

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Undergraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	BSc Honours
4	Programme Title	Economics and Business Management
5	UCAS/Programme Code	LN12 1112U (with placement) 1122U (with study abroad) 1446U (with work placement and study abroad)
6	Programme Accreditation	Newcastle University
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Economics and Business Management
8	FHEQ Level	Level 6
9	Date written/revised	April 2024

10 Programme Aims

The overall aims of the programme are to:

- 1 Provide an education in the principles of Economics and Business Management
- 2 Enable students to apply the knowledge and understanding they have acquired to address theoretical and applied problems in Economics and Business Management
- 3 Equip students with a range of skills which will be of value in employment and provide them with the knowledge and opportunity to acquire skills to pursue further study in Economics and/or Business Management
- 4 Provide an environment that encourages and supports the student learning process and develops their capacity for critical and creative thinking
- 5 To give students the opportunity to secure a temporary placement with a business organisation to enhance their insight into management, their practical skills, and their ability to relate theory to practice

For Students Undertaking a Placement Year

- 5 Provide students with the experience of seeking and securing a position with an employer.
- 6 Facilitate independent self-management and proactive interaction in a non-university setting.
- 7 Provide a period of practical work experience that will benefit current academic study and longer term career plans.
- 8 Enable students to ethically apply their knowledge and skills in the workplace, reflect upon their development and effectively evidence and articulate their learning in relevant future settings.

For Students Undertaking a Study Abroad Year

- 9 Offer students the opportunity to develop graduate attributes which increase employability, particularly communication and (where applicable) language skills, intercultural competencies, adaptability, resilience and global awareness.
- 10 Gain insight into international Higher Education and experience differences in academic approach and learning environment.

- 11 Provide the opportunity to experience new areas of study outside of their usual programme of study at Newcastle University.

And which fully:

- 1 Meets the requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Benchmark statement for Economics degrees and, where appropriate, those for General Business and Management degrees.
- 2 Meets the criteria for a level 6 award laid down in the Higher Education Qualifications Framework of the QAA.
- 3 Complies with prevailing University policies and QAA codes of practice.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Economics and General Business and Management and provide students with opportunities to demonstrate disciplinary competency. Students develop their knowledge and understanding of the key principles and theories of economics and business management and combine theory with the practical application of skills to generate solutions within their discipline. They also enhance their intellectual skills, practical skills and transferable/key skills.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should have:

- A1 Knowledge and a coherent understanding of the theoretical concepts, analytical tools and methods of economics and business management
- A2 An awareness of the economic issues that confront business management
- A3 An awareness and ability to understand the policy implications of economic analysis so that appropriate normative recommendations can be made based on welfare and ethical considerations
- A4 An appreciation of the theory and practice of modern business management within a global and national setting

For Students Undertaking a Placement Year

- A5 Apply personal and professional development strategies to prioritise, plan, and manage their own skills development and learning.
- A6 Research, select and apply relevant knowledge aimed at enhancing their own skills and effectiveness in specific duties at their placement.
- A7 Demonstrate an understanding of a work environment, how it functions and their contribution to it.
- A8 Relate their work-based learning to other areas of personal development, including academic performance.

For Students Undertaking a Study Abroad Year

- A9 Demonstrate the ability to adapt to different learning environments.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures provide the principal means to impart knowledge and understanding (A1 to A4). Student learning and understanding are then enhanced and tested in seminars (mainly discussion classes), workshops (mainly numerical/technical classes) and private study (recommended reading and electronic sources).

Assessment Strategy

Unseen examinations are the principal means of testing knowledge and understanding (A1 to A4). Assessed coursework (essays, projects, portfolios, presentations, computer sessions, in-course problem sheets) is also used.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should have:

- B1 The ability to apply subject-specific concepts and methods of analysis to address economic and business management issues
- B2 The ability to conceptualise and handle economic and business management issues in an abstract fashion
- B3 The analytical skills needed to present and defend economic and business arguments relevant to the business sector
- B4 Developed the ability to interpret and critically evaluate the results of empirical research in economics and in business management contexts

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures provide the principal means to impart intellectual skills (B1 to B4). These skills are then enhanced and tested in seminars (mainly discussion classes), workshops (mainly numerical/technical problem solving) and private study (recommended reading and electronic sources).

Assessment Strategy

Unseen examinations are the principle means of testing intellectual skills (B1 to B4). Assessed coursework is also used.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- C1 Understand and employ economic and business management terminology to explain and convey technical information
- C2 Demonstrate skills of problem solving and numeracy by applying the appropriate techniques and interpreting or critically evaluating the results in an economic and business management context
- C3 Identify, locate and retrieve relevant economic and business management materials
- C4 An ability to apply economic and business management reasoning to practical solutions and applied topics.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures provide the principal means to impart practical skills (C1 to C4). Seminars (mainly discussion classes), workshops (numerical/technical classes) and private study (recommended reading and electronic sources) enhance the student's practical skills.

Assessment Strategy

Practical skills (C1 to C4) are tested by a combination of unseen examinations and coursework, with the former usually having the greater weight. Assessed coursework is used particularly when it can test skills not easily tested in an exam (such as information and data gathering).

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- D1 Use appropriate verbal and written communication skills to convey information
- D2 Work independently and/or in a team contributing appropriately and effectively towards the team-based activity
- D3 Use a variety of information technology skills, including word-processing, use of spreadsheets and databases, statistical software, email and online information services
- D4 Work independently, manage their time effectively and be able to meet deadlines

For Students Undertaking a Placement Year

- D5 Reflect on and manage own learning and development within the workplace.
- D6 Use existing and new knowledge to enhance personal performance in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate this process.
- D7 Use graduate skills in a professional manner in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate the personal development that has taken place.

For Students Undertaking a Study Abroad Year

- D8 Adapt and operate in a different cultural environment.

Teaching and Learning Methods

General study skills are introduced in induction and throughout semester 1. Oral presentation skills are practised in seminars (D1) while written skills (also D1) are enhanced through formative feedback. Teamwork (D2) is practised in a number of modules. Workshops are the principal means of teaching D3 skills. These skills are then developed throughout the degree programme to prepare coursework and to communicate with other students and staff. Time management skills (D4) are taught in induction; thereafter, students learn to manage their own time, work independently and organise their work schedule to be able to meet deadlines and prepare for seminars/exams.

Assessment Strategy

Oral presentation is tested in a number of modules (D1), while written communication (also D1) is tested through unseen exams and assessed coursework (essays and projects). The ability to work in teams (D2) is tested in a number of modules often through a team presentation or report. D3 is tested in coursework throughout the programme. Working independently and time management skills are tested indirectly through the need to meet rigid deadlines and prepare for exams (D4).

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

All undergraduate degree programmes in Economics have a modular structure linked to a pattern for the academic year. This is based on a two semester system consisting of one 15 week semester and one 16 week semester located within a three-term framework. Week 1 of Semester 1 is Induction Week, given over to registration and induction activities; weeks 2-13 are teaching and learning weeks; weeks 14 and 15 form the assessment period. Semester 1 also includes a week dedicated to student employability events. In Semester 2 the first 12 weeks are teaching and learning weeks with the remaining weeks given over to assessment. Each academic year of the degree programme is referred to as a Stage, so that students complete Stages 1, 2 and 3 of their degree. In each Stage of their degree programme students are required to study modules to a total credit value of 120, in accordance with degree programme regulations; usually taking modules with a credit value of 60 in Semester 1 and 60 in Semester 2, although a 50-70 or 70-50 split across semesters is permitted. A 10 credit module is equivalent to 100 notional hours of study.

The 1112U BSc Honours Economics and Business Management (with Placement), 1122U BSc Economics and Business Management (with Study Abroad) and 1446U BSc Honours Economics and Business Management (with Placement and Study Abroad) are studied over 4 years. Stage 1, 2 and 3 are shared with LN12 BSc Honours Economics and Business Management whereas 1112U, 1122U and 1446U introduces an intercalating year between stages 2 and 3.

Stage 1 of the degree programme introduces students to the fundamental concepts, analytical, mathematical and statistical techniques which are essential to an understanding of modern economics and business management. Basic modules give students an awareness and understanding of the principles and practices of economics, business management and marketing. At this stage information technology skills are developed within various modules, which will be of use both during and beyond their degree studies. Basic study and communication skills are also developed at this Stage.

Stage 2 of the degree programme builds on the knowledge and skills acquired at Stage 1 and provides an intermediate level of analysis to enable students to proceed to the more advanced undergraduate level in Stage 3. Compulsory intermediate modules in microeconomics, macroeconomics and strategy allow deeper insights into how economists analyse the workings of the modern economy and of the way in which businesses operate. Students have a choice of optional modules in economics and business management allowing them to specialise in any areas that interest them.

Intercalating year:

Students on the 1112U BSc Economics and Business Management (with Placement) have chosen to transfer from LN12 BSc Economics and Business Management to undertake a placement year between Stages 2 and 3. Permission to transfer to 1112U is subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director. The objectives of the placement are to provide insights into business management methods and decision making, to enhance basic skills and to provide an opportunity to make links between the academic content of the programme by reflection and advance preparation of a dissertation plan. The placement is usually with a large UK or international company that operates full-year placement schemes, though one-off opportunities also arise with other organisations. Students are responsible for sourcing the opportunities but the jobs are advertised to the students through the Business School Placement and Study Abroad Team, which plays an active role in identifying opportunities, and students then have to apply and undergo full selection procedures. The placements normally carry attractive salaries and other benefits.

At this stage of the degree programme students also have the opportunity to transfer to 1122U to take part in an international exchange scheme which involves a period of study at a partner university. Permission to undertake an exchange is subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director. All students take compulsory modules whilst undertaking a placement or taking part in the exchange scheme that consist of a reflective account of their activities during

the year.

For students who wish to undertake a combination of both work placement and study abroad, there is an opportunity to transfer to 1446U BSc Honours Economics and Business Management (with Placement and Study Abroad).

The final Stage of the degree programme further develops the knowledge and skills acquired at previous stages. The compulsory elements are in contemporary issues in international and comparative business and microeconomic theory. Students who have transferred to 1112U or 1446U and completed an approved placement year have the option to undertake a placement related project during stage 3 of their studies. Through the choice of appropriate option modules students are able to apply them to the analysis of those areas of economics and business management which are of greatest interest to them. The knowledge and skills acquired at this Stage provide a foundation for those wishing to pursue postgraduate study in economics and/or business management and related fields.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The broad range of core subjects in the degree and the options that are available.
The opportunity for real business experience and training on a placement.
The scope for integrating academic studies in both economics and business with the practical business experience by means of the final year project.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[LN12 Programme Regulations 2024-25](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

Accreditation reports

None.

Additional mechanisms

None.

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/#subject>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.