

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Business

Plymouth Business School

Programme Specification

MSc in Operations and Supply Chain Management
5343

Final Approved Version
August 2018

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1. MSc in Operations and Supply Chain Management

Final award title MSc in Operations and Supply Chain Management

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s)

Postgraduate Diploma in Operations and Supply Chain Management
Postgraduate Certificate in Operations and Supply Chain Management

UCAS code

JACS code N120

2. Awarding Institution: University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. Accrediting body(ies)

No accreditations are required for this programme.

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

The MSc in Operations and Supply Chain Management will be supported by:

- *Practical Orientation*
The programme will be underpinned by a firm practical orientation. Each module will reflect current practice, and apply the theories outlined to real world problems and scenarios. The teaching approach will engage students in opportunities to apply theory to practice through experiential learning methods such as case studies analysis, live projects, and business simulations.

- *Dedicated Seminar Series (Trends in International Business)*
The programme will have its own dedicated seminar series delivered by invited executives from local, national and international companies and our alumni database
- *Research Informed Teaching and Learning*
The programme modules will be delivered by staff with a keen interest, consultancy / professional practice experience, and research output in the field.
- *Employability*
The benefits outlined above will add to the graduates' employability, and this will be supplemented with timely input from the careers service at the beginning of semesters one and three.
- *International Perspective*
The programme recognises that the world of management is in effect getting smaller and even small organisations are competing increasingly in international markets. An international perspective is therefore required, and this will be reflected in both the taught sessions and the speakers invited to participate in the dedicated seminar series.
- *Intercultural Awareness Training and Language Support*
All students on the programme will be provided with additional support through intercultural awareness training at the outset of the programme in induction and on an ongoing basis. This will be built into the skills programme and be part of the skills development within the common core project. Where required additional English language support will be available to students through the English Language Centre.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Master's Degrees in Business and Management (2015).

6. Programme Structure

Table 1 (see below) outlines the programme structure. The programme comprises nine 20-credit modules that will be studied over three semesters.

Leadership and Management Essentials, International Business Environment, and Marketing and Strategy will be delivered intensively for four hours per week in semester one.

Knowledge Management and Decision Making, Operations and Project Management, Quality Management and Lean Thinking, and Global Supply Chain Management will be delivered using the same delivery pattern in semester two.

Electives (of which two will be selected by each student) will be delivered in an intensive block in semester three.

Table 1: MSc in Operations and Supply Chain Management

<i>Semester One</i>	<i>Semester Two</i>	<i>Summer</i>
<p>HRL710A Leadership and Management Essentials (20 credits)</p>	<p>STO701 Knowledge Management and Decision Making (20 credits)</p>	
<p>STO700A International Business Environment (20 credits)</p> <p>MKT700A Marketing & Strategy (20 credits)</p>	<p>STO702 Global Supply Chain Management (20 credits)</p> <p>STO704 Operations and Project Management (20 credits)</p> <p>STO705 Quality Management and Lean Thinking (20 credits)</p>	<p><u>Choice of any 2 electives from:</u></p> <p>STO706 Operations Management for Competitive Advantage (20 credits)</p> <p>STO707SU Sustainable Supply Chains (20 credits)</p> <p>ENT705SU Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth (20 credits)</p>

7. Programme Aims

The programme aims to provide successful students with:

1. a practical understanding of the key challenges of operations and project management and the tools and techniques with which to address these challenges.
2. detailed knowledge and understanding of organisations, the dynamic external environments in which they operate, and their management, and leadership;
3. the ability to apply knowledge and understanding of business and management to complex situations to enhance decision making and management practice in general;
4. an appreciation of how quality management and lean thinking have evolved, their cultural and philosophical foundations and how they can be used to achieve significant operational improvements.
5. the skills to analyse decisions related to global issues in SCM and to effectively manage global supply chains.
6. the ability to learn and work autonomously in the pursuit of creative strategies and business solutions;
7. a range of transferable skills relevant to a career in business and management including leadership, analytical, critical thinking, research and communications skills.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion learners should have developed knowledge and understanding of:

- the diverse nature and purpose of organisations together with their internal aspects, functions, characteristics, culture, and processes
- the complexities of the external environments that affect organisations at different levels in terms of their strategies, behaviours, management and sustainability.
- the various processes, procedures and practices that influence effective management and leadership of organisations.
- the tools, techniques and practice of operations and projects and how they can be applied in different organisations and situations.

- the tools and techniques for lean and quality management and the rationale behind these contemporary operational improvement methodologies and philosophies
- the importance of global supply chain management and the linkages between supply chain functions, stages and partners in the context of contemporary business practice.

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion learners should have developed the ability to:

- analyse and synthesise acquired knowledge and understanding of business and management to enable effective decision making within different organisational settings
- think critically and be creative through a process of analysis and synthesis of evidence, ideas, theory and concepts to facilitate the solution of complex problems
- undertake research using appropriate methods and techniques to investigate business and management scenarios and propose recommendations in a various organisational contexts
- develop an awareness of key contemporary trends and issues and their impact on the future of organisations
- critically evaluate and apply business and management theory to specific situations leading to new and enhanced approaches to management practice
- critically evaluate business operations and identify and implement effective operational improvements, using quality and lean methods
- select appropriate hard and soft techniques for the effective management of projects
- identify global SCM issues and suggest appropriate responses based on how relevant theories can be effectively applied in practice
- analyse relevant qualitative and quantitative business data and use it to advise on suitable strategies for a given business

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- effective communication skills both written and oral, using a range of methods
- effective data collection, analysis and presentation skills
- effective management of their own time, and demonstrate the motivation and initiative needed to work independently in an ethical and responsible way
- familiarity with academic and practitioner literature sources as resources for effective management

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- the ability to be adaptable and demonstrate originality, insight and critical and reflective skills so as to make informed decisions in complex and unpredictable situations
- recognition of the need to keep developing their knowledge and skills through continued professional development, leading to a high level of personal effectiveness, critical self-awareness, and the ability to learn through reflection on practice
- awareness of the need for change and the ability to manage it
- the ability to work effectively as a team member, and where appropriate to lead the team employing appropriate leadership styles and approaches; and recognise and take account of any intercultural factors that may influence this
- an understanding of the interrelated nature of businesses and how this impacts on operational decisions.

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- competence in writing reports for both practitioner and academic audiences
- an ability to make effective use of communication and information technology

- effectiveness in the utilisation of listening, negotiation and persuasion skills, and professional interpersonal communication skills in general.
- effective analytical and decision making skills
- the skills to effectively manage both operations and projects.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade C or above.

Entry Requirements for MSc in Operations and Supply Chain Management	
BA / BSc Degree	Normal minimum entry requirements are any recognised honours degree at Lower Second (2:2 class) or above.
APEL	<p>Candidates who do not possess a first degree or who have been awarded a third class honours or pass degree may be considered for the programme on the basis of previous work experience or relevant training. Candidates will be interviewed by the Programme Leader, and if appropriate may be required to complete an assessment to demonstrate they have the necessary knowledge and skills to allow entry.</p> <p>Candidates will need to complete all modules on the programme, and therefore APEL will not be considered for any modules on the MSc in Operations and Supply Chain Management degree.</p>
Language Requirements	Candidates will be required to be competent in English. Candidates whose first language is not English require IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in each element) or equivalent in a secure English language test. If the candidate's English language does not meet the above standard, they will be given the opportunity to complete one of the University's pre-sessional English language courses.

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

As per University regulations

11. Exceptions to Regulations

Exemption from point 2.4 of the Regulatory Framework for Taught Postgraduate Awards requiring that:

“Masters programmes will include a major project or dissertation module worth at least 40 credits. Such a module will involve sustained, independent and individual study, normally having some research basis”.

12. Transitional Arrangements

Not applicable to the programme.

13. Mapping and Appendices:

Appendix One: ILO's against Modules Mapping

Appendix Two: Modules Assessment Mapping

Appendix Three: Skills against Modules Mapping

Appendix Four: Programme Relevant QAA and FHEQ Descriptors

Appendix Five: University Regulations

Appendix One: ILO's against Modules Mapping

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes Map	Leadership and Management Essentials	Knowledge Management and Decision Making	International Business Environment	Marketing and Strategy	Operations and Project Management	Quality Management and Lean Thinking	Global Supply Chain Management	Electives
8.1 Knowledge and Understanding								
the diverse nature and purpose of organisations together with their internal aspects, functions, characteristics, culture, and processes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
the complexities of the external environments that affect organisations at different levels in terms of their strategies, behaviours, management and sustainability.		X	X	X				
the various processes, procedures and practices that influence effective management and leadership of organisations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
the tools, techniques and practice of operations and projects and how they can be applied in different organisations and situations					X	X		X
the tools and techniques for lean and quality management and the rationale behind these contemporary operational improvement methodologies and philosophies					X	X		X
the importance of global supply chain management and the linkages between supply chain functions, stages and partners in the context of contemporary business practice							X	X
8.2 Cognitive and Intellectual Skills								
analyse and synthesise acquired knowledge and understanding of business and management to enable effective decision making within different organisational settings	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
think critically and be creative through a process of analysis and synthesis of evidence, ideas, theory and concepts to facilitate the solution of complex problems	X	X	X	X			X	X
undertake research using appropriate methods and techniques to investigate business and management scenarios and propose recommendations in a various		X	X					

organisational contexts								
develop an awareness of key contemporary trends and issues and their impact on the future of organisations	X	X	X	X				
critically evaluate and apply business and management theory to specific situations leading to new and enhanced approaches to management practice	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
critically evaluate business operations and identify and implement effective operational improvements, using quality and lean methods					X	X		X
select appropriate hard and soft techniques for the effective management of projects					X			
identify global SCM issues and suggest appropriate responses based on how relevant theories can be effectively applied in practice							X	X
analyse relevant qualitative and quantitative business data and use it to advise on suitable strategies for a given business		X					X	
8.3 Key and Transferrable Skills								
effective communication skills both written and oral, using a range of methods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
effective data collection, analysis and presentation skills	X	X	X	X	X	X		
effective management of their own time, and demonstrate the motivation and initiative needed to work independently in an ethical and responsible way	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
familiarity with academic and practitioner literature sources as resources for effective management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
an understanding of the interrelated nature of businesses and how this impacts on operational decisions.					X	X	X	X
8.4 Employment Related Skills								
the ability to be adaptable and demonstrate originality, insight and critical and reflective skills so as to make informed decisions in complex and unpredictable situations	X	X						
recognition of the need to keep developing their knowledge and skills through continued professional development, leading to a high level of personal effectiveness, critical self-awareness, and the ability to learn through reflection on practice	X						X	
awareness of the need for change and the ability to manage it	X	X					X	
the ability to work effectively as a team member, and where appropriate to lead the team employing appropriate leadership styles and approaches; and recognise and take	X	X	X					

account of any intercultural factors that may influence this								
8.5 Practical Skills								
competence in writing reports for both practitioner and academic audiences	x	x	x					
an ability to make effective use of communication and information technology	x							
effectiveness in the utilisation of listening, negotiation and persuasion skills, and professional interpersonal communication skills in general	x	x	x					
effective analytical and decision making skills	x	x					x	
the skills to effectively manage both operations and projects.					x	x		x

Appendix Two: Modules Assessment Mapping

Assessment Method	Leadership & Management Essentials	Knowledge Management and Decision Making	International Business Environment	Marketing and Strategy	Operations and Project Management	Quality Management and Lean Thinking	Global Supply Chain Management
Poster			x			x	
Presentation		x					x
Applied Project	x	x	x	x			
Time Constrained Test							
Management Report	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Problem-Solving Case Study						x	
Reflective Log	x						
Portfolio	x						
Written assignment							x
Essay							x

Appendix Three: Skills against Modules Mapping

Skills	Leadership & Management Essentials	Knowledge Management and Decision Making	International Business Environment	Marketing and Strategy	Operations and Project Management	Quality Management and Lean Thinking	Global Supply Chain Management
Academic Literacy (reading/note taking etc.)	x		x				
Data Analysis & Interpretation		x	x	x	x	x	x
Evaluation Techniques		x		x	x	x	
Essay / Report writing	x	x			x		
IT/Digital Literacy		x	x	x	x		
Presentation Skills	x				x		x
Project Planning & Management	x	x				x	x
Research Skills		x	x	x			
Team Working	x	x	x				x
Time Management	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Appendix Four:

Programme Relevant QAA and FHEQ Descriptors

The QAA and FHEQ level descriptors that are relevant for a specialist master's degree in business management are outlined below.

QAA Benchmark Standards demonstrated during the programme:

- a systematic understanding of relevant knowledge about organisations, their external context and how they are managed
- application of relevant knowledge to a range of complex situations taking account of its relationship and interaction with other areas of the business or organisation
- a critical awareness of current issues in business and management which is informed by leading edge research and practice in the field
- an understanding of appropriate techniques sufficient to allow detailed investigation into relevant business and management issues
- creativity in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to develop and interpret knowledge in business and management
- ability to acquire and analyse data and information, to evaluate their relevance and validity, and to synthesise a range of information in the context of new situations
- conceptual understanding that enables the student to:

- evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations
- extrapolate from existing research and scholarship to identify new or revised approaches to practice
- ability to conduct research into business and management issues that requires familiarity with a range of business data, research sources and appropriate methodologies, and for such to inform the overall learning process
- ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, using a range of media
- operate effectively in a variety of team roles and take leadership roles, where appropriate.

QAA Benchmark Standards graduates should be able to demonstrate once in professional practice

- consistently apply their knowledge and subject-specific and wider intellectual skills
- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to a range of audiences
- be proactive in recognising the need for change and have the ability to manage change
- be adaptable, and show originality, insight, and critical and reflective abilities which can all be brought to bear upon problem situations
- make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations

- evaluate and integrate theory and practice in a wide range of situations
- be self-directed and able to act autonomously in planning and implementing projects at professional levels

- take responsibility for continuing to develop their own knowledge and skills.

FHEQ descriptors for a higher education qualification at

The descriptor provided for this level of the framework is for any master's degree which should meet the descriptor in full. This qualification descriptor can also be used as a reference point for other level 7 qualifications, including postgraduate certificates and postgraduate diplomas. Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student:
 - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
 - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgments in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

And holders will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
 - the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
 - decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
 - the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Appendix Five – University Regulations

Available at: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/regulations>