Imperial College London

Programme Specification (Master's Level)

MRes Business

This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is intended as a reference point for prospective students, current students, external examiners and academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement.

Programme Information

Programme Title	Business
Award(s)	MRes
Programme Code	N1UQ
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London
Faculty	Imperial College Business School
Department	Imperial College Business School
Mode and Period of Study	1 calendar year full-time (12 months)
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in September
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points	Master's Degrees in Business and Management

Total Credits	ECTS:	90	CATS:	180

FHEQ Level	Level 7 - Master's
EHEA Level	2nd cycle
External Accreditor(s)	AMBA Accreditation received: 1987 Accreditation renewal: 2023 (expected) EQUIS Accreditation received: 2006 Accreditation renewal: 2025 (expected) AACSB International Accreditation received: 2012 Accreditation renewal: 2023 (expected)

Specification Details

Student cohorts covered by specification	2022/23 entry
Person responsible for the specification	Veronica Russell, Director, Education Quality
Date of introduction of programme	September 2015
Date of programme specification/revision	August 2022

Description of Programme Contents

The MRes in Business is offered over 12 months full-time. It is the first year of the School's Doctoral programme which in total is a full-time, five-year programme. The formal modules of the MRes provide a theoretical grounding and thorough research training for a solid foundation for an academic career.

MRes Introductory modules

Completion of two introductory modules is compulsory for all students, however only one of these (Data Analysis Tools) is formally assessed, with either a pass or fail mark. The Introductory modules must be completed to progress, but do not count towards the overall MRes mark.

- Data Analysis Tools (BUSI97165)
- Systematic Reviews (BUSI97161)

Elective modules

Students take research methods modules and specialist modules in the autumn and spring terms of the MRes year. Elective modules are assessed as part of the overall MRes award. Students can select approved elective modules from other faculties, as well as from London Business School, in consultation with their supervisors and the Programme Director, providing that the total credit value is of equal or greater value. A selection of these approved modules is listed within this programme specification.

MRes Research Project

During the year students work on their MRes project which is formally assessed and counts towards the overall MRes mark. Students are expected to approach potential supervisors from within the department's academic staff.

Students submit their proposed research project title and a brief outline by the end of February.

Students submit a Progress Report in May, outlining their progress to date with the thesis.

During the Summer Term, students will submit their MRes dissertation. This will be followed by an oral exam.

Progression to the PhD

Progression to the PhD is not automatic. To progress from the MRes to the PhD, students must successfully complete the MRes with an overall average of 60% (including achieving a minimum of 60% in the research project). Students who successfully complete the MRes programme but are required to re-sit more than one assessment or do not achieve the overall progression requirement would exit with the MRes award and only exceptionally be accepted onto the PhD.

Learning Outcomes

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial College degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes

The Programme has been developed to prepare individuals for a fruitful career in research. To achieve this the programme aims to:

- Attract motivated, high calibre students who are passionate about pursuing a career in research
- Develop students' ability to present technical work to a wide audience
- Introduce students to the research techniques and tools necessary to undertake effective qualitative and quantitative research in Finance, Economics or Management.
- Provide students with breadth and depth of knowledge in discipline-specific theory and literature.
- Train students to identify important problems within their chosen area of research and to be able to design a research project that effectively sets out to solve these problems.
- Provide an environment that is intellectually stimulating and inspiring, that fosters a student's curiosity and creative thinking in their chosen field.
- Provide students with a good foundation to continue on to the PhD Programme at the Business School and undertake high quality doctoral research

Students who have successfully completed the programme will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in social science research methods and techniques;
- Demonstrate understanding of how these research methods and techniques are applied to specific areas in Finance, Economics or Management and applying this to their own research projects, assignments and exams;
- Demonstrate knowledge of theory and current work in their chosen area of research, identifying issues and new research opportunities.

Skills and other Attributes
In addition, the programme will enable students to:

- Acquire a comprehensive mastery of research techniques and skills applicable to their own intended independent research;
- Develop a conceptual understanding that enables them to critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in a research topic and to carry out original research in that topic;
- Assimilate and understand a large body of complex concepts;
- Critically evaluate current research and offer new perspectives;
- Recognise commonalities and patterns in data and draw logical conclusions;
- Identify questions of research that would contribute to and design a research project, using appropriate tools and techniques to answer that question;
- Carry out extended investigative work in Finance, Economics or Management through an extended research project;
- Carry out investigative project work;
- Design research projects and identify the methods, techniques and software tools necessary to carry out this research;
- Carry out independent research using available literature;

- Communicate effectively by listening carefully and presenting complex, technical information in a clear and concise manner orally, in writing and via presentation tools (i.e. tables, charts, graphs);
- Use analytical skills, paying attention to detail and using technical language correctly, to manipulate and precise and intricate ideas to construct logical arguments;
- Use IT skills for communication and analysis;
- Use own initiative to work independently in an organised way in order to meet deadlines and plan effectively for longer term projects;
- Work in groups, interacting with and providing constructive feedback to others.

Students who have successfully completed the programme should have knowledge of:

- Problem solving strategies and methods;
- Effective development of research ideas and design;
- A wide range of social science research techniques utilised in the fields of Finance, Economics and Management, including quantitative and qualitative research methods and research design;
- Programming software packages commonly utilised in Finance, Economics and Management research.

Entry Requirements	
Academic Requirement	Normally a UK Master's degree at distinction, or equivalent, in a subject related to research interests. Exceptionally a UK honours degree at 1st or equivalent, in a subject relevant to research interests. The Business School does not award credit for Prior Learning (Recognition of Prior Certified Learning (RPCL) or Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL)).
Non-academic Requirements	All applicants will need to complete a personal statement which outlines their motivation for undertaking an MRes and their area of research interest. Applicants should submit GMAT/GRE test scores in 90th percentile. This equates to a GMAT score of 700/800 or higher or for GRE, the different test elements scores in the 90th percentile roughly equate to: 165/170 in quantitative reasoning, 163/170 in verbal reasoning and 5/6 in analytical writing. GRE is the preferred test for students applying to the Finance, Economics and Operations pathways Two references are also required.

English Language Requirement	English language test: IELTS level 7 with no element below 6.5 (or equivalent).

The programme's competency standards documents can be requested from the Business School's Education Quality Office

Learning & Teaching Strategy	
Scheduled Learning & Teaching Methods	• Lectures • Practical classes and field work • Equipment/technique demonstrations (e.g. Bloomberg, Datastream) • Seminars • Workshops • Case studies • Group work exercises • Formal presentations
E-learning & Blended Learning Methods	• Pre-programme VLE modules • On-line discussion forums • On-line lecture materials • Interactive content including video and module quizzes
Project and Placement Learning Methods	• Independent Research Project
Assessment Strategy	
Assessment Methods	Modules will be assessed by one or more of the following types of assessment methods: • Essays • Continuous assessments • Written Examinations/Tests • Multiple Choice Tests • Formal Presentations • Reports • Case Studies • Participation • Oral presentation Assessed modules comprise coursework that is designed to help you master key elements of the subject and, in part, to help prepare you for the final assessment, which is typically a report or examination. Examinations are scheduled throughout the year, generally at the end of the term the module is taught or at the start of the subsequent term. Exact timings are detailed in the programme overview section above. The format of examinations may be written, computer-based or timed remote assessment.

	Coursework weighting varies among modules. The various assessments allow you to demonstrate that you have met the intended learning outcomes for each module and these collectively contribute towards your achievement of the programme's learning outcomes, detailed above.
	Assessments are designed to ensure that you have acquired the core knowledge and skills expected of a Business School graduate and that you are able to apply these in your career aspirations upon completion of the programme
	Feedback can take many forms. You will receive written feedback on all coursework along with other forms of feedback such as verbal feedback on presentations.

Academic Feedback Policy

The School aims to provide feedback to students on coursework within two weeks and to provide provisional examination marks six weeks from the examination date. With each returned coursework assignment, a written evaluation will be provided. General feedback to the cohort is provided on examination performance. Students will be provided with a percentage mark. All percentage marks received during the year are deemed provisional until confirmed by the External Exam Board.

Re-sit Policy

The College's Policy on Re-sits is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams/resit

Mitigating Circumstances Policy

The College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams

Programme Structure

Full-time	Pre-session	Term One	Term Two	Term Three	Term Four
Compulsory Modules	2				
Elective Modules		6 (minimum)			
Projects			1		

Core modules are those which serve a fundamental role within the curriculum, and for which achievement of the credits for that module is essential for the achievement of the target award. Core modules must therefore be taken and passed in order to achieve that named award. They are approved and listed as core modules for that named award on the programme specification and cannot be compensated

Compulsory modules are those which are designated as necessary to be taken as part of the programme syllabus. Compulsory modules can be compensated.

Elective modules are those which are in the same subject area as the field of study and are offered to students in order to offer an element of choice in the curriculum and from which students are able to select. They are approved and listed as elective modules for that named award on the programme specifications. Elective modules can be compensated.

Assessment Dates & Deadlines

Written Papers	October, December, March
Coursework Assessments	Continuous assessment
Final Report	Between July and August (thesis)
Practical Assessments	Between July and August (oral assessment)

Assessment Structure

Programme Module Groups	ECTS	% Weighting
Data Analysis Tools Module (pass/fail)	3	0%
3 x Core Discipline modules from elective group (A) (equally weighted)	24	40%
Specialist & Elective modules to the value of at least 18 ECTS from elective group (B) (weighted proportionately according to credit value)	18	30%
Research Project	45	30%
Total	90	100%

Assessment Scheme

Assessment Rules and Degree Classification:

There are four module groups;

Weighting

- Data Analysis Tools Module (pass/fail)   0%
- Core Discipline Modules   40%
- Specialist & Elective Modules

30%
- Research Project   30%

The three Core Discipline modules are equally weighted and total 40% of the student's final mark. Modules in Specialist & Elective modules group are weighted proportionately according to their credit value, and overall count for 30% of the final mark. Finally, the thesis and viva are 30% of the final mark.

Pass
- An average of 50% or above in each of the following module groups;
Data Analysis Tools, Core Discipline, Specialist & Elective and Research Project

Merit
- An average of 60% or above in each of the following module groups;
Core Discipline, Specialist & Elective and Research Project • At least 50% in the 'Data Analysis Tools' module

Distinction
- An average of 70% or above in each of the following module groups;
Core Discipline, Specialist & Elective and Research Project • At least 50% in the 'Data Analysis Tools' module

Marking Schemes for postgraduate taught programmes:

The Pass Mark for all postgraduate taught programme modules is 50%. Students must pass all modules in order to be awarded a degree.

Indicative Module List											
Code	Title	Compulsory/ Elective	L&T Hours	Ind. Study Hours	Place- ment Hours	Total Hours	% Written Exam	% Course- work	% Practical	FHEQ Level	ECTS
BUSI70070	Plagiarism Awareness	Required	10	15	0	25	N/A			7	0
BUSI70183	Systematic Reviews	Required	10	15	0	25	N/A			7	0
BUSI97165	Data Analysis Tools	Compulsory	32	43	0	75	100%	0%	0%	7	3
BUSI97164	Applied Microeconometrics	Elective (Core Discipline)	30	170	0	200	0%	100%	0%	7	8
BUSI97175	Applied Microeconometrics 2	Elective (Core Discipline)	24	176	0	200	0%	70%	30%	7	8
BUSI97162	Econometrics 1	Elective (Core Discipline)	32	168	0	200	50%	50%	0%	7	8
BUSI70167	Innovation Management	Specialist & Elective	30	170	0	200	0%	25%	75%	7	7.5
BUSI70320	Machine Learning for Analytics, Marketing and Operations	Elective (Core Discipline)	30	170	0	200	50%	50%	0%	7	8
BUSI70169	Organisational Behaviour	Specialist & Elective	30	157.5	0	187.5	0%	60%	40%	7	7.5

	Indicative Module List										
Code	Title	Compulsory/ Elective	L&T Hours	Ind. Study Hours	Place-ment Hours	Total Hours	% Written Exam	% Course-work	% Practical	FHEQ Level	ECTS
BUSI97619	Optimisation	Elective (Core Discipline)	32	168	0	200	0%	100%	0%	7	8
BUSI70170	Organisational Theory	Specialist & Elective	30	170	0	200	0%	80%	20%	7	7.5
BUSI97167	Qualitative Methods 1	Elective (Core Discipline)	30	170	0	200	0%	100%	0%	7	8
BUSI97166	Quantitative Methods 1	Elective (Core Discipline)	32	168	0	200	50%	50%	0%	7	8
BUSI97671	Topics in Operations Management and Analytics	Elective (Core Discipline)	30	170	0	200	0%	100%	0%	7	8
BUSI70250	Advanced Machine Learning	Specialist & Elective	22	103	0	125	70%	30%	0%	7	5.0
BUSI97368	Advanced Machine Learning (online)	Specialist & Elective	23	102	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5.0
BUSI70163	Advanced Topics in Organisational Behaviour	Specialist & Elective	30	157.5	0	187.5	0%	60%	40%	7	7.5
BUSI97179	Business Models and Intellectual Property	Specialist & Elective	20	117.5	0	137.5	0%	100%	0%	7	5.5

Indicative Module List											
Code	Title	Compulsory/ Elective	L&T Hours	Ind. Study Hours	Place-ment Hours	Total Hours	% Written Exam	% Course-work	% Practical	FHEQ Level	ECTS
BUSI97168	Consumer Behaviour	Specialist & Elective	30	120	0	150	0%	70%	30%	7	6
BUSI97092	Contemporary Topics in Health Policy	Specialist & Elective	22	115.5	0	137.5	70%	30%	0%	7	5.5
BUSI70164	Corporate Sustainability	Specialist & Elective	30	157.5	0	187.5	50%	50%	0%	7	7.5
BUSI97275	Digital Marketing Analytics	Specialist & Elective	20	105	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5.0
BUSI97362	Healthcare and Medical Analytics	Specialist & Elective	20	102	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5
BUSI97084	Health Economics	Specialist & Elective	27	110.5	0	137.5	65%	35%	100%	7	5.5
BUSI70202	Industrial Organisation	Specialist & Elective	20	105	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	6
BUSI70260	Logistics and Supply Chain Analytics	Specialist & Elective	20	105	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5.0

Indicative Module List											
Code	Title	Compulsory/ Elective	L&T Hours	Ind. Study Hours	Place-ment Hours	Total Hours	% Written Exam	% Course-work	% Practical	FHEQ Level	ECTS
BUSI70203	Machine Learning in Economic Analysis	Specialist & Elective	20	105	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5.0
BUSI70196	Microeconomics I	Specialist & Elective	30	157.5	0	187.5	0%	100%	0%	7	7.5
BUSI70198	Microeconomics 2	Specialist & Elective	30	157.5	0	187.5	0%	100%	0%	7	7.5
BUSI97269	Optimisation and Decision Models	Specialist & Elective	27	98	0	125	65%	35%	0%	7	5
BUSI70172	Qualitative Methods 2	Specialist & Elective	30	157.5	0	187.5	0%	100%	0%	7	7.5
BUSI70265	Retail and Marketing Analysis	Specialist & Elective	20	105	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5.0
BUSI70178	Social Data Science	Specialist & Elective	30	157.5	0	187.5	0%	100%	0%	7	7.5
BUSI70179	Social Network Analysis	Specialist & Elective	30	157.5	0	187.5	100%	0%	0%	7	7.5
BUSI70268	Workforce Analytics	Specialist & Elective	20	105	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5.0

Indicative Module List											
Code	Title	Compulsory/ Elective	L&T Hours	Ind. Study Hours	Place-ment Hours	Total Hours	% Written Exam	% Course-work	% Practical	FHEQ Level	ECTS
tbc	Elective taken at approved partner institution (London Business School)	Specialist & Elective	Variable							7	7.5
BUSI97173	Research Project	Compulsory	0	1125	0	1125	0%	80%	20%	7	45

Supporting Information
The Programme Handbook is available at: http://wwwf.imperial.ac.uk/business-school/programmes/programme-information/
The Module Handbook is made available to students via the Hub once the module commences. Module descriptions are available in the Programme Handbook (link above).
The College's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements
The College's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance
The College's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at: http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/regulations
Imperial College is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted under Letters Patent in 1907. In 2007 a Supplemental Charter and Statutes was granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II. This Supplemental Charter, which came into force on the date of the College's Centenary, 8th July 2007, established the College as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine". http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters-statutes-ordinances-and-regulations/
Imperial College London is regulated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) http://www.hefce.ac.uk/reg/of/
Modifications
N/A