BA (Honours) Leadership and Management
Distance learning degree qualification

GLOBAL
STUDY
GLOBAL
RECOGNITION
Qualification details

This degree course provides an innovative and accessible introduction to leadership and management in business, and explores their impact on organisations – including wider considerations in the external environment.

You’ll develop a range of analytical and problem-solving skills incorporating the management of functions such as marketing, human resources and finance, and leading change. You’ll also examine how business organisations are shaped and changed, and how stakeholder behaviours and management decision-making contribute to the various organisational functions.

This degree in leadership and management will help you gain essential practical skills in communication; the use of IT; numerical interpretation; collaborative working; and reflective thinking. Alongside your compulsory studies in leadership, management and organisations you can choose an option which suits your particular professional or personal interest – such as marketing, business strategy and retailing, finance, entrepreneurship, inter-organisational collaboration or fundraising.

Career relevance and employability

The skills and knowledge you’ll develop by studying this degree in leadership and management will equip you to follow a number of career paths, and are recognised by employers as having great value for work in management and business. These are also recognised in specialist areas concerned with developing leadership and management skills, establishing new businesses and management/business consultancy.

This degree course contributes to career development through work-based learning as it builds cognitive skills – writing, critical thinking, analysis and evaluation – and ICT skills, presentation skills and basic numeracy. You’ll explore the nature and practice of leadership and management, learning the skills of successful practice in both fields, and how to use these in your own working contexts. You’ll also examine how business organisations are shaped, changed and influenced – developing your understanding of the contribution of stakeholder behaviours and management decision-making in the various organisational functions. You can take optional modules in strategy, entrepreneurship and subjects relevant to your work, which will further increase your knowledge and skills set.

Entry requirements

There are no formal entry requirements to study this degree, although you will need to have a proficiency in English as all course material, exams and tutor support is in English.

Credit for previous study elsewhere

If you have already completed some successful study at a higher education institution you may be able to transfer credit for this study and count it towards an Open University qualification. If you wish to apply to transfer credit you must do so as soon as possible, and before you register for your chosen qualification. If you are awarded credit for study completed elsewhere, you may find that you need to study fewer OU modules to complete your qualification with us.

Course duration

Typically it takes six years part-time study to complete this qualification, but you can take anything from three (full-time study equivalent) to 16 years.

Modules and pathways

As part of your registration you can choose a pathway. Pathways are different sets of module options, allowing you to specialise in certain subjects to complete your degree.

To complete your degree you need to achieve 360 credits. Credits at Stage 1, 120 at Stage 2, and 120 at Stage 3; with each module being 30-60 credits.

There is currently only one pathway for this qualification available to international students.

Modules

For a full list of modules available, please refer to our website, OpenUniversity.edu.

Assessment key

EMA = End-of-module assessment
iCMA = Interactive computer marked assessment
TMA = Tutor-marked assignment

Stage 1

An introduction to business studies (B120)

Credits: 30 at Level 1
Assessment: 4 TMAs, 1 EMA
Length: 6 months

This Level 1 course is the first in our degree in business studies and is the recommended introductory course in business studies. It explores the question ‘What is a business?’ and investigates the business functions of human resource management, accounting and finance, and marketing. Different internal and external elements of a business are introduced, and the context in which a business operates explained. You’ll explore the common aims and characteristics of business – investigating what makes them different.

Working and learning: developing effective performance at work (BU130)

Credits: 30 at Level 1
Assessment: 3 TMAs, 1 EMA
Length: 6 months

This course enables you to put your work experiences to practical use in your academic study of business and management. It provides a first taste of work-based learning with The Open University and helps you develop the study skills needed in higher education. The course will be useful for anyone looking to change or improve their working life or for anyone wishing to incorporate personal and professional development in their OU study programme.

Stage 2

Business organisations and their environment (B201)

Credits: 60 at Level 2
Assessment: 5 TMAs, 1 Examination
Length: 6 months

This practical course covers topics in marketing and accounting and finance through activities and problem-solving. It takes a very practice-based approach to studying management concepts focusing on your own role.

Stage 3

Managing 1: organisations and people (B628)

Credits: 30 at Level 3
Assessment: 2 TMAs, 1 EMA
Length: 6 months

This course investigates organisational behaviour and human resource management. Designed for working managers, those who deputise for managers, management trainees, supervisors and team leaders, it takes a very practice-based approach to studying management concepts, focusing on your own role. It is suitable for aspiring managers provided you have experience of either paid or unpaid (voluntary) work involving leading a group or team; a project or task involving one or more others; or running/helping to run a voluntary organisation.

Managing 2: marketing and finance (B629)

Credits: 30 at Level 3
Assessment: 2 TMAs, 1 EMA
Length: 6 months

This practical course covers topics in marketing and accounting and finance through activities and problem-solving. It takes a very practice-based approach to studying management concepts focusing on your own role.
Can I study in any country?

Please use the Course Finder menu at OpenUniversity.edu to see what courses are available in your country.

Is an OU qualification recognised in my country?

An OU degree is equal in academic standard to a degree from any other British university. The University is subject to the same quality assurance procedures, through the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), as all other British universities, and uses external assessors and examiners to ensure comparability of standard and level in its courses.

A leaflet is available on how you can apply for formal recognition in your country. To download the leaflet, please go to OpenUniversity.edu/brochures/recognition.pdf.

What tutor support will I receive?

The OU excels in its unrivalled support for students. You’ll have email and online support from a tutor and you will be able to discuss your study in online tutor group discussions, using our customised learning environment. Our community websites Platform and OpenLearn offer a different perspective on your subject, and a huge range of OU resources on YouTube and iTunes U can expand your understanding. In addition, you can tap into a range of enthusiastic and welcoming OU social network groups on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Are there any entry requirements?

For most undergraduate qualifications you don’t need any formal qualifications, or to pass an entry test to study with us. Our undergraduate qualifications are open to all because we believe anyone who is keen to succeed should have the opportunity to study.

As part of the registration process, however, you will be asked to confirm your proficiency in English. (If you are unsure, you can take a short online test, which will find when completing the online registration form.)

Can I count previous study towards an OU qualification?

Any higher-education level studies you’ve successfully completed elsewhere may count towards your OU degree or other qualification. We enable you to do this by awarding you a certain amount of ‘transferred credit’. By transferring credit gained from previous study, you can reduce the amount you need from OU study to achieve your qualification. For more information please go to OpenUniversity.edu.

How do you work towards a qualification?

We measure the size of our qualifications in credits – an honours degree is 360 credits, made up of three 120-credit stages.

Each stage is made up of a number of modules which cover different parts of the subject. Modules are also measured in credits and are set at different ‘levels’. Levels give an indication of a module’s relative complexity and/or depth of learning. Most modules are worth either 30 or 60 credits and are set at Levels 1, 2 and 3, which roughly equates to studying in the first, second and third year at a campus-based university.

So for a typical three-stage honours degree you would study:

- 120 credits at Stage 1, taking modules worth 30 or 60 credits at Level 1
- 120 credits at Stage 2, taking modules worth 30 or 60 credits at Level 2
- 120 credits at Stage 3, taking modules worth 30 or 60 credits at Level 3.

In the example given above, each stage could consist of two 60-credit modules or one 60-credit module and two 30-credit modules.

How long does it take?

Our qualifications are designed to be flexible. So if you want to vary the amount of time you spend studying, you can. The table below is a guide on the time required, and therefore the time taken to complete your course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate qualifications</th>
<th>Credits required</th>
<th>Time required to complete1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of higher education (Cert HE)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1 years full-time study or 2 years part-time study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA or BSc degree without honours</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>3 years full-time study or 5 years part-time study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA or BSc degree with honours</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>3–4 years full-time study or 6 years part-time study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How much will it cost?

If you are studying with us for the first time our standard fee for 2013/2014 is £5,000 – based on 120 credits of study – which is equivalent to a year’s full-time study at a campus-based university. Of course you don’t have to study 120 credits a year and the price you pay will be proportionate to the standard fee. So, for example, if you only study 60 credits a year, you will pay 50 per cent of the standard fee (£2,500).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit studied each year2</th>
<th>Percentage of standard fee</th>
<th>Cost per year</th>
<th>Time taken to complete a 360-credit honours degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120 credits a year</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
<td>3 years full-time study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 credits a year</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>£2,500</td>
<td>6 years part-time study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1For illustrative purposes only – in most cases you can vary the number of credits taken per year and therefore the time taken to complete the course. Please note: prices are approximate and subject to change. Visit our website or call us for latest details.

When can I start?

To give you more opportunities to start, most qualifications have two intakes a year – October and February. To start in October 2013, for example, you need to register no later than 10th September 2013.

Can I get financial support for the fees?

Your payment options include spreading the cost over monthly instalments with our own affordable Student Budget Accounts, OUSBA. Call us today to discuss.

Can I meet and network with other students?

Definitely – when you start with the OU you automatically become a member of the Open University Student Association (OUSA). OUSA also runs a popular student forum site. For more information, go to www.ousa.org.uk.

Once you have gained your qualification, you can join the OU Alumni Association, our vibrant and active alumni community with 280,000 members worldwide. You will enjoy many membership benefits, including regular newsletters, good networking opportunities and access to the alumni website.

How is my privacy protected?

We record your personal information when you contact us and use this to manage registration, study, examination and other services. When you register, we’ll tell you more about how we process and use your personal information.

When should I apply?

Apply as early as you can – particularly if you wish to claim for credit for previous study. Registration open dates are shown in the Courses section at OpenUniversity.edu.
What do I need to do next?

It takes just 2 simple steps.
Begin the process to secure your place.
Here’s how easy it is.

1. Register now

Go to OpenUniversity.edu, select the Courses section and the degree you require. You will then be asked to select a pathway to register. (Pathways are different selections of course modules to complete your degree.)

Alternatively call us on 0044 (0)845 241 6555.

Don’t worry, you don’t need to pay anything at this stage.

As soon as you have registered you’ll get an email confirmation which contains your login details.

2. Choose your first module, make payment to enrol

Before you start studying you will need to choose and register on your first modules and arrange payment; instructions for this will be emailed to you.

Once complete you will officially be an Open University student – welcome!
All details shown in this leaflet are correct as at January 2013, but are subject to change. Please call 0044 (0)845 241 6555 for the latest details.