

Programme Specification

BSc Food Marketing and Business Economics with Foundation

For students entering Foundation year in September 2022

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM)

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a degree-level education in marketing and business economics together with training in the application of these disciplines to some of the key challenges facing the UK, European and global food industry.

The degree draws on the University's internationally recognised expertise in the food chain and its excellent links with industry. Based in the Department of Applied Economics and Marketing it benefits from close links with the Chartered Institute of Marketing's Sector Interest Group for the food industry and a thriving marketing community with social and professional events organised by a student-led Marketing Society.

As a graduate of Food Marketing and Business Economics, you will be particularly well placed to move into a range of business and related roles within the food industry. Previous students have gone on to work for a wide range of companies, both big and small, including Mars, Sainsbury's, Kellogg's, Innocent, Unilever, and Waitrose.

The development of applied research skills features strongly in this degree including a marketing research project for a real food company and a final year dissertation or project on a food related theme tailored to your interests.

You have the option of studying this degree over four years with a placement year as the third year. Our placement students have worked in sales and marketing, buying, product development, advertising, brand development, business administration, social media and communications strategy. You will be given training and advice by our careers and placements team to find a suitable placement, to enhance the quality of your placement applications and offered on-going support during your placement year.

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to analytical and critical thinking, problem solving, numeracy, research design, information handling, report writing, written and oral communication team working, use of information technology and career

management and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside the curriculum.

This programme comprises of a foundation year (Part 0), which provides access to higher education to students who do not possess the normal entry requirements of GCE Advanced level qualifications or the equivalent. Through Part 0 you will be equipped with subject specific and general study skills which will enable you to cope with the demands of undergraduate study. This is achieved through the provision of high-quality teaching which is sympathetic to the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds

<p>Foundation year:</p>	<p>In the Foundation year you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills through the provision of a compulsory credit-bearing Academic Skills module. The key skills relate to Critical Thinking, Essay Writing, Research, Referencing and avoiding plagiarism, Group Work and Projects, Presentations, and Assessment and Examination techniques. You will also complete a subject-specific skills module. Finally, you will complete two 40-credit modules as specified in the module information aligned to the ‘A Level’ entry requirements for the degree.</p>
<p>Part 1:</p>	<p>Part 1 introduces the underlying concepts and principles relating to marketing, management and economics together with an overview of the food industry and the value chain from ‘farm to fork’. Students will also start to develop a range of professional skills relevant to marketers and business managers. In Part 1 the range of options on offer is designed to give students the flexibility to select subjects outside their main degree area if they wish.</p>
<p>Part 2:</p>	<p>Part 2 build on the foundations from Part 1 and further develops knowledge and critical understanding of food economics, consumer attitudes and behaviour, marketing and management. Decision making tools for business and marketing are also addressed in this part of the degree, as are research methods and data analysis techniques. Project management skills, teamwork and the ability to apply research skills are reinforced by case studies and projects linked to real food businesses. Students are further exposed to professional practice and other interactions with the food industry embedded in the degree. Options in Part 2 provide opportunities for students to delve in greater depth into areas closely aligned to their degree such as, digital marketing, entrepreneurship, financial management and through a mini professional placement.</p>
<p>Part 3:</p>	<p>Part 3 modules focus on and debate some of the key strategic questions faced by managers, marketers and policy makers working within the food industry both nationally and internationally. You will become familiar with the frameworks for analysing these questions and the main contemporary perspectives on how they may be resolved.</p> <p>While a key dimension of the degree and business success is identifying market opportunities, businesses also needs to be competitive in delivering the product</p>

to consumers, hence Part 3 also includes the principles of supply chain management and the regulatory framework surrounding food business.

In Part 3 you will also have the opportunity to showcase the skills in research and enquiry you have developed in the degree through an independent research project or project on a food industry related topic of your choice.

Options in Part 3 offer opportunities to further specialise, for example in human resource management and cross-cultural marketing.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI0MF1	Mathematics Foundation	20	0
IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0

International Students take IF0ACA (Academic Skills), in place of IF0RAS (Foundation in Academic Skills), as IF0ACA is specifically targeted to the needs of international students.

Students with adequate prior learning in subject areas that are compulsory in Part 0 may be eligible to apply for a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) exemption from a limited number of modules. Students with an approved RPL exemption will be permitted to take alternative optional modules to the same number of credits overall. Students will need to consult the Programme Director with regards to optional modules available and choice may be restricted by timetable constraints.

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP1A28	Global Sustainability: Challenges and Prospects	20	4
AP1EE4	The Economic Environment	20	4
AP1EF2	The Food Business	20	4
AP1EM2	The Fundamentals of Business and Marketing	20	4
AP1EQ5	Research and Professional Skills for Business and Marketing	20	4

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and across the University, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. Students also have the option to select a language module.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD2AMM	Applied Marketing and Management	20	5
AD2RDA	Research Methods and Data Analysis	20	5
FB2FC	Food Choice	20	5
MM270	Practice of Entrepreneurship	20	5

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules mainly from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or a guided selection of topics such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

If you are undertaking a year-long placement or a year-long study abroad, students will take one 120 credit module as follows:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP2PP1	Professional Placement	120	5
Or			
AP2SA3*	Professional Placement with Study Abroad Experience	120	5
Or			
AP2SA1*	Study Abroad Year	120	5

As part of the Placement Year, students have the option to take either a full year (minimum of 40 weeks) in full time employment or, with approval from the module convenor and programme director, a shorter work placement (minimum of 20 weeks) combined with a study abroad semester. Students can also select a full year of study abroad. ***Students will only be eligible for AP2SA3 and AP2SA1 if they meet the criteria and if places are available in overseas institutions – places are not guaranteed.**

Part 2 (continued) modules:

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD3FPS	Food Policy and Supply Chain Management	20	6

AD3MST	Marketing Strategy	20	6
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Students must choose a minimum of 20 credits to a maximum of 60 credits of the following two modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP3INP	Independent Research Project	40	6
And/Or			
AP3APR	Applied Marketing Project	20	6

To follow the Business or Marketing pathways you must take 20 credits from a defined module list.

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules mainly from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or a guided selection of topics such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

Study Abroad costs will be determined by the host institution and by the student's own study-related travel, subsistence and accommodation requirements.

Costs may be incurred for optional modules not listed here. These may vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2021.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

If you take the 4 year degree with Placement Year, you are required to undertake a compulsory placement as part of your Programme (see section above on Placement). You will be supported in finding this placement.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad/Placement Year during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, seminars, practicals, tutorials and supervised project work.

The contact hours for your Programme will be approximately 240-280 hours per year, although this can depend upon your module combination; however information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

This course is recognised by the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) as an Accredited Degree, enabling graduates to receive exemptions from all but one module of the Certificate in Professional Marketing or Certificate in Professional Digital Marketing qualification, or exemptions from all but two CIM modules for the Diploma in Professional Marketing qualification or Diploma in Professional Digital Marketing.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework, assessed via a range of methods.

Progression

Progression Part 0 Foundation Year

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- i. an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0;
- ii. no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%
- iii. at least 40% in the Academic Skills module

To progress to Part 1, students must satisfy the following progression and English language requirements:

- i. at least 55% in each of two 40 credit modules, including any specified modules.
- ii. an average of at least 40% in the remaining two modules
- iii. at least 40% in the Academic Skills module
- iv. no module mark below 35%

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 0 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 1

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 of this programme, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1 and

- (iii) achieve a credit weighted average mark of not less than 40% over the compulsory modules (AP1EF2, AP1EM2, AP1EE4, AP1EQ5, AP1A28,); and
- (iv) a mark of not less than 30% in each compulsory module.

If you gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Certificate of Higher Education. The Part 1 Examination does not contribute to the classification of your degree.

Part 2

The Part 2 examination is used to assess a student's suitability to proceed to Part 3 of their programme. It also determines eligibility for the Diploma of Higher Education. In addition, the marks achieved in the Part 2 Examination contribute to the classification of your degree.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and

(iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, student must achieve a threshold performance at Part 2. If you gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Diploma of Higher Education.

Placement Year/Year Abroad (or combination thereof)

Students are required to pass their year out in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the placement year, study abroad year or combination thereof. Students who fail the placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Four-year programmes, including placement year or study abroad:

Normally:

Part 2 one-third

Placement Year not included in classification

Part 3 two-thirds

(Where a student fails a placement year or study abroad year, which does not contribute to classification they transfer to the three-year version of the programme)

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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