. Develop students' analytical and enquiring approaches to the analysis of business problems in an international context so that considered and appropriate conclusions are drawn – which can be communicated effectively and appropriately.
5. Develop students' collaborative skills, strong sense of self and life-long learning skills, including ethical, personal, and social responsibility as global citizens.
6. Prepare students with the employability skills and attributes necessary to plan

effectively for their chosen future and be able to undertake appropriate personal development for international careers in business and management and/ or further study.

### **Programme Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

### **Programme Learning Outcomes**

- PO1. Knowledge and understanding  
Demonstrate a systematic and detailed appreciation of the behaviour of people at work, and the role of marketing, data, and strategic and operations management in enterprise and organisations; with an advanced knowledge and critical understanding of the core and optional subjects relevant to international business and the role and responsibility of organisations and managers in diverse societies with their contrasting cultural and institutional context.
- PO2. Critical analysis  
Ability to apply a conceptual understanding to devise, sustain and critically analyse arguments. Effectively solving problems with a critical appreciation of context, ambiguity, and uncertainty.
- PO3. Skills and attributes  
Ability to apply the skills and attributes necessary to work collaboratively and individually, in a digital, culturally diverse world; effectively communicating complex information, ideas, problems, and solutions as appropriate to the needs of varied and different audiences.
- PO4. Personal and professional futures  
Demonstrate self-awareness informing the learners' ongoing personal and professional development, alongside a reflective understanding of how the knowledge and skills developed throughout the programme can enhance their entrepreneurial thinking, practice, global mindset and employability.
- PO5. Social value and sustainability  
Demonstrate a critical understanding of the learners' roles and social responsibilities as global citizens, and the sustainable development goals and activities of international managers in international organisations and society.

**Assessment strategy:** Assessments are designed programmatically so as to facilitate a progression from relevant L5 entry qualifications through to level 6 top up

year of study:

Level 6 (evaluating and creating), a systematic understanding of a complex body of knowledge, some of it at the current boundaries of the academic discipline, with the ability to critically apply and evaluate arguments and assumptions appreciating uncertainty and the limits of knowledge.

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods which are assessed against publicised marking criteria:

1. Regular formative assessment is used at all Levels to monitor students' progress and provide feedback about knowledge and understanding gained and development of skills and attributes, providing an opportunity for identifying and rectifying students potential challenges, as well as contributing to summative assessment in some instances.
2. Presentations and Posters (individual and collaborative) are formally and informally assessed for content and process in modules at each level. In addition to assessing the students' analytical skills and relevant theoretical understanding, these provide opportunities to assess students' oral communication skills and prepare them for presentation processes common in international business environments. These include opportunities for peer review assessment, where group members can allocate marks to reflect each group member's contribution when working collaboratively. This also provides an opportunity for personal reflection.
3. Written assignments, projects, case studies, reports, and set exercises. These are expected to be well written and presented and are used to assess the students' development of key skills as well as theoretical knowledge and critical understanding. They provide opportunities for in depth focus on specific international business related issue.
4. Academic and Professional development portfolio of evidence demonstrates that students have developed the required professional skills and attributes for a career

in business. Students will also reflect and comment on their own learning and personal development.

5. Formal examinations are used very occasionally and only if they are the most appropriate assessment approach for assessing students' theoretical understanding and critical abilities, and manage time effectively. The University has systems in place to ensure that examining procedures are moderated and regulated.

6. In line with inclusionary learning and teaching principles the programme provides alternative assessment proposals where students with logistical or other difficulties can elect to submit in an alternative format. This relates primarily to presentations/vivas and in these instances students will be offered a choice of face to face, online or recorded where possible. With regard to group work this will be encouraged in many modules, collaborative working is assessed summatively in the academic and professional development module where group activities are undertaken and group mentor support is provided.

**Student support:** Villa College offers a comprehensive suite of support services designed to promote students' academic success, wellbeing, and career development.

A key element of this provision is its dedicated career services, which provide personalised career guidance, employability coaching, and opportunities to build essential workplace skills. Students can access advice on CV writing, interview techniques, job-search strategies, and professional networking. The college also facilitates internship and employment opportunities through strong industry partnerships, an annual career fair, and a dedicated job portal that connects students with reputable employers across the Maldives.

Student wellbeing is supported through the VCare Counselling and Psychotherapy Centre, a purpose-built facility offering counselling, psychotherapy, psychosocial support, and psychological assessments. The centre operates extended hours to ensure accessibility and provides a safe environment for students to seek

confidential support. It also offers practical training opportunities for students studying psychology and counselling.

Beyond academic and wellbeing services, Villa College fosters a vibrant student experience through campus activities, clubs, community engagement, and recreational facilities. Students are encouraged to participate in co-curricular activities, volunteer projects, and social events, helping them develop confidence, interpersonal skills, and a sense of belonging. Annual recognition events celebrate student achievements and contribute to a supportive and motivating learning environment.

## Part B: Programme Structure

### Year 1

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

### Year 1 Compulsory Modules

Students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMSTHL-30-3	Academic and Professional Development: Business Simulation 2027-28	30
UMSTAX-30-3	Project Management with Data Analytics 2027-28	30
UMOT6W-15-3	Social Value and Sustainability for Business 2027-28	15
UMSTBH-30-3	Global Supply Chain for Advanced Strategy 2027-28	30
UMPTHP-15-3	People and Global Organisations 2027-28	15

**Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis**

This course provides an integrated business and management programme focused on developing the knowledge, skills and attributes concerned with the conduct of business and management across borders. It comprises modules covering a range of disciplines and functions in international business, enabling students to develop the knowledge to support students in their future career aspirations. Successful completion of the programme requires students to be independent, analytical and critical. It requires them to work effectively within diverse teams and demonstrate strong information literacy, a spirit of enquiry and to be reflective in practice. It will also require a broad theoretical and practical knowledge of a broad range of business functions and the business environment.

**Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks**

The following reference points and benchmarks have been used in the design of the programme:

UWE reference points and benchmarks:

The teaching and learning approach of Bristol Business School, and UWE as articulated through its Teaching and Learning Governance structures and committees.

UWE, Bristol Strategy 2030:

UWE Academic Regulations

UWE learning and teaching strategy

Digital Learning Service in CBL Team

University policies

Enhancement Framework

QAA/ FHEQ and OFS reference points and benchmarks

QAA Framework for Higher Education; and OFS sector regulatory standards

OFS Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2022)

QAA Assessment overview

QAA Quality code: assessment

QAA Subject Benchmarks

Future employability reports:

The Chartered Management Institute (CMI) (2021)

World Economic Forum (WEF) on the future of work (2023)

CBI education and skills survey 2022

Staff research projects:

Wherever possible staff are encouraged to utilize their research and that of colleagues to inform their teaching, both in terms of content and pedagogic approach

Employer interaction and feedback:

Employers and alumni are regularly consulted to ensure the currency and relevance of the programme.

Student consultation:

Student consultation is ongoing on feeds directly into the continued improvement of the programme.

**Part E: Regulations**

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.