

Title of Programme: BSc (Hons) Business Economics Pathways

Including articulation onto the following pathways:

BSc (Hons) Economics

BSc (Hons) Business Economics

BSc (Hons) Economics and Finance

Programme Code: HICEF

For Collaborative: External Validation at Hertfordshire International College

# Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:  
22 September 2025

Deputy Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):  
Michaela Cottee

Signature 

A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

---

## Summary of amendments to the programme:

Section	Amendment

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email [AQO@herts.ac.uk](mailto:AQO@herts.ac.uk)

# Programme Specification BSc (Hons) Economics / BSc (Hons) Business Economics / BSc (Hons) Economics and Finance

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs).

## Section 1

<b>Awarding Institution/Body</b>	University of Hertfordshire
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Hertfordshire International College (HIC)
<b>University/partner campuses</b>	HIC-UH Partnership, HIC at College Lane, Hatfield
<b>Programme accredited by</b>	Not applicable
<b>Final Qualification</b>	N/A – Successful completion leads to articulation onto level 5 programmes at Hertfordshire Business School
<b>All Final Award titles (Qualification and Subject)</b>	N/A
<b>FHEQ level of award</b>	

### A. Programme Rationale

The structure of the programme is designed to provide international students with a solid grounding in business and economics, and to introduce the student to key aspects of each. The programme helps develop a critical understanding of the subject and be able to employ the tools of analysis used within the subject area. HIC works closely with its partner, Hertfordshire Business School (HBS), in curriculum design, teaching delivery and assessment, ensuring that students are prepared for articulation onto programmes to complete their studies and gain an honours degree in their chosen discipline.

HIC ensure that students study in a familial and safe setting, to adjust to and acquire the skills to prepare for further studies within a western learning environment, to gain an internationally recognised honours degree. Students articulating into Level 5 of Hertfordshire Business School will be supported by a Collaborative Partnership Lead (CPL) and their incoming Programme Team.

### B. Educational Aims of the Programme

#### Diversity and Inclusion

Our programmes are purposefully designed to enable all students to engage meaningfully with the curriculum by being accessible and representative. We will support students to shape their learning experience, removing barriers and enabling them to succeed. The curriculum explicitly includes multiple and representative perspectives, valuing collective identities and individual diversity. Learning, teaching and assessment activities help students to understand how they can enhance outcomes both for themselves and for others. All students belong to a learning community, and during their studies we really want to hear their voices, encourage them to listen to others, and express themselves.

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in [UPR TL03](#).

**Additionally this programme aims to:**

- Prepare students, who would not normally be considered qualified, to an appropriate standard for entry into the Business School at FHEQ Level 5 of the prescribed undergraduate degree schemes.
- Endow each individual with an educational pathway that augments opportunities for professional employment and development in the business sector at both a national and international level.
- Develop in students a fundamental knowledge and understanding that can demonstrate an understanding of the economic, political, legal and cultural factors in the global economy so as to support their transfer into FHEQ Level 5 of the prescribed degree schemes.
- Develop in students an appreciation and desire to learn based on competent intellectual and practical skills building to a set of transferable skills that will support them in all aspects of their onward academic studies/careers and assist informed decision making and problem-solving.
- Ensure that graduates have attained the prescribed level of inter-disciplinary language competence to a minimum pass mark of 40% in the ACL accredited module Interactive Learning Skills and Communication, and therein a minimum 6.5 IELTS equivalent

### Graduate Attributes

Our graduates will be capable and professional, creative and enterprising, and will build their social and global awareness throughout. In addition to their subject expertise and proficiency, as a University of Hertfordshire graduate, they will be:

- Professionally focused
- Globally minded
- Sustainability driven
- Digitally capable and confident
- Inclusive and collaborative
- Evidence based and ethical

## C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA benchmark statements for Business and Management (2023), Economics (2023) and Finance (2019) and the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2021) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
<p><b>A1</b> Analyse processes, procedures and practices of effective business management;</p> <p><b>A2</b> Interpret business information and evaluate its potential to facilitate informed decision-making;</p> <p><b>A3</b> Research the complexity of the local, national and international external environments in which organisations operate;</p>	<p>Acquisition of knowledge and understanding learning outcomes is achieved through a combination of lectures, group seminars, one-to-one tutorials, IT workshops and project work.</p> <p>Throughout, the students are encouraged to undertake independent reading to supplement and consolidate their learning and broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Computer labs will be used where relevant, and the use of</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding are assessed through coursework assignments and exams.</p> <p>Coursework may include time-constrained assessments, in-class tests, presentations (individual and group), group work, case studies and written reports or essays.</p> <p>Assessment, which is both formative and summative, individual and</p>

<p><b>A4</b> Review ethical considerations in the management of business and organisations;</p> <p><b>A5</b> Examine key practices and underlying theory relevant to economics.</p> <p><b>A6</b> Core economic principles, theories and models</p> <p><b>A7</b> The context in which finance operates including the role and operation of financial markets and institutions</p> <p><b>A8</b> Core economic principles, theories and models</p>	<p>Moodle (Virtual Learning Environment) will provide ongoing support throughout.</p>	<p>group-based spans many forms, e.g. essay assignments, project reports, portfolios, exhibitions and presentations.</p>
<b>Intellectual skills</b>	<b>Teaching and learning methods</b>	<b>Assessment strategy</b>
<p><b>B1</b> Structure and communicate ideas and arguments effectively in writing;</p> <p><b>B2</b> Research information and reference source materials consistently and accurately using the Harvard Referencing System;</p> <p><b>B3</b> Solve business problems and make business decisions using appropriate information and techniques.</p> <p><b>B4</b> Demonstrate proficiency in the use of relevant mathematical techniques as employed in business economics</p> <p><b>B5</b> Explore and frame problems using</p>	<p>Cognitive/intellectual skills are developed throughout the taught curriculum, in lectures, in related directed learning, and practiced through in-class exercises (individual and small group tasks) set during seminars, tutorials and workshops.</p> <p>Students are taught research and study skills as part of their curriculum, enhancing their abilities as independent thinkers and equipping them for the higher level learning required as they progress.</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are assessed through formative activities in tutorials, and summative coursework throughout. In-class tests and exams are also used to assess intellectual skills. These are clearly identified within the appropriate DMDs.</p>

<p>economics approaches to characterise businesses and policy solutions while recognising their limitations</p> <p><b>B6</b> Apply economic and financial theory to frame problems and provide solutions, in terms of business decisions and economic / financial policy</p>		
<b>Practical skills</b>	<b>Teaching and learning methods</b>	<b>Assessment strategy</b>
<p><b>C1-</b> Demonstrate relevant quantitative skills</p> <p><b>C2-</b> Work effectively in a group</p> <p><b>C3-</b> Make effective use of IT packages and learning resources</p> <p><b>C4-</b> Identify, generate, use and interpret appropriate data sources</p>	<p>Practical skills are developed through all taught modules.</p>	<p>Practical skills are assessed through formative work in tutorials and summative coursework and exams. This includes debates, oral presentations and written work (both individual and group).</p>
<b>Transferable skills</b>	<b>Teaching and learning methods</b>	<b>Assessment strategy</b>
<p><b>D1-</b> Communicate arguments, ideas and information effectively in writing and orally to specialist and non-specialist audiences</p> <p><b>D2-</b> Critically evaluate issues and problems arising upon the basis of an analytical approach, and draw reasoned conclusions from a given, or individually researched, set of data</p> <p><b>D3-</b> Manage learning and reflect on practice</p>	<p>Transferable skills are developed through all modules by teaching and learning methods.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan. This encourages them to take responsibility for continuing to develop their own knowledge and skills.</p>	<p>Transferable skills are assessed through coursework, oral presentations/debates, seminars, group-based work and the applied project and. In-class tests and exams are also used to assess intellectual skills.</p>

**D4-** Undertake sustained research, demonstrating the ability to plan, design and execute to produce relevant outcomes

---

## **D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits**

The programme is offered in full time (2 semesters) over 24 weeks.

Entry is normally at Level 4 (on completion of HIC Level 3) or directly in level 4. Intake is normally September and January.

### **Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies**

Not applicable

### **Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes**

Not applicable

### **Student Exchange programme**

#### **Incoming Exchange**

Not applicable

### **Study Abroad**

Not applicable

### **Programme Structure**

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is provided for the Honours award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed.

### **Table 1a Outline Programme Structure**

#### **Mode of study**

Full time

#### **Entry point**

Semester A or B

#### **Level 4 – BSc (Hons) Economics / BSc (Hons) Business Economics / BSc (Hons) Economics and Finance**

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
<b>Compulsory Modules</b>							
Module Title							
ILSC for the Business Professional	4FBS1410	15	English	40	60	0	A, B
Economics 1	4FBS1415	15	English	60	40	0	A, B
Global Perspectives	4FBS1416	15	English	0	100	0	A, B
Accounting & Finance 1	4FBS1413	15	English	60	40	0	A, B
The Business Professional	4FBS1411	15	English	0	100	0	B, C
Economics 2	4FBS1418	15	English	60	40	0	B, C
Quantitative Methods	4FBS1412	15	English	60	40	0	B, C

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
<b>Optional Modules (choose 1 module from the below)</b>							
Module Titles							
Business Operations	4FBS1420	15	English	0	100	0	B, C
Marketing	4FBS1417	15	English	0	100	0	B, C
Accounting & Finance 2	4FBS1414	15	English	60	40	0	B, C

Progression to level 5 requires a minimum of 120 credits.

Table 1b Final and interim awards available

The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

No final or interim awards. Grade transcript issued by HIC on request.

## Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme complies with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12/UPR AS13](#) (delete as applicable) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been approved by the University:

### Progression routes:

a) All progression routes outlined below are currently valid; however available progression will be updated on an annual basis in accordance with changes in UH provision.

b) Entry is to Level 5 at the Hertfordshire Business School:

**Awards included in the Articulation Agreement:**

BSc (Hons) Economics  
BSc (Hons) Business Economics  
BSc (Hons) Economics and Finance

Further programme-specific regulations (requiring School-level approval) are given below:  
HIC regulations

- Students who fail a module have the option to complete a referral assessment. If the referral is not passed, students will be expected to re-enrol at full cost. Students who fail at re-enrolment, will be offered a referral opportunity. If the student fails the re-enrolment referral, no further attempts will be available. The University will not be incumbent to progress students who fail.
- Minimum pass mark of 40% achieved for all modules. Students must pass all modules at the prescribed grade in order to progress to the next stage of their educational continuum

---

## **E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning.**

### **Management**

The programme is managed and administered through:

- A Director of Academic and Student Services and Head of College Services to help students understand the course / programme structure
- The Programme Leader, who is responsible for advising students on the programme as a whole and chairing the programme committee
- Student Representatives on the College Learning and Teaching Board
- A designated administrative team to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the modules within the programme.

### **Support**

Students are supported by:

- Attractive modern study environments in two Learning Resource Centres, incorporating libraries and computer centres
- StudyNet, a versatile on-line inter-active intranet and learning environment
- Moodle, a versatile on-line inter-active intranet and learning environment
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- Office of the Dean of Students, incorporating Chaplaincy, Counselling and nursery
- Medical Centre
- Careers Enterprise and Employment Services
- The Students' Union

At HIC, students are supported by:

- An induction week at the beginning of each academic semester
- Module tutors to provide academic support
- A Manager of Academic and Student Services Manager to provide pastoral support and confidential academic and welfare advice
- A College Services Team that provides advice on issues such as finance, accommodation, well-being, welfare, international student support, etc.
- Lunchtime Drop-in sessions for Mathematics, Accounting and Physics
- A Collaborative Partnership Leader (CPL) who is the link between the Business School and HIC and helps to ensure that students have a seamless transition to the Business School.



---

## F. Other sources of information

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Programme (or Student) Handbook;
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.

The [Ask Herts](#) website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/>. In particular, [UPR SA07](#) 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>.

---

## G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

For current entry tariff point requirements, please refer to the relevant page for the Course on the HIC website (<http://hic.herts.ac.uk/>) or on the online prospectus.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in [UPR SA03](#)), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

---

If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact:  
AskHIC ([ask@hic.herts.ac.uk](mailto:ask@hic.herts.ac.uk))

## BSc (Hons) Economics / BSc (Hons) Business Economics / BSc (Hons) Economics and Finance

Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are delivered and assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

			Knowledge & Understanding								Intellectual Skills						Practical Skills				Transferable Skills				
	Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4	
Level 4	ILSC for the Business Professional	4FBS1410	X	X		X					X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Economics 1	4FBS1415	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X		
	Global Perspectives	4FBS1416	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Accounting & Finance 1	4FBS1413	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X	X		
	The Business Professional	4FBS1411	X	X	X	X			X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Quantitative Methods	4FBS1412	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X		
	Economics 2	4FBS1418	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X		
	Marketing	4FBS1417	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Business Operations	4FBS1420	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Accounting & Finance 2	4FBS1414	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X	X		

## KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. Analyse processes, procedures and practices of effective business management;
- A2. Interpret business information and evaluate its potential to facilitate informed decision-making
- A3. Research the complexity of the local, national and international external environments in which organisations operate;
- A4. Review ethical considerations in the management of business and organisations;
- A5. Examine key practices and underlying theory relevant to economics
- A6 Core economic principles, theories and models
- A7 Economic data, its measurement and interpretation
- A8 Core economic principles, theories and models

### Intellectual Skills

- B1. Structure and communicate ideas and arguments effectively in writing
- B2. Research information and reference source materials consistently and accurately using the Harvard Referencing System;
- B3. Solve business problems and make business decisions using appropriate information and techniques
- B4. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of relevant mathematical techniques as employed in business economics
- B5 Explore and frame problems using economics approaches to characterise businesses and policy solutions while recognising their limitations
- B6. Apply economic and financial theory to frame problems and provide solutions, in terms of business decisions and economic / financial policy

### Practical Skills

- C1. Demonstrate relevant quantitative skills
- C2. Work effectively in a group
- C3. Make effective use of IT packages and learning resources
- C4. Identify, generate, use and interpret appropriate data sources

### Transferable Skills

- D1. Communicate arguments, ideas and information effectively in writing and orally to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- D2. Critically evaluate issues and problems arising, upon the basis of an analytical approach, and draw reasoned conclusions from a given, or individually researched, set of data
- D3. Manage learning and reflect on practice
- D4. Undertake sustained research, demonstrating the ability to plan, design and execute to produce relevant outcomes

**Table 3: Development of Graduate Attributes in the Constituent Modules**

HL Bachelor's Programme Specification / Sept 2023 /  
AS Review Date June 2024

This map identifies where the Graduate Attributes are delivered in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the development of the Graduate Attributes (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own personal and professional development as the programme progresses. [Note that there is no requirement for the Graduate Attributes to be assessed through these modules]

### **BSc (Hons) Economics / BSc (Hons) Business Economics / BSc (Hons) Economics and Finance**

D = Delivered

	Module Title	Module Code	Professionally Focused	Globally Minded	Sustainability Driven	Digitally capable & confident	Inclusive and collaborative	Evidenced based and Ethical
Level 4	ILSC for the Business Professional	4FBS1410	D		D			D
	Economics 1	4FBS1415		D				
	Global Perspectives	4FBS1416		D	D	D	D	D
	Accounting & Finance 1	4FBS1413		D				
	The Business Professional	4FBS1411	D	D	D	D	D	D
	Quantitative Methods	4FBS1412	D			D		
	Economics 2	4FBS1418	D	D				
	Marketing	4FBS1417	D	D	D		D	D
	Business Operations	4FBS1420		D	D	D	D	D
	Accounting & Finance 2	4FBS1414		D				

## Section 2

### Programme management

**Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements**

**Type of programme**

**Date of validation/last periodic review**

**Date of production/ last revision of PS**

**Relevant to level/cohort**

**Administrative School**

**Language of Delivery**

Business and Management (2023), Economics (2023) and Finance (2019)

Undergraduate

08 June 2025

January 2025

All students entering September 2025

Hertfordshire Business School

English

**Table 4 Course structure**

Course details					
Course code	Course description			JACS	
HICBEC	BSc (Hons) Business Economics Pathways			N100	
Course Instances					
Instances code	Intake	Stream	Instances Year	Location :	Mode of study
HICECA1F	A	Economics	1	Hatfield	Full-time
HICECB1F-1,	B	Economics	1	Hatfield	Full-time
HICECB1F-2	B	Economics	1	Hatfield	Full-time
HICBEA1F	A	Business Economics	1	Hatfield	Full-time
HICBEB1F-1	B	Business Economics	1	Hatfield	Full-time
HICBEB1F-2	B	Business Economics	1	Hatfield	Full-time