

Title of Programme: BA (Hons) International Business

Programme Code: HICBSIBS

For Collaborative: External Validation Hertfordshire International College

Programme Specification

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

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):
Veronica Earle

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:

Date	Section	Amendment
March 2025	Programme Specific Regulations	Clarified wording 'Further programme-specific regulations'.
March 2025	Management of Programme & Support for student learning	Amended correct job titles of available support.

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email AQO@herts.ac.uk

Programme Specification BA (Hons) International Business (HIC)

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

Awarding Institution/Body	University of Hertfordshire
Teaching Institution	Hertfordshire International College (HIC)
University/partner campuses	HIC-UH Partnership, HIC at College Lane, Hatfield
Programme accredited by	N/A
Final Qualification	N/A – Successful completion leads to articulation onto level 5 programmes at Hertfordshire Business School
All Final Award titles (Qualification and Subject)	N/A
FHEQ level of award	N/A

A. Programme Rationale

The structure of the programme is designed to provide international students with a solid grounding in international business. 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. There are only 102 such programmes in 76 institutions in the world, and 11 in the UK, which are currently accredited in this way. Both the rationale and the delivery of the programme were instrumental in this accreditation.

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 Link Tutor, a Direct Entry Tutor, as well as 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.

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 General Business and Management (November 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
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 Business operations and logistics relevant to international business	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. 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.	Knowledge and understanding are assessed through coursework assignments and exams. Coursework may include time-constrained assessments, in class tests, presentations (individual and group), group work, case studies and written reports or essays. Assessment, which is both formative and summative, individual and group based spans many forms, e.g. essay assignments, project reports, portfolios, exhibitions and presentations.
Intellectual skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
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;	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.	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.

B3 Solve business problems and make business decisions using appropriate information and techniques. B4 Utilise cognitive skills of critical thinking, analysis and synthesis	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.	Reports provide an opportunity to apply skills in secondary research, analysing data, synthesis of key theoretical literature, examinations of trade information etc. Exams test very specific areas of knowledge within the breadth of the curriculum, and require concentration on specific problems and issues.
Practical skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
C1 Apply a range of appropriate business techniques to analyse data to solve structured and unstructured business problems C2 Conduct research into business and management issues through the creation, extraction and analysis of data from a range of sources C3 Apply and utilise relevant IT tools in the analysis and communication of business information	Practical skills are developed through all taught modules.	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).
Transferable skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
D1 Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. D2 Make effective use of IT tools for business D3 Manage time and resources effectively. D4 Work effectively within a team. D5 Manipulate, sort and present data. D6 Solve business problems and make business decisions effectively using appropriate quantitative and qualitative techniques D7 Learn to study effectively in preparation for life-long learning	Transferable skills are developed through all modules by teaching and learning methods. 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.	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.

D8 Demonstrate the ability to use academic, enterprise and employability skills in both scholarly and work-based environments.

D9 Operate in the dynamic global arena and appreciate contemporary and cross cultural difference

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, B or C, in order as indicated below

Level 4 BA (Hons) International Business

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Compulsory Modules							
Module Title							
Accounting & Finance 1	4FBS1413	15	English	60	40	0	A, B
Economics 1	4FBS1415	15	English	60	40	0	A, B
Global Perspectives	4FBS1416	15	English	0	100	0	A, B
Marketing	4FBS1417	15	English	0	100	0	A, B
Quantitative Methods	4FBS1412	15	English	60	40	0	B, C

Marketing Communications	4FBS1419	15	English	0	100	0	B, C
Human Resource Management	4FBS1422	15	English	60	40	0	B, C
Ethics, Governance & Law	4FBS1423	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 award, 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](#) 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:

BA (Hons) International Business

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 reenrolment, 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

For some of the modules listed above that include student presentations, video recordings of these presentations will be made for moderation purposes.

These recordings will be managed in accordance with Navitas' Data Protection and Privacy Policies.

We will share the videos with internal moderators at HIC and external moderators at the University of Hertfordshire securely and destroy these in accordance with our Records Management, Retention and Disposal Policy.

Should you have any questions around this process and privacy please contact privacy@navitas.com.

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.
- to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the modules within the programme

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).

BA (Hon) International Business - HIC

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

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are 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.

		Programme Learning Outcomes <i>(as identified below)</i>																								
		Knowledge and Understanding						Intellectual Skills					Practical Skills				Transferable Skills									
	MODULE TITLE	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5		B1	B2	B3	B4		C1	C2	C3		D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	
Level 4	Accounting & Finance 1 (4FBS1413)	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
	Economics 1 (4FBS1415)		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		
	Global Perspectives (4FBS1416)		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
	Marketing (4FBS1417)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	
	Quantitative Methods (4FBS1412)		✓							✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
	Marketing Communications (4FBS1419)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
	Human Resource Management (4FBS1422)	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
	Ethics, Governance and Law (4FBS1423)	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓					✓	

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. Business operations and logistics relevant to international business

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. Utilise cognitive skills of critical thinking, analysis and synthesis

Practical Skills

- C1. Apply a range of appropriate business techniques to analyse data to solve structured and unstructured business problems
- C2. Conduct research into business and management issues through the creation, extraction and analysis of data from a range of sources
- C3. Apply and utilise relevant IT tools in the analysis and communication of business information

Transferable Skills

- D1. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
- D2. Make effective use of IT tools for business
- D3. Manage time and resources effectively
- D4. Work effectively within a team
- D5. Manipulate, sort and present data
- D6. Solve business problems and make business decisions effectively using appropriate quantitative and qualitative techniques
- D7. Learn to study effectively in preparation for life-long learning
- D8. Demonstrate the ability to use academic, enterprise and employability skills in both scholarly and work-based environments
- D9. Operate in the dynamic global arena and appreciate contemporary and cross cultural difference

Section 2

Programme management

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

General Business and Management (November 2019)

Undergraduate

May 2022

March 2025

All students entering September 2025

Hertfordshire Business School

English

Table 4 Course structure

Course details					
Course code		Course description			JACS
HICBSIBS		BA (Hons) International Business – HIC			
Course Instances					
Instances code	Intake	Stream	Instances Year	Location :	Mode of study
HICIBA1F	A	BA (Hons) International Business – HIC	1	Hatfield	Full-time
HICIBB1F-1	B	BA (Hons) International Business – HIC	1	Hatfield	Full-time