

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – BA (Hons) Advertising

1.	Awarding institution/body	University of Worcester
2.	Teaching institution	University of Worcester
3.	Programme accredited by	N/A
4.	Final award	BA (Hons)
5.	Programme title	BA (Hons) Advertising
6.	Pathways available	Single
7.	Mode and/or site of delivery	Taught modules
8.	Mode of attendance	FT, SW, PT
9.	UCAS Code	N561
10.	Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement - Business and Management 2015
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision	December 2012; updated October 2013; updated January 2014; amendment to regulations August and October 2014; August 2015 updating NSS and graduate destination details; September 2015 updated to include the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework and Personal Academic Tutoring; and October 2015 – new QAA Subject benchmarks and update to Section 16 in light of QAA changes. January 2016 – updated to include module amendments. August 2016 – updating of option modules in Appendix 1. October 2016 – addition to section 15 regarding assessment August 2017 – AQU amendments

12. Educational aims of the programme

The BA (Hons) Advertising programme aims to develop the learner's understanding of organisations, the external environment in which they operate and how they are managed. It seeks to develop skills appropriate, but not restricted to, graduate careers in advertising and communications with the potential for managerial positions and general employability, including freelancing and self-employment. In particular, the programme aims to provide students with:

1. An appropriate, specialised, integrated and practical knowledge of organisations and of their internal and external communications, management, strategy and sustainability challenges, set against changing market conditions at domestic, European and global levels.
2. The opportunity to access the specific knowledge, skills and practical competencies that will enable a graduate to:
 - a. Function as a practitioner within the traditional areas of advertising (account, creative and media);
 - b. Explore the changing nature of advertising by examining other communication tools and technologies and their roles within the overall communications-marketing mix;
 - c. Appreciate the role of advertising as both a business/marketing tool, as well as a dynamic, creative process founded on other disciplines (including arts and sciences); and
 - d. Develop integrated marketing communication skills in preparation for the increasing convergence of media, account and creative agencies/functions within the communications sector.

3. The opportunity to enhance employability and familiarity with the workplace through a reflective and applied 'real world' learning experience which encourages increasing self-reliance as independent learners, while also developing their learning within groups given their importance within an industry such as advertising.
4. An understanding of sustainable and ethical approaches to business practice and procedures and the skills to enable them to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.
5. A supportive and stimulating learning environment which is intellectually challenging and develops analytical and critical abilities.
6. Opportunities to develop transferable and specialist skills as a solid and relevant foundation for entry into a wide range of professional in-house and agency-supplied marketing communications service opportunities in industry, commerce, communications and related areas and self-employment.
7. Enhancement of lifelong learning skills and personal development to support employability, career aspirations and an effective contribution to society.

13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

<i>Knowledge and understanding of:</i>	<i>Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:</i>
<p>a) <u>Organisations</u>: The internal aspects, functions and processes of organisations including their diverse nature, purposes, structures, size/ scale, governance, operations and management, together with the individual and corporate behaviours and cultures which exist within and between different organisations and their influence upon the external environment (BUSM1029, BUSM1039, BUSM3019, BUSM3029) with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People: leadership, management and development of people and organisations including the implications of the legal context (BUSM1039, BUSM1049). • Organisational behaviour: design, development of organisations, including cross-cultural issues, change, diversity and values (BUSM1039, BUSM2119, BUSM3019, BUSM3029). • Information systems and business intelligence: the development, management, application and implementation of information 	<p><u>Learning and Teaching Methods:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A programme of structured inputs (including lectures, videos, specialists, interactive seminars, group work sessions, and VLE support) • Structured tutorials across all levels to assist learners' progress towards achieving a broad and deep understanding of the discipline • The researching and production of a variety of assignments and subsequent oral and written feedback • In-depth, self-directed research and tutorial guidance and discussion • 'Real-world' settings and scenarios experienced via case studies, guest speaker inputs, role plays, videos, Mintel market reports (BUSM1039, BUSM2419), use of software (BUSM1029), digital media (BUSM3619), client briefs (BUSM2619), creative exercises (BUSM1619, BUSM2619, BUSM3629), work placement (BUSM2089). <p><u>Assessment Methods:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical assignments including: portfolio of artefacts (BUSM1619, BUSM2619, BUSM3439, BUSM3629), creation of a campaign (BUSM1619, BUSM3629), agency pitch (BUSM2619), brand strategy proposal (BUSM3629), media plan (BUSM3629), account management plan (BUSM2619), briefing paper (BUSM3619), production of a training video (BUSM1039)

systems and their impact upon organisations (BUSM1029, BUSM1039, BUSM2519).

- Communications: the comprehension and use of relevant communications for application in business and management, including the use of digital tools (BUSM1619, BUSM1814, BUSM2388, COMP2381, BUSM3469).
- Digital business: the development of strategic priorities to deliver business at speed in an environment where digital technology has reshaped traditional revenue and business models (BUSM1619, BUSM1814, BUSM2388, COMP2381, BUSM3469).
- Business innovation and enterprise development: taking innovative business ideas to create new products, services or organisations including the identification of Intellectual Property and appreciation of its value (BUSM2025, BUSM2819, BUSM3439).

b) The Business Environment:

This encompasses the fast pace of change within a wide range of factors, including economic, environmental, cultural, ethical, legal and regulatory, political, sociological, digital and technological, together with their effects at local, national and global levels upon the strategy, behaviour, management and sustainability of organisations with particular reference to:

- Markets: the development, access and operation of markets for resources, goods and services (BUSM1029, BUSM1039, BUSM2529, BUSM2539).
- Customers: management of customer expectations, relationships and development of service excellence (BUSM2419, BUSM3629).
- Social responsibility: the need for individuals and organisations to manage responsibly and behave ethically in relation to social, cultural, economic and environmental issues (BUSM2019, BUSM2039, BUSM3559).

- A variety of assessment vehicles including reports (BUSM1039, BUSM2419), oral presentations (BUSM1039, BUSM1619, BUSM2619, BUSM3629), group work (BUSM1039, BUSM1619, BUSM2619, BUSM3629), briefing papers (BUSM3619), seminar papers (BUSM3619), open and closed book examinations (BUSM1029, BUSM1039).
- Market –based investigative research (BUSM1039, BUSM1619, BUSM2619, BUSM3619, BUSM3629)
- Opportunities to choose assessments from external agencies such as Design & Art Direction, and enter their work for industry competitions.

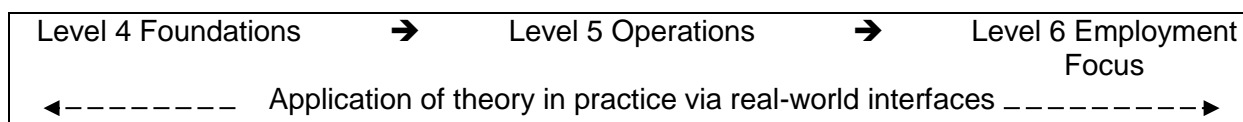
<p>c) <u>Management</u>: this encompasses the various processes, procedures and practices for effective management of organisations. It includes theories, models, frameworks, tasks and roles of management, including the management of people and corporate social responsibility, together with rational analysis and other processes of decision making within different organisations with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing and sales: different approaches for segmentation, targeting, positioning generating sales and the need for innovation in product and service design (BUSM1039, BUSM1814, BUSM2439, and BUSM3619). • Finance: the sources, uses and management of finance and the use of accounting and other information systems for planning, control, decision making and managing financial risk (BUSM1029, BUSM2519, BUSM3559). • Operations: the management of resources, the supply chain, procurement, logistics, outsourcing and quality systems (BUSM2319, BUSM3019). • Business policy and strategy: the development of appropriate policies and strategies within a changing environment to meet stakeholder interests, and the use of risk management techniques and business continuity planning to help maximise achievement of strategic objectives (BUSM2039, BUSM3019, BUSM3029). 	
<p><i>Skills of particular relevance to business and management:</i></p>	<p><i>Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People management: to include communications, team building, leadership and motivating others. • Problem solving and critical analysis: analysing facts and circumstances to determine 	<p><u>Learning and Teaching Methods:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal lectures and seminars that encourage interaction and discussion • Individual and group-based activities and projects where individual and collaborative student input is substantive

<p>the cause of a problem and identifying and selecting appropriate solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research: the ability to analyse and evaluate a range of business data, sources of information and appropriate methodologies, which includes the need for strong digital literacy, and to use that research for evidence-based decision-making. • Commercial acumen: based on an awareness of the key drivers for business success, causes of failure and the importance of providing customer satisfaction and building customer loyalty. • Innovation, creativity and enterprise: the ability to act entrepreneurially to generate, develop and communicate ideas, manage and exploit intellectual property, gain support, and deliver successful outcomes. • Numeracy: the use of quantitative skills to manipulate data, evaluate, estimate and model business problems, functions and phenomena. • Networking: an awareness of the interpersonal skills of effective listening, negotiating, persuasion and presentation and their use in generating business <p>All modules have 'in-built' employability skills designated in their respective module outlines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of specialist research-based knowledge and skills to locate practise • Higher order critical skills (eg the ability to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions to reach sound judgements,) are encouraged not only at level 6, but also at levels 4 and 5 (with additional tutor support) in line with UW's <u>Curriculum Design Policy</u> <p><u>Assessment Methods:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement in various real-life assessment scenarios to explore needs and objectives (client, agency, consumer, etc) • Summative and formative assessments to provide learners with the opportunity for autonomous, self-selected and resource-based learning within a critical framework
<p><i>Other generic skills and attributes:</i></p>	<p><i>Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work collaboratively both internally and with external customers and an awareness of mutual interdependence. • Ability to work with people from a range of cultures. • Articulating and effectively explaining information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty librarian runs sessions on availability of and access to information sources in Level 4 modules as required • Opportunities via the course and support sessions to help students develop skills in PowerPoint, internet research, e-mailing, Excel • All modules include opportunities for group discussions and teamwork to inform and to encourage debate but especially (BUSM1039, BUSM2419, BUSM2619, BUSM3629)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and maintaining relationships. • Communication and listening including the ability to produce clear, structured business communications in a variety of media. • Emotional intelligence and empathy. • Conceptual and critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. • Self-management: a readiness to accept responsibility and flexibility, to be resilient, self-starting and appropriately assertive, to plan, organise and manage time. • Self-reflection: self-analysis and an awareness/sensitivity to diversity in terms of people and cultures. This includes a continuing appetite for development. <p>All modules have 'in-built' employability skills designated in their respective module outlines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of an appropriate range of academic, business or practical sources as a required learning outcome (BUSM1039, BUSM1619, BUSM2419, BUSM3619, BUSM3049) • Work based experiential learning opportunities are provided at Level 5 via BUSM2069, BUSM3069 Consultancy Project and the optional work placement year. <p><u>Assessment Methods:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group assignment tasks (BUSM1039, BUSM1619, BUSM2619, BUSM3629) • Formal report structure of assessments (BUSM1039, BUSM2419) • Research-based knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation is assessed through the Business Project (BUSM3049) • Practical assignments which require students to be familiar with and communicate in appropriate formats – eg agency pitch, creative analysis, media efficacy, creative briefs, strategy briefs
<p><i>Transferable/key skills:</i></p>	<p><i>Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective oral and written communication. • Numeracy and quantitative skills. • Effective self-management (time, planning, motivation, initiative and enterprise). • Ability to analyse information and experience, formulate judgements independently, think creatively and articulate reasoned arguments. • Personal development and responsibility, including in complex and unpredictable circumstances, together with the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature. • Interpersonal and team-working and leadership skills <p>All modules have 'in-built' employability skills designated in their respective module outlines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numeracy and quantitative skills including data analysis, interpretation, extrapolation business modelling, budgeting and effective use of ICT for business applications are levered at level 4 (BUSM1029) and developed further through option modules (BUSM2029, BUSM2429, BUSM3049) • Self-management skills are fine-tuned via meeting assignment submission deadlines, working with others, the Business Project and personalised assessment opportunities where students may choose a topic, case study or specific organisation or business sector as the basis for assessment • Personal development is supported via the personal academic tutor system, online personal development and employability resources, opportunities for placement learning and overseas exchange. • Interpersonal, team-working and leadership skills are experienced via group activities and assessments as evidenced through collaborative work efforts, collective endeavour and negotiation • Visual and written concepts are used as a platform to investigate, analyse, evaluate,

	<p>interpret in order to encourage the formulation of independent judgments, foster creativity and articulate reasoned arguments, proposals or responses (BUSM1619, BUSM2619, BUSM3629)</p> <p><u>Assessment Methods:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group oral presentations and written assessments in a variety of formats with particular emphasis on those relevant to advertising (report, agency pitch, advertising copy, press release, event plan, opinion survey, media plan, creative brief, media brief) are used to develop oral and written communications, with particular reference to the nature of the intended audience
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The BA (Hons) Advertising programme adopts a progressive structure of:



with the intention of supporting progression across the intended range of cognitive, academic, practical and transferable skills appropriate to both study on the programme and future employment. The curriculum design approach has enabled the development of planned, integrated and progressive learning, teaching and assessment strategies for the programme. The mix of 30 and 15 credit modules offers a rich learning experience for students and the inclusion of innovative assessment strategies supports learning and achievement.

There is a strong emphasis on the **integration of theory with practice** across all levels. This is achieved via:

- practical assessments; real-world context and engagement (e.g. via live projects, interface with external practitioners)
- the opportunity to undertake a one-year business placement
- Work Based Learning modules at Levels 5 and 6 which enable students to apply knowledge in the workplace and develop employability and key skills

The importance of **research-informed teaching** in enhancing students' learning experience is fully appreciated. The majority of tutors contributing to the programme are research-active and use their own research and that of others in the discipline to illustrate ideas, concepts and theories or to provide examples. The scope and calibre of research keeps programmes current and relevant and is invaluable to high standards of learning. There are many opportunities across the programme for students to learn about and engage in research within their discipline, culminating in the opportunity to complete substantial business project at L6. The WBS Employability Standard of Research and Problem-solving is covered by the majority of modules in the programme. A student-centred learning approach ensures that students learn through their own enquiry and the assessment strategy supports this through investigative, explorative and applied assessment tasks.

The double modules BUSM3049 Business Project and BUSM3069 Consultancy Project at Level 6 require students to undertake **independent research** in a discipline or field of their choice. It enables students to appreciate the importance of research skills in enabling business planning and effective decision-making. These modules incorporate the necessary guidance, planning and preparation to undertake an independently-researched study. They are front-loaded with a minimum of 10 formal taught sessions covering the required research skills in order to

understand conventions of academic research methodology and writing. Students will be able to define the exact nature of the study, with the agreement of the supervising tutor. In accordance with UW practice, subject specialists will be allocated as supervisors according to students' choice of study area.

Internationalisation is embedded in the curriculum and the programme also includes a number of modules with an international or global theme (particularly BUSM3029 International Business Strategy and BUSM3449 International Marketing). Students study in a culturally diverse environment with peers and tutors from a range of cultural backgrounds. In addition they are encouraged to participate in the exchange programme to study abroad for a semester at L5.

The themes of **ethical and sustainable business practice** are addressed throughout the curriculum and in particular in BUSM2039 Business Sustainability. Students are encouraged to evaluate their own courses of action in relation to organisational ethical dilemmas and to consider the implications of ecological changes for business and communities, now and in the future, and responses to these changes. The use of the VLE to provide learning materials and student support promotes the paperless/low carbon learning processes, as do online submission and marking of assignments.

Course design (for example the development of 30 credit modules) takes into account the **principles of inclusivity**: the types of learner, their prior experience and expectations and how they learn and will be supported to learn effectively. A range of teaching methods are adopted to ensure the curriculum enhances the learning of all students. This includes lectures, seminars, and presentations. [The UK Quality Code for Higher Education: Chapter B4: Enabling Student Development and Achievement](#) and the UW Strategy for Embedding Inclusive Practice in Learning, Teaching and Assessment have been used as reference points to ensure an appropriately responsive curriculum. The needs of all learners are incorporated in learning and teaching activities, learning materials are adapted where necessary and reasonably possible and effective legible feedback is provided on assessments. WBS has a Diversity Co-ordinator who acts as a link between students with particular needs within the School and the Dyslexia and Disability Service to ensure that students are adequately supported in their learning and assessments.

The learning and teaching strategies for individual modules, as outlined in the accompanying Module Specifications, have been undertaken in accordance with the [University's Curriculum Design Policy](#).

14. **Assessment Strategy**

The Assessment strategy has been designed to **provide a variety of challenges appropriate to students on a vocationally-oriented, multi-disciplinary academic undergraduate programme**. Thus care has been taken to include in the core and specialist modules assessments which encourage the development of academic skills of wider reading and research and which foster advanced scholarship.

Students will also have the opportunity to undertake more '**practical**' assignments relevant to the real world of employment depending on the nature of the subject disciplines in which they choose to specialise, for example, Marketing (portfolios of artefacts, production of a training video, marketing plan); Advertising (an agency pitch and development of promotional and media plans); PR (reputation strategy proposal); Management (organisational audit); and Entrepreneurship (creative thinking and the development of new business ideas).

A mixture of assignments is intentionally set in order to **maximise opportunities for all students** to perform and develop skills relevant to future academic and professional study.

An appropriate balance of **formative and summative assessments** is included in all modules. The majority of modules include two summative assessments, which are typically weighted, for

example, 50:50, 60:40, or 75:25, to reflect their role in delivering learning outcomes and 'syllabus' coverage at a mid-point and end of the semester. In some modules tutors believe that students benefit from a single assessment element at the end of the module, supporting them to fully ingest knowledge and practice relevant skills before assessment. Modules including more than 2 assessment items allow students to experience a variety of assessment approaches within a subject area and to demonstrate effectiveness across a range of skills. Every module provides opportunities for formative assessment via a range of activities which might include class discussions, dedicated tutorials and blended learning (e.g. student blog on which tutors comment, which integrates all types of resources such as other articles, advertisements, radio, TV, etc.). More formal opportunities are provided via exercises posted on the VLE. Tutors can comment on these tasks and students can progressively improve them with feedback. This is particularly important on the larger 30 credit modules where there is reliance on a single assessment, but it is central to the learning, teaching and assessment strategies of all modules in enabling students benefit from feedback prior to submitting summative assessments.

Assessment styles include individual work (to develop and encourage independent learning), and group-based work (to develop group skills and extend the scope of material/activity that can be covered). A mixture of assignments is intentionally set in order to **maximise opportunities for all students** to perform and develop skills relevant to future academic and professional study. Assessment styles are adjusted according to pathway, for example, students following an Advertising strand encounter similar and progressive assessments at L5 and L6 (account management plan/campaign proposal, group pitch/presentation and creative portfolios).

Assessment builds across levels from fundamental underpinning theory at L4 to more applied and critical approaches at L6. L4 modules emphasise the student's ability to explain and contrast information, progressing to expectations of critique, synthesis and independent contribution at L6. Report writing is included at all levels to reinforce this essential skill.

Marking of student work is **internally and externally** verified via a minimum of 15% sample of work for every element of assessment. All work is anonymously marked, except where this is impracticable (eg Independent Study, oral presentations). Student work is graded according to the University's Generic Undergraduate Grade Descriptors (A-H). Specific assessment criteria, which reflect the Intended Learning Outcomes are also published for each assessment. Constructive and timely relevant feedback is an integral part of the assessment process.

Wherever appropriate, submission and marking of assignments is undertaken online via the University's SOLE.

A grid showing assessment methods mapped to modules is included in the Course Handbook. The Assessment Strategy reflects tenets of the University's Assessment Policy.

15. Programme structures and requirements

The BA (Hons) Advertising course is available as a Single pathway only. It may be taken in full-time, part-time or sandwich mode with an optional one year placement between Levels 5 and 6. All modules are worth 30 credits, with the exception of BUSM3439 Brand Management. At Levels 4 and 5, students may choose to take a Language option from the range available or business option(s) to the value of 30 credits enabling them to explore a broad range of business and management issues.

Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required or a specified pass mark higher than the University's minimum pass mark of D- may be required (either in all assessments or for the module overall) in order to secure relevant exemptions from professional bodies.

Sandwich Mode

Students wishing to take the course in sandwich mode must record this intent with the Worcester Business School Placements Coordinator during Semester 2 of Level 4 in order to be able to participate in the mandatory Pre-Placement Workshops which commence in mid-semester. Formal registration to a sandwich degree requires students to register for module BUSM3000 as part of the normal procedures for selecting modules for the following year.

The Award Map for BA (Hons) Advertising can be found in Appendix 1.

16. QAA and Professional Academic Standards and Quality

The [QAA Subject Benchmark Statement - Business and Management 2015](#) articulates the knowledge, skills and categories of achievement to be expected of successful honours graduates in the field. These have been used to craft module **learning outcomes and content as well as learning, teaching and assessment strategies of all** modules.

The programme conforms to the requirements of the [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications \(FHEQ\) August 2008](#), and thus aims to support Honours graduates to:

- Acquire coherent and detailed knowledge, some of it at the forefront of business management and related academic disciplines
- Deploy and apply established business techniques to extend knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects in a range of business contexts
- Develop evaluation skills in order to make sound business judgements, including identifying solutions to business problems
- Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences, including a wide variety of business stakeholders
- Develop the qualities needed for employment (including initiative, personal responsibility, and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances) and for lifelong learning and person development

The course structure also reflects the precepts of the England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI) generic credit level descriptors (formerly NICATS) – please see Appendix B of the [Higher education credit framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in higher education in England](#) - with increasing levels of confidence, responsibility and accountability: from a broad knowledge basis at level 4; to idea generation through concept analysis at level 5; through to effective application of a body of contemporary knowledge at level 6.

The arrangements for access to BUSM2069 and BUSM3069 Consultancy Project modules and the optional work placement year reflect the expectations of the [QAA Quality Code](#), specifically Chapter B3: Learning and Teaching (Sept 12) and Chapter B10: Managing Higher Education Provision with Others (Dec 12).

17. Support for students

General approaches to student support

The fundamental approach of WBS to student support is centred on the need to motivate and inspire our students. Tutors acknowledge that students learn in different ways and also have different expectations of their learning experience. Some respond best to a ‘traditional’ lecturing approach; others are motivated by learning and teaching contextualised in an industrial or an academic context. Others respond to an academic research approach. Modules provide a spectrum of approaches designed to engage with a wide range of student abilities. The need for *active learning* where students are invited to participate in learning activities, and also to reflect (at a meta-cognitive level) on their learning process is emphasised.

Employability orientation

A key focus of all UG Business Management courses is the provision of a range of opportunities to assist students to become employable Worcester graduates. The programme aims to develop graduates who are: independent learners; critically aware, problem solving researchers and discoverers; employable, professional and enterprising; inclusive in their actions, valuing diversity; and ethically and environmentally responsible. Strategies used to embed employability into the curriculum and enhance graduate employability within a complex global world include:

- the option of a paid placement year
- the option of a semester abroad at one of our exchange universities to develop intercultural skills
- the targeting of selected Employability Standards in every module (designed by WBS in conjunction with employers)
- automatic access to an electronic CV Compiler Tool to create a live and evidence-based CV
- accreditation, recognition or mapping of programmes to professional qualifications and/or associations as appropriate
- access to a broad network of business managers and employers
- employment preparation workshops which include CV preparation, mock interviews/assessment centres and meetings with employers
- opportunities to engage in work based learning modules

Student induction

UG Business Management students engage in an Induction Week of activities designed to help familiarise them with UW and WBS and inform them of what is expected of them in higher education. Students meet WBS tutors and representatives from Registry, ILS, Student Services and the Students' Union and are provided with information on course structure and content, resources and student support. In addition, they participate in a group project based on a 'live' issue for a local organisation culminating in review of projects by organisation representatives and an awards ceremony.

Future Weeks

The academic year includes two Future Weeks (when formal module activities are suspended) which are intensive study weeks in each year of the course where students engage in innovative and exciting learning activities. WBS Future Weeks include extended induction activities, academic tutorials, study advice sessions, staff research seminars and employability events and activities for all students. The Course Handbook includes a full list of Future Week activities and examples of activities targeted at specific year groups would include:

- Level 4 – study advice sessions, company visits, business simulations, formative feedback, work placement preparation workshops, Bright Futures Employers Panel and Networking, overseas exchange briefings, staff research seminars.
- Level 5 – work placement workshops, organising exchange, case study competition, business project briefing, module selection fair, annual Federation of Small Business lecture.
- Level 6 – degree classification briefings, business project consultations, annual Business School lecture, career next-steps and contacts.

Personal Academic Tutoring

Each student has a nominated Personal Academic Tutor to provide academic advice and guidance, personal development planning and pastoral support as appropriate. The Personal Academic Tutor plays a significant role in enhancing the student's academic and personal experience of studying and key aspects of the role include:

- Assisting students to make the transition to studying in higher education
- Helping students to understand the requirements of their course
- Supporting students to take responsibility for their own learning
- Helping students to make the most of learning resources and other forms of support available

- Supporting students in academic, professional and career related planning and development
- Advising and guiding students on issues or problems that arise while they are at University
- Supporting students for whom there may be particular challenges
- Providing the official University reference
- Meeting students on a regularly scheduled basis. Individual meeting will be held throughout the academic year, and the Academic Tutor will provide group meeting times during Future and/or Induction Weeks
- Advising students on individual course options, module selection and academic planning.

In addition, to the above and Student Services (<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/student-services/index.htm>), the following activities and documents have been put in place to provide development and support for undergraduate students at Worcester Business School:

- **Handbooks** are provided for the Course.
- Module outlines which include module code, module titles, level, planned teaching activities, attendance requirements, assessment briefs, assessment criteria and reading lists.
- **Learning and study guides**, including bespoke guides for Work Placements and the Business Project.
- A **Virtual Learning Environment** to provide module-specific material, documents, activities and networking, as well as more general announcements and updates.
- **Course Leaders** to advise on curriculum and other course-related issues.
- A **Placements Coordinator** who runs a programme of workshops and other support arrangements and activities to prepare students for 1-year in-course placements and other work experience opportunities. Placement students will be further supported by a dedicated tutor during their placement experience.
- A specialist **exchange tutor** to advise students regarding module choices and other arrangements through the University's [International Office](#) for an exchange semester overseas.
- **Student representatives** on Course Management Committee to address course-wide issues.
- **Equal opportunities** via the University's [Disability & Dyslexia Service](#) which provides advice and support for students who have mental health difficulties, dyslexia, sensory or physical impairments and other difficulties. There is a dedicated Assistant Disability Coordinator for students with sensory impairments. Advice is also available on access technology such as voice recognition and text-to-speech software. Much of the support provided is funded through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).

18. Admissions

Admissions policy

The University aims to be accessible; it is committed to widening participation and encouraging diversity in the student population. The Worcester Business School works closely with central student support services including the Admissions Office, the Disability & Dyslexia Service and the International Centre to support students from a variety of different backgrounds. We actively encourage and welcome people from the widest range of economic and cultural backgrounds and value the contribution of mature learners.

Entry requirements

The normal minimum entry requirement for undergraduate degree courses is the possession of 4 GCSEs (Grade C/4 or above) and a minimum of 2 A Levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications).

The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to this course are published in the prospectus and on the UW website <https://www.worc.ac.uk/journey/a-z-of-courses.html>

See [Admissions Policy](#) for other acceptable qualifications.

The University welcomes applications from candidates holding qualifications outside the UCAS Tariff including those awarded by professional bodies and overseas qualifications, including the International and European Baccalaureate.

Students whose first language is not English will be expected to have reached a sufficient standard on admission to the programme (eg IELTS of 6.0 or higher or Pearson 59 or 51 or higher in each component). Please note that IELTS exams must be no more than two years old at the start of the course. Further details regarding minimum entry requirements can be found on the University [web site](#).

International students must hold a qualification equivalent to the UK standard entry requirements for undergraduate courses. International students can check their qualification with the International Recruitment Team at: international@worc.ac.uk

Recognition of Prior Learning

Details of acceptable level 3 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the University webpages. Information on eligibility for recognition of prior learning for the purposes of entry or advanced standing is also available from the University webpages or from the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111).

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm>

Admissions procedures

Please refer to the Admissions Office or <http://www.worc.ac.uk/courses/howtoapply/475.html>

Full-time applicants apply through UCAS (course code N561).
Part-time applicants apply directly to University of Worcester (UW).

Admissions/selection criteria

Please refer to the Admissions office or <http://www.worc.ac.uk/courses/howtoapply/6638.html>.

19. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning and assessment, the curriculum and outcome standards include:

- Module feedback and evaluation
- Annual Course Evaluation Report completed by Course Leader
- Quinquennial Periodic Review including external scrutiny
- Peer teaching observation
- Student Academic Representatives (StARs) at each level of the course
- External Examiners' Reports
- Academic staff annual review and development
- Staff Development Away Days and other events

- WBS Policy on Validation (Module Outlines and Assignment Briefs) and Moderation of Student Work
- Links with employers (e.g. via the WBS Employer Advisory Group) and PSRBs (e.g. Chartered Institute of Marketing, Management Standards Centre, Chartered Institute of Public Relations, Institute of Small Business and Entrepreneurship)
- Staff research and scholarly activity and membership of professional organisations

Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards:

- School Board
- School Quality Committee
- Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee
- Business Management Course Management Committee
- Post Results Moderation Group

University of Worcester (UW) Committees

- Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee
- Ethics Committee

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of teaching and their learning experience:

- Informal module feedback and formal evaluation via questionnaires
- Business Management Course Management Committee
- Meeting with module tutors and Academic Tutor
- National Student Survey
- Induction, exit and other ad hoc surveys

WBS has 4 Teaching Fellows, including 1 National Teaching Fellow

20. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University's [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#)

Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required. In order to secure relevant exemptions from professional bodies, a specified pass mark higher than the University's minimum pass mark of D- may be required (either in all assessments or for the module overall).
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 5 days of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 5 days but within 14 days of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations see [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade.

- Reassessment items that are passed are capped at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module).

Requirements for Progression

- Students at Level 4 may be permitted to progress to Level 5 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4.
- Students at Level 5 may be permitted to progress to Level 6 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 5.
- A student who fails 90 credits or more due to non-submission will be required to withdraw from the University.
- Students who pass less than 90 credits but have submitted all items of assessment will be required to retake modules.

Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
CertHE	Passed 120 credits at Level 4 or higher
DipHE	Passed a minimum of 240 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher
Degree (non-honours)	Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6, including the mandatory modules for Level 5 and Level 6 of the award (not the Independent Study module) as specified on the award map.
Degree with honours	Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6

Classification

The honours classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification:

Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 60 credits attained at Level 5 and the best grades from 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades count equally in the profile.

Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 120 credits attained at Level 6 only.

For further information on honours degree classification, see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

21. Indicators of quality and standards

- Annual External Examiners' reports have been extremely supportive and complimentary particularly with respect to the mix of assessments and responsive and proactive approach to continuously improving the curriculum.
- Many members of staff engaged in developing the programme are actively engaged in relevant research, consultancy and professional practice in the disciplines of business management.
- HEFCE performance indicators, especially with respect completion and achievement.
- The annual National Student Survey in which in 2015 Business Management received an overall satisfaction score of 4.1 (out of a total of 5).

22. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

Graduate destinations

- Careers Destination Surveys – 93% of 2014 Business Management graduates were reported as employed or actively engaged in other activities (e.g. further study) within six months of graduating.
- The BA (Hons) Advertising degree prepares students for a wide range of career opportunities such as working in an advertising agency, the media or promotions department of an organisation.

Student employability

- All full-time Single Honours students have the opportunity to take a 4-year sandwich degree with a **placement year**, normally in the third year of the programme. Students can apply for opportunities in the UK at a large number of well-known organisations across a wide range of industry sectors who offer placements annually, including IBM, Marks and Spencer, Intel, The Audit Commission, Microsoft, Kraft, The House of Commons, NHS, Lidl, Waitrose and many others.
- Students at Levels 5 and 6 may choose to take a **Work Based Learning module** worth 30 credits which aims to develop employability and key skills via paid or voluntary work experience alongside studies.
- A range of employability events and activities are available to students each academic year via **Future Weeks** (see Section 17).
- **Short-term work placement and job opportunities** are also advertised via the School's intranet for existing students.
- **Career guidance** is available through University of Worcester Career Advisory Service and periodic Career Fairs are organised by Student Services.

Links with employers

- Worcester Business School aims to promote closer **links with employers** through the work of its Business and Professional Development Team. The team is currently working with key decision makers in a variety of private, public and third sector organisations, and is supported by the School's Employers' Advisory Group, which meets on a regular basis.
- The School works closely with a number of **professional organisations** including the Chartered Institute of Management, Institute of Commercial Management, Chartered Institute of Marketing, Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, Chartered Institute of Public Relations, Institute of Financial Accountants, Chartered Institute of Payroll Professionals, and British Computer Society.
- The School has worked with a number of **business clients** in developing and delivering its programmes. These include – the NHS (a range of Primary Care and Acute Trusts); Local Government (a range of County, District and Unitary Authorities); West Mercia, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Staffordshire Constabularies; Ministry of Defence and The Royal Air Force; Her Majesty's Prison Service; Royal Mail; Financial Services Organisations (e.g. Lloyds Plc, HBOS Plc, Clerical Medical, NFU Mutual and Virgin Money); Housing Associations, Southco and Malvern Instruments.
- The School has well-developed working relations with the **local business community** many of whom contribute to undergraduate programmes to give a real-world insight into the future world of work.
- These professional and business networks also involve **external events**, many of which are open to students, as well as employers.

- The Business School's specialist **research centre**, CPW (Centre for People at Work), has a wide range of contract-funded consultancy and research projects and provides further opportunities for students to link with employers.
- The School has, for a number of years, been an important focus for **projects linked with the West Mercia Constabulary** through the Shared Police and Higher Education Research and Enterprise (SPHERE) partnership, which enables the force to utilise academic expertise to enhance its policing activities e.g. through undergraduate students' final year projects.
- The School liaises with **external agencies**, such as the Institute of Directors, Federation of Small Businesses, Chamber of Commerce and Confederation of British Industry.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in associated course documentation e.g. course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications.

Appendix 1

*Professionally Accredited

Course Title: BA (Hons) Advertising	
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Level 4					
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) Designated (D) or Optional (O))	Pre-requisites (Code in brackets indicates earlier modules, which would be accepted as alternative pre-requisites)	Exclusions (Code in brackets indicates earlier modules which would be also excluded)
BUSM1029	Business Viability: Financial & Economic Perspectives	30	M	None	(BUSM1021 and BUSM1201 and BUSM1111 and BUSM1051 and BUSM1501 and BUSM1112)
BUSM1039	Marketing & Management Perspectives	30	M	None	(BUSM1031 and BUSM1301 and BUSM1112 and BUSM1041 and BUSM1401 and BUSM1111)
BUSM1619	Creative Communications: Ideas & Impacts	30	D	None	(BUSM1061 and BUSM1412 and BUSM1062 and BUSM1411)
BUSM1049*	Business Law	30	O	None	BUSM1519 (and BUSM1002 and BUSM1605 and BUSM1602)
BUSM1559	Quantitative Methods for Accounting and Finance	30	O	None	None
BUSM1019	Business Challenge	30	O	None	COMP1311 (and BUSM1001 and BUSM1101 and BUSM1113 and COMP1211)
BUSM1814	Web & E-business	30	O	None	None
COMP1381	Introduction to Information Systems	30	O	None	COMP2371
LANG	Optional modules offered by the Language Centre	30	O	None	

Single Honours Requirements at Level 4

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total drawn from the table above to include mandatory modules BUSM1029, BUSM1039 and BUSM1619 and optional modules - which can include up to 30 credits drawn from a range of Language Centre modules in: Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English, Modern Foreign Languages and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). Details of the available Language Centre modules can be found on the Language Centre website: <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/language-centre-module-options.html>

Level 5					
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))	Pre-requisites (Code in brackets indicates earlier modules, which would be accepted as alternative pre-requisites)	Exclusions (Code in brackets indicates earlier modules which would be also excluded)
BUSM2419	Customer Behaviour & Decision Making	30	M	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1041 or BUSM1401)	(BUSM2041 and BUSM2403 and BUSM2061 and BUSM2411)
BUSM2619	Advertising: Influence & Persuasion	30	M	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1041 or BUSM1401)	(BUSM2061 and BUSM2411 and BUSM2062 and BUSM2412)
BUSM2025	The Internal Legal Landscape	30	O	None	None
BUSM2039	Business Sustainability	15	O	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1031 or BUSM1301)	(BUSM1003 and BUSM3032)
BUSM2049	Creative Problem Solving	15	O	BUSM1019 (or BUSM1001 or BUSM1101 or BUSM1113)	(BUSM2081 and BUSM2111)
BUSM2055	Financial Markets, Trading and Investment	30	M	None	None
BUSM2059	EU, Human Rights & the Legal Environment	15	O	None	None
BUSM2070	Work Based Investigation	30	O	None	BUSM2069
BUSM2079	Commercial Law	15	O	None	BUSM1519
BUSM2089	Preparing for Placement	15	O	None	UMSC2010 and UMSC3010
BUSM2119	Leadership Principles & Practice	30	O	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1031 or BUSM1301)	(BUSM2011 and BUSM2321 and BUSM2012 and BUSM2322)
BUSM2219	Micro & Macro Economics	30	O	BUSM1029 (or BUSM1021 or BUSM1201)	(BUSM2021 and BUSM2201 and BUSM2022 and BUSM2202)
BUSM2319	Operations, Project & Risk Management	30	O	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1031 or BUSM1301)	(BUSM2031 and BUSM2032)

BUSM2388	Social Media	15	O	None	None
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BUSM2429	Contemporary Marketing Communications	30	O	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1041 or BUSM1401)	(BUSM2042 and BUSM2043)
BUSM2439	Selling & Sales Management	15	O	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1041 or BUSM1401)	(BUSM2044 and BUSM2405)
BUSM2459	Services Marketing	15	O	None	BUSM3459
BUSM2519	Financial & Management Accounting	30	O	BUSM1029 (or BUSM1051 or BUSM1501)	(BUSM2051 and BUSM2501 and BUSM2052 and BUSM2502)
BUSM2529*	Taxation	30	O	BUSM1029 (or BUSM1051 or BUSM1501)	(BUSM2054)
BUSM2539*	Business Accounting Systems	15	O	None	(BUSM1052 and BUSM1529)
BUSM2719	Public Relations & Campaigning	30	O	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1041 or BUSM1401)	(BUSM2071 and BUSM2422 and BUSM2072 and BUSM3422)
BUSM2819	Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management	30	O	BUSM1019 (or BUSM1001 or BUSM1101 or BUSM1113) or COMP1311 (or COMP1211)	(BUSM2081 and BUSM2111 and BUSM2082 and BUSM3301)
BUSM2919	Managing HR & Performance	30	O	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1031 or BUSM1301)	(BUSM2091 and BUSM2311 and BUSM209 and BUSM2312)
COMP2371	Introduction to Information Systems	30	O	None	COMP1381
COMP2381	E-business	30	O	None	COMP3381 (COMP3242 and COMP3271)
LANG	Optional modules offered by the Language Centre	15/30	O	None	

Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total drawn from the table above to include mandatory modules BUSM2419, BUSM2619 and BUSM2055 and optional modules - which can include up to 30 credits drawn from a range of Language Centre modules in: Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English, Modern Foreign Languages and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). Details of the available Language Centre modules can be found on the Language Centre website: <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/language-centre-module-options.html>

Work Placement Option					
BUSM3000	Work Placement	NA	O	Preparatory Workshops	(BUSM3000)

Optional Work Placement

Single Honours students may take an optional work placement year between Levels 5 and 6, leading to the award of a sandwich degree.

Level 6					
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))	Pre-requisites (Code in brackets indicates earlier modules, which would be accepted as alternative pre-requisites)	Exclusions (Code in brackets indicates earlier modules which would be also excluded)
BUSM3049	Business Project	30	MO*	None	(BUSM3001/2 and BUSM3040, BUSM3050, BUSM3059 and BUSM3090)
BUSM3069	Consultancy Project	30	MO*	None	None
BUSM3439	Brand Management	15	M	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1041 or BUSM1401) or BUSM2812	(BUSM3044 and BUSM3411)
BUSM3619	Contemporary Advertising: Apps, Guerillas, Viral & More	30	M	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1041 or BUSM1401) or BUSM2812	None
BUSM3629	Advertising Campaign	30	M	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1041 or BUSM1401)	(BUSM3061 and BUSM3414)
BUSM3019	Managing Organisational Change	15	O	None	(BUSM3003 and BUSM3103)
BUSM3449	International Marketing	15	O	BUSM1039 (or BUSM1041 or BUSM1401) or BUSM2812	(BUSM3043 and BUSM3402)
BUSM3459	Services Marketing	15	O	None	None
BUSM3469	Marketing for the Digital Age	15	O	None	None
BUSM3558	Audit and Ethics	15	O	BUSM1029 (or BUSM1051 or BUSM1501) or BUSM2811	BUSM2053)

BUSM3559*	Audit and Ethics (Accredited)	15	O	BUSM1029 (or BUSM1051 or BUSM1501) or BUSM2811	(BUSM2053)
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*MO – students may select either BUSM3049 or BUSM3069.

Single Honours Requirements at Level 6

Single Honours students must take 120 credits from the table above to include either BUSM3049 or BUSM3069, BUSM3439, BUSM3619 and BUSM3629.