

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	Masters by Research (MRes) in Business and Management Research
2	Course Code	PT1809 (FT) PT1815 (PT)
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	Not applicable
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation	Not applicable

6	Course Description
	The Master's by Research (MRes) is a flexible research training course designed to provide graduates with a foundation for a career in research, business, third-sector, government or academia. It is designed as a research-led programme that uniquely bridges the gap between taught Master's qualifications and doctoral study (such as PhD or DBA). You will benefit from high quality training in the methods and practice of research, focusing on methodological rigour, the development of independent research capabilities, and applied research experience, as well as gaining relevant transferable skills to take into your career in business and management.. The course offers plenty of opportunities to craft your learning to your needs, along with the chance to specialise in a particular business sub-discipline, with a broad interpretation of Business and Management research (based on the guidance of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, www.ref.ac.uk). Fields of research include, but are not limited to: accounting; banking; business analytics; business and industrial economics; business ethics; business history; consumer behaviour; corporate governance; corporate social responsibility; critical management studies; employment relations; entrepreneurship; finance; human resource management; information systems management; innovation management; international business; leadership; management education; management science; marketing; operations management; organisational psychology; organisational studies; project management; public policy; public sector management; risk management; service management; small firms; strategic management; supply chain management; sustainability; technology management; third sector management; and any other field or sub-field aligned to business and management. You will explore a range of quantitative and qualitative techniques which can be used to provide insight your chosen subject area and benefit from being able to work within, and study alongside, a multidisciplinary team of experienced researchers and business practitioners. The course is suitable for learners from diverse backgrounds, but some prior understanding of business and management is required, either through a first degree in a business field, or relevant business and management experience. In collaboration with your supervisor, you will design and undertake a non-credit bearing programme of supporting studies to meet your specific needs.

As an MRes student at BCU, you will be part of a vibrant hub for advanced research training and join a growing community of emerging researchers like you, who are equipped to tackle complex issues in business and management. With a focus on research excellence, innovation, and global perspectives, the MRes will not only prepare you to conduct high-quality research but also empower you to apply your research findings to real-world business challenges in your future career.

What's covered in the course?

Through the course you will develop a keen understanding of advanced research methods. This will take you on the journey from an initial research idea and proposal, to embedding research philosophy and contemporary methodologies and analysis within your work. This is geared towards producing a piece of research that could be pursued further at doctoral level, for a publication, or to display the relevant skills to be competent within industry, or the public sector. There is also a focus on providing you with the skills to identify potential sources of funding, how to conduct enterprise activity, as well as project management and leadership. This provides flexibility for you to maximise the specialisms of your work, your career opportunities, and how to operate as a reflective and evidence-based researcher following graduation.

Given that careers in research are growing, including in industry, this MRes will also prepare you to be able to disseminate complex research to a wide variety of audiences. You will gain an understanding of how this can be delivered through technology enhanced learning in order to bridge the gap between researchers and society when trying to ensure evidence-based research-informed practice occurs. This will prepare you to maximise the impact of research dissemination, while also fostering contemporary approaches to scholarship.

To help build these skills there are opportunities to work with industry through our wide range of industrial, educational, and third-sector partners, something which will enhance your future employability and potential for progression.

The course will primarily be housed at our campus in Birmingham City Centre, which contains state-of-the-art facilities to support your research.

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Masters by Research (MRes) in Business and Management Research	Level 7	180
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	PGCert in Business and Management Research Methods	Level 7	60

8	Variations from the University Regulations
	None

9	Delivery Patterns			
Mode(s) of Study		Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
Full Time		City Centre	1 year	PT1809 (Sept/Jan intake)
Part Time		City Centre	24 months	PT1815 (Sept/Jan intake)

10 Entry Requirements		
	Home:	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/ or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.
	EU/International	

11 Course Aims	
	The course aims to: 1. Provide you with a high-quality research training which will equip you to undertake independent research in business, the third-sector of government. 2. Foster an immersive research culture which will develop and sustain a network of innovative researchers able to work across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries. 3. Be a focal point for the exchange of knowledge on the theory, methods and practice of business and management research across the Business School community and beyond. 4. To provide you with the intellectual, technical and professional tools with which to complete a high-quality business and management research project with the potential to lead to doctoral study (PhD or DBA).

12 Course Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	Demonstrate a mastery of your specialist area through in-depth knowledge and critical awareness of current research and contemporary issues.
2	Design an original, feasible and novel research proposal within a specialist field of business and management.
3	Demonstrate critical thinking and analysis and evaluate the most appropriate research designs and methodologies to investigate your specialist area.
4	Demonstrate comprehensive research skills and the ability to carry out the appropriate methods within your specialist area.
5	Conduct a substantial piece of independent research which shows evidence of original thinking and has demonstrated the potential to be developed at a doctoral level.
6	Apply reflective practice to show the importance of continued independent learning and professional development.
Skills and Other Attributes	
7	Apply innovative and appropriate technology to disseminate complex research to a wide variety of audiences in your specialist area.
8	Plan and project manage a novel project, from inception to delivery, working with other stakeholders, including supervisors and research participants, to ensure delivery deadlines are met.
9	Reflect critically and entrepreneurially on the funding routes and ethical dilemmas your chosen project raises, particularly in relation to developing the work further.
10	Utilise cognition leading to the clear choice of a course of action from alternatives. This should result from judgment and choice, resulting in selection and development of action or an opinion.

13 Level Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding <i>Upon completion of Postgraduate Certificate, students will be able to:</i>	
1	Demonstrate a mastery of your specialist area through in-depth knowledge and critical awareness of current research and contemporary issues.
2	Design an original, feasible and novel research proposal within a specialist field of business and management.
3	Demonstrate critical thinking and analysis and evaluate the most appropriate research designs and methodologies to investigate your specialist area.

14 Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy	
	The MRes in Business and Management Research is a research degree. As such, the primary weighting of the course is to student-led independent study, culminating in the thesis. In order to scaffold the independent research, there are a number of taught modules. The “Fundamentals of Business and Management Research” module outlines overall principles of research design, including a plurality of philosophical research perspectives. The “Business Literature Review” will require you to undertake a systematic investigation of your chosen field, assessing your ability to code and identify key themes. The quantitative and qualitative research methods modules will introduce you to advanced research methods used to provide insight into the business and management subject area. These modules will provide you with a broad understanding and technical competencies, which will be the basis for their assessment. The “Independent Study in Business and Management” will assess your application of these principles in the context of a specific project of your bespoke research design. The supervisors will provide holistic support to the project as a whole, working with you to connect the skills, typologies and learning of the four taught modules, both with one another and with the capstone “Independent Study in Business and Management” thesis. At the outset of the programme you will select an initial focus area for your thesis and you will be allocated two supervisors (primary and secondary), at least one of whom will have knowledge and understanding of your primary business sub-disciplinary focus. In this first supervisory meeting, the primary supervisor will collaborate with you and the secondary supervisor to conduct a knowledge audit. The aim of this is to identify any gaps in your broad business and management knowledge and, particularly, gaps in your knowledge of your chosen business sub-disciplinary focus. Based on this, if deemed necessary, a programme of supporting studies will be formulated, drawing on taught level 7 content delivered in the department, including in subjects such as Strategic Human Resources Management, Global marketing Management, Managerial Finance, Global Operations Management, Entrepreneurship and innovation, Strategic Management and Leadership. Attendance at these classes is encouraged, but not required, and these supporting studies are neither credit-bearing nor assessed. There will be a further series of supporting studies, delivered by the department, based on a series of 12 speakers in the calendar year. This will include academic researchers, doctoral students and research practitioners, both internal and external to the School and contribute to our aim of fostering an immersive research network. A key element that distinguishes this MRes is the 100-credit Independent Study module, which allows you to conduct in-depth research into your chosen area. This supports the course's aim to cultivate independent, critically-minded researchers who can contribute to both scholarly and professional fields.

The course also integrates STEAM principles (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) throughout its modules to promote interdisciplinary thinking and innovative problem-solving. Students apply scientific methods through rigorous research approaches, engage with cutting-edge data technology, and develop critical thinking and reflective practice to interpret their findings creatively.

As an MRes student at BCU, you will become part of a vibrant hub for advanced research training at both Master's (Level 7) and doctoral (Level 8) levels. The university's vision is to build a community of emerging researchers like you, who are equipped to tackle complex challenges in business and management. By aligning closely with the BCU focus on research excellence, innovation, and global perspectives, the MRes program will not only prepare you to conduct high-quality research but also empower you to apply your research findings to real-world business challenges.

Being part of this community means you'll benefit from an interdisciplinary research culture. You will have opportunities to collaborate with peers and faculty from various business domains, giving you a broader perspective and deeper insights into different areas of research. Through seminars, workshops, and the chance to engage with ongoing faculty research, you will be actively participating in a dynamic learning environment. This exposure will help you develop your research skills, expand your professional network, and truly live out the vision of BCU as a future-focused researcher, equipped to make a meaningful impact in both academia and industry.

15	Course Requirements		
15a	Level 7: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits)</i>		
	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	RES7014	Fundamentals of Business and Management Research	20
	RES7013	Business Literature Review	20
	RES7018	Quantitative Business Research	20
	RES7017	Qualitative Business Research	20
	RES7016	Independent Study in Business and Management	100
	Note, the PGCert Exit Award requires that the student complete Fundamentals of Business and Management Research, Business Literature Review and either (i) Qualitative Business Research Methods or (ii) Quantitative Business Research Methods.		

15b Structure Diagram - *Full time* students September and January cohorts

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Independent Study in Business and Management (100 Credits)		
Fundamentals of Business and Management Research (20 Credits)	Quantitative Research Methods (20 Credits)	
Business Literature Review (20 Credits)	Qualitative Business Research Methods (20 Credits)	

15b Structure Diagram - *Part time* students

	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Year 1	Fundamentals of Business and Management Research (20 Credits)	Qualitative Business Research Methods (20 Credits)	
Year 2	Business Literature Review (20 Credits)	Quantitative Research Methods (20 Credits)	
Year 1 and 2	Independent Study in Business and Management (100 Credits)		

The Part-Time MRes programme structure is designed to provide a flexible yet comprehensive learning experience. Students will complete two taught modules each year and the dedicated research project 'Independent Study in Business and Management' module will run across two years.

16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

8% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	144
Directed Learning	256
Private Study	1400
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	86
Exam	
In-Person (presentation and Viva Voce)	14