**Birkbeck**
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

# Programme Specification

| 1 | **Awarding body** | University of London |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | **Teaching Institution** | **Birkbeck College** |
| 3 | **Programme Title(s)** | **MSc Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability** |
| 4 | **Programme Code(s)** | TMSCORSS_C |
| 5 | **UCAS code** | N/A |
| 6 | **Home Department** | Management |
| 7 | **Exit Award(s)** | Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate |
| 8 | **Duration of Study** (number of years) | 1 year (full-time); 2 years (part-time) |
| 9 | **Mode of Study** (FT/PT/DL) | FT/PT |
| 10 | **Level of Award (FHEQ)** | 7 |
| 11 | **Other teaching depts or institution** | Geography |
| 12 | **Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details** | N/A |
| 13 | **QAA Benchmark Group** | N/A |

| 14 | **Programme Rationale & Aims** |
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| | **Rationale:**<br><br>Corporate responsibility & Sustainability have become significant issues for a wide range of organisations and for the managers that work within them. A broad range of reasons underpin this increase in significance: high profile failures in corporate governance; a growing need to demonstrate accountability, transparency and sustainability; a decreasing tolerance for corporate excess and irresponsibility; as well as the need to protect corporate reputation and to develop brand loyalty and competitive advantage. The proposal to develop an MSc Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability will consider many of these issues and will build upon the educational provision currently offered by the Department of Management. In particular, this proposed programme will sit alongside, and complement, the current MSc Corporate Governance and Ethics. The programme also has potential to attract students as there are  very few institutions within London that offer a postgraduate qualification within this area (only London Metropolitan, Royal Holloway and the University of Greenwich offer a similar programme and the emphasis at Greenwich is on environmental management). With our part-time, evening teaching, there is potential for this programme to recruit a significant number of part-time students that are either working in this area or want to develop a career within this area.<br><br>**Aims:**<br><br>The main aim of the programme is to provide a high level offering in corporate responsibility/ sustainability, which attracts high quality, highly motivated students. Those undertaking the programme of study will be provided with a comprehensive understanding |

of a range of issues including environmental, labour, and ethical issues that impact on the operation of organisations. The programme of study will link theory and practice, and will be of benefit to those individuals that either have already acquired an appreciation of corporate responsibility/sustainability and wish to develop further insights into the subject or those individuals that have limited knowledge of the subject and wish to develop their understanding and appreciation of it or use the knowledge gained to embark on a career within this sector. The programme aims to be of interest to various stakeholders and it is envisaged that multinational corporations as well as a range of for-profit and not-for-profit organizations will either sponsor and/or recruit students from the programme. Critical thinking and problem focused decision-making will be key components of the programme of study.

| 15 | **Entry Criteria** |
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| | <ul><li>Normally at least a second-class honours degree in any subject area from a UK university or a non-UK equivalent; other qualifications will be considered.</li><li>Non-native English speakers need to provide proof of English language ability: A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 (with a minimum of 6 in the sub-tests) and provide the certificate.</li><li>A professional or other qualification obtained by written examinations approved by the College.</li><li>Relevant experience, supporting statements and references may be taken into consideration, especially in the case of non-standard applications.</li></ul> |

| 16 | **Learning Outcomes** |
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| | On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to: |

**Subject Specific:**
- Identify different theoretical perspectives and the implications on the role of business within society.
- Describe the different types of social, environmental and ethical responsibilities of organisations.
- Consider the different managerial challenges in relation to CR/Sustainability including implementation, stakeholder engagement, communication and measurement.
- Critically challenge the way organisations address CR/Sustainability.
- Evaluate the business case for CR/Sustainability.
- Critically analyse the processes underpinning CR/Sustainability decision-making within organizations.
- Undertake research in the area of CR/Sustainability.

**Intellectual:**
- Interpret complex ethical/social issues faced by organisations by linking theory and practice.
- Critically assess the theoretical literature on CR/Sustainability

- Interpret and place in context CR/Sustainability related research.
- Acquire the necessary learning and research skills, and competencies that are viewed as transferable and career enhancing.

**Practical**
- Demonstrate library and citation skills including the ability to conduct relevant literature searches using electronic databases.
- Compile and analyse data.
- Write a management report.
- Demonstrate an appropriate level of analytical/numerical and IT skills.
- Write an extended dissertation in the area of CR/Sustainability.

**Personal and Social**
- Demonstrate oral and written presentation and communication skills
- Work in teams and independently
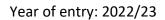- Demonstrate confidence to lead others and implement decisions

| 17 | **Learning, teaching and assessment methods** |
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The assessment for each module varies from a combination of coursework and unseen, formal examination, to modules that are assessed by exam only or by coursework only. The length of the coursework and exam will vary depending on whether they are the only mode of assessment for the module or whether they are combined with another mode of assessment.

In regards to the coursework, it can be noted that the student is required to adopt a critical and interpretive approach when answering the question set and the department's marking criteria is adhered to when the examiners mark the scripts. The outline answers provided by the module convenor (to the second marker(s)) act as a standard against which the quality of the work is assessed.

The summative assessment for all modules measures each student's attainment with respect to the learning objectives, and it can be noted that the external examiners are charged with approving the formal, unseen examination papers. The examination questions set ask students to link theory and practice, and critically appraise assumptions. The examination process is rigorous and provides an opportunity to test a student's understanding of the subject matter.

Both the course work assignment and the unseen, formal examination, require students to think logically and to adopt an analytical approach to answering the question. It can be argued that the assessment is balanced and all timetabling takes into account the fact that those students with specific needs, have their needs taken into account and they are not disadvantaged in any way. The pass mark is 50% for the combined course work and unseen, formal examination. Each student is allowed one re-sit.

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| 18 | **Programme Structure** |
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The programme consists of 120 credits in taught modules, and a 60 credit dissertation.  The compulsory and optional modules of the programme are shown below.

*Full-Time Programme*

*Year 1*

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | MOMN028H7 | Corporate Governance | 15 | Compulsory |
| 7 | MOMN039H7 | Corporate Responsibility | 15 | Compulsory |
| 7 | BUMN114H7 | Environmental Economics | 15 | Compulsory |
| 7 | MOMN032H7 | International Business Ethics | 15 | Compulsory |
| 7 | MOMN011H7 | Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate) | 15 | Compulsory |
| 7 | BUMN061D7 | MSc Dissertation | 60 | Core |
| 7 | N/A | Option modules – from closed list, see below | 45 | Optional |

*Part-Time Programme*

*Year 1*

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | MOMN028H7 | Corporate Governance | 15 | Compulsory |
| 7 | MOMN039H7 | Corporate Responsibility | 15 | Compulsory |
| 7 | MOMN032H7 | International Business Ethics | 15 | Compulsory |
| 7 | BUMN114H7 | Environmental Economics | 15 | Compulsory |
| 7 | N/A | Option module(s) – from closed list, see below | 15 | Optional |

*Year 2*

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | MOMN011H7 | Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate) | 15 | Compulsory |
| 7 | N/A | Option module – from closed list, see below | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | BUMN184Z7 | PG Dissertation Preparation | 0 | Compulsory |
| 7 | BUMN061D7 | MSc Dissertation | 60 | Core |

**Indicative list of modules for closed options***:*

| 7 | BUOB079H7 | Applied Decision Making | 15 | Optional |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | SSGE010S7 | Climate Change | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | FDDV024S7 | Development, Aid and Power** | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | MOMN076H7 | Development Policy | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | FDDV023S7 | Development Studies: Theoretical Approaches | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | SSGE112S7 | Energy and Climate Change (30 credits) | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | MOMN073H7 | Entrepreneurship and Innovation | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | SSGE011S7 | Environment and Policy | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | FDDV002S7 | Gender and Development** | 30 | Optional |

| 7 | MOMN074H7 | Globalization: forces, players and management | 15 | Optional |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | LACN013S7 | Influencing Public Policy | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | BUMN069H7 | Institutions, Governance and Development | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | MOMN075H7 | International Business and Economic Development | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | MOMN009H7 | International Business Strategy | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | BUMN004H7 | International Human Resource Management | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | BUMN173H7 | Legal Perspectives on Governance | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | BUOB041H7 | Managing Organizational Change | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | BUMN085H7 | Principles of Marketing (Postgraduate) | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | MOMN010H7 | Principles of Organization and Management | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | POSO041S7 | Public Management: Theories and Innovations | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | BUMN055H7 | Public Relations** | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | FDDV016S7 | Race, Environment and International Development (Level 7)** | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | LADD055S7 | Social Justice | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | MOMN082H7 | Strategic Management (Postgraduate) | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | SSGE110S7 | Sustainable Business Practice (30 credits) | 30 | Optional |
| 7 | MOMN008H7 | The Dynamics of Global Capitalism: Theory and Practice | 15 | Optional |
| 7 | MOOP005H7 | Understanding Organizations and Change | 15 | Optional |
| **Some background knowledge may be needed before taking these modules, check with programme director | | | | |

**Status***

*CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module*

| 19 | **Programme Director** | Dr Ioanna Boulouta |
|---|---|---|
| 20 | **Start Date** *(term/year)* | October 2013 |
| 21 | **Date approved by TQEC** | Autumn 2012 |
| 22 | **Date approved by Academic Board** | Spring 2013 |
| 23 | **Date(s) updated/amended** | August 2022 (for 2022/23) |