



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

ACCREDITATION REPORT

**HKU SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING
EDUCATION**

AND

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

LEARNING PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT (PROJECT MANAGEMENT)**

AND

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

LEARNING PROGRAMME RE-ACCREDITATION

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT**

FEBRUARY 2023

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1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 Based on the Service Agreement (No.: AA827), the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), in the capacity of the Accreditation Authority as provided for under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (AAVQO)(Cap. 592), was commissioned by HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education University of Plymouth to conduct an accreditation test with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in the AAVQO to determine whether
 - (i) the programmes of HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education and University of Plymouth (the Operator) (with specifications under the table below) meet the stated objectives and HKQF standards and can be offered as accredited programmes;

Title of Qualification	NCR Reference Number
Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management (Project Management) 商業管理學 (榮譽) 理學士 (項目管理)	453255
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) International Business Management 國際商業管理學 (榮譽) 文學士	453093

- (ii) the programme of the Operator (with specifications under the table below) meets the stated objectives and HKQF standards and can continue to be offered as an accredited programme; and

Title of Qualification	NCR Reference Number
Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management 商業管理學(榮譽)理學士	452143

- (b) To issue to the Operator an accreditation report setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) by HKCAAVQ.

2. HKCAAVQ'S DETERMINATION

Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA)

2.1 HKCAAVQ has determined that, the Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management (Project Management) programme (BPM) and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) International Business Management programme (IBM) meet the stated objectives and QF standard at Level 5, and can be offered as accredited programmes with a validity period of five years.

2.2 Validity Period

2.2.1 The validity period will commence on the date specified below. Operators may apply to HKCAAVQ to vary the commencement date of the validity period. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2.3 The determinations on the Programme are specified as follows:

Name of Local Operator	HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education 香港大學專業進修學院	
Name of Non-local Operator	University of Plymouth	
Name of Award Granting Body	University of Plymouth	
Title of Learning Programme	Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management (Project Management) 商業管理學（榮譽）理學士（項目管理）	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) International Business Management 國際商業管理學（榮譽）文學士
Title of Qualification(s) [Exit Award(s)]	Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management (Project Management)	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) International Business Management
Primary Area of Study and Training	Business and Management	

Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	General Business Management	
Other Area of Study and Training	Not applicable	
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Not applicable	
HKQF Level	Level 5	
HKQF Credits	180	
Mode(s) of Delivery and Programme Length	Part-time, 24 months	
Intermediate Exit Award(s)	Title of Qualification: Bachelor of Science Business Management (Project Management) (NCR Reference Number: 453256) QF Level: Level 5 QF Credits: 140 Modes of Study and Programme Length: Part-time, 24 months Attainment: Completion of 140 credits	Title of Qualification: Bachelor of Arts International Business Management (NCR Reference Number: 453094) QF Level: Level 5 QF Credits: 140 Modes of Study and Programme Length: Part-time, 24 months Attainment: Completion of 140 credits
Start Date of Validity Period	1 September 2023	
End Date of Validity Period	31 August 2028	
Number of Enrolment(s)	Two enrolments per year	

Maximum Number of New Students	▪ 35 students per year for AY2023/24 and AY2024/25 ▪ 50 students per year for AY2025/26 onwards	▪ 50 students per year for AY2023/24 and AY2024/25 ▪ 65 students per year for AY2025/26 onwards
Address of Teaching / Training Venue(s)	1. HKU SPACE Headquarters, T.T. Tsui Building, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong 2. Graduate House Learning Centre, Level P6, Graduate House, No. 3 University Drive, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong 3. Island South (Pokfulam) Campus, 3 Wah Lam Path, Pokfulam, Hong Kong 4. Admiralty Learning Centre, 2/F & 3/F, Admiralty Centre, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong 5. United Learning Centre, 6/F, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong 6. HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Stanley Ho Community College Campus, 66 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong 7. Fortress Tower Learning Centre, 1/F, 4/F, 10/F, 14/F, 16/F, 19/F, 20/F & 22/F, Fortress Tower, 250 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong 8. Island East Campus, 494 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong 9. Kowloon East Campus, 28 Wang Hoi Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon 10. CITA Learning Centre, 63 Tai Yip Street, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon 11. Kowloon West Campus, 5/F & 12/F, NCB Innovation Centre, 888 Lai Chi Kok Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon	

	12. PLK Tong Nai Kan Junior Secondary College, 11 Mei Lai Road, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Kowloon
	13. United Christian College, 11 Tong Yam Street, Tai Hang Tong, Kowloon

Learning Programme Re-accreditation (Re-LPA)

- 2.4 HKCAAVQ has determined that the Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management programme (BBM) meets the stated objectives and QF standard at Level 5 and can continue to be offered as an accredited programme with a validity period of five years.

2.5 **Validity Period**

- 2.5.1 The validity period will commence on the date specified below. Operators may apply to HKCAAVQ to vary the commencement date of the validity period. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.5.2 For BBM, the Operator has been informed that while its original validity period should end by 31 August 2025, since the re-accreditation has been advanced to align with that of BPM and IBM, its current validity period needs to be abridged to end on 31 August 2023.

- 2.6 The determinations on the Programme are specified as follows:

Name of Local Operator	HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education 香港大學專業進修學院
Name of Non-local Operator	University of Plymouth
Name of Award Granting Body	University of Plymouth
Title of Learning Programme	Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management 商業管理學（榮譽）理學士
Title of Qualification(s) [Exit Award(s)]	Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management
Primary Area of Study and Training	Business and Management

Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	General Business Management
Other Area of Study and Training	Not applicable
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Not applicable
HKQF Level	Level 5
HKQF Credits	180
Mode(s) of Delivery and Programme Length	Full-time, 18 months Part-time, 24 months
Intermediate Exit Award	Title of Qualification: Bachelor of Science Business Management (NCR Reference Number: 452144) HKQF Level: Level 5 HKQF Credits: 140 Modes of Study and Programme Length: Full-time, 18 months Part-time, 24 months Attainment: Completion of 140 credits
Start Date of Validity Period	1 September 2023
End Date of Validity Period	31 August 2028
Number of Enrolment(s)	Full-time, one enrolment per year Part-time, two enrolments per year
Maximum Number of New Students	Full-time, 30 students per year Part-time, 150 students per year

Address of Teaching / Training Venue(s)	1. HKU SPACE Headquarters, T.T. Tsui Building, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong 2. Graduate House Learning Centre, Level P6, Graduate House, No. 3 University Drive, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong 3. Island South (Pokfulam) Campus, 3 Wah Lam Path, Pokfulam, Hong Kong 4. Admiralty Learning Centre, 2/F & 3/F, Admiralty Centre, 18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong 5. United Learning Centre, 6/F, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong 6. HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Stanley Ho Community College Campus, 66 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong 7. Fortress Tower Learning Centre, 1/F, 4/F, 10/F, 14/F, 16/F, 19/F, 20/F & 22/F, Fortress Tower, 250 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong 8. Island East Campus, 494 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong 9. Kowloon East Campus, 28 Wang Hoi Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon 10. CITA Learning Centre, 63 Tai Yip Street, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon 11. Kowloon West Campus, 5/F & 12/F, NCB Innovation Centre, 888 Lai Chi Kok Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon 12. PLK Tong Nai Kan Junior Secondary College, 11 Mei Lai Road, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Kowloon 13. United Christian College, 11 Tong Yam Street, Tai Hang Tong, Kowloon
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- 2.7 HKCAAVQ will subsequently satisfy itself whether the Operator remains competent to achieve the relevant objectives and the Programme continues to meet the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator by reference to, amongst other

things, the Operator's fulfilment of any conditions and compliance with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report. For the avoidance of doubt, maintenance of accreditation status is subject to fulfilment of any condition and compliance with any restriction stipulated in this Accreditation Report.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education (HKU SPACE) was established by The University of Hong Kong as the Department of Extra Mural Studies in 1956. It was renamed the School of Professional and Continuing Education in 1992 and incorporated as a non-profit company by guarantee in 1999.
- 3.2 The University of Plymouth (UoP) was established as a self-accrediting university under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. Under the Act, the university is able to award undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees in the UK and overseas.
- 3.3 HKU SPACE and UoP have worked in partnership since 2009 for bachelor and master programmes. For the two programmes undergoing LPA, it is their first time to seek accreditation from HKCAAVQ. For the other one programme undergoing Re-LPA, it was first accredited in 2015 and re-accredited in 2019 by HKCAAVQ.
- 3.4 For this Learning Programme Accreditation exercise, HKCAAVQ formed an expert Panel (Panel Membership in Appendix 1). In view of the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the site visit was conducted via video-conference from 16-18 November 2022 to reduce social contact. HKCAAVQ's Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (Version 1.2, November 2020) was the guiding document for the Operator and the Panel in conducting this exercise.
- 3.5 In consideration of the Operator's track record established from previous accreditation exercises, information on the following aspects of the BPM, IBM and BBM programmes were not required in accordance with HKCAAVQ's Differentiation Approach:

Accreditation Standard	Information Not Required
LPA-5 Programme Leadership and Staffing	Information on Staff development
LPA-6 Learning, Teaching and Enabling Resources/ Services	Information for this domain is not required except financial information

4. PANEL'S DELIBERATIONS

The following presents the Panel's deliberations on a range of issues pertinent to its major findings. For aspects of the accreditation standards where no observations are made they are considered to be appropriately addressed by the Operator.

4.1 Programme Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The learning programme must have objectives that address community, education and/or industry needs, with learning outcomes that meet the relevant HKQF standards, for all exit qualifications from the programme.

- 4.1.1 The BPM, IBM and BBM programmes are hosted by the Plymouth Business School (PBS), one of the four schools under the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business.

BPM and BBM programme

- 4.1.2 As an outcome of the 2020 university-wide resource and programme pedagogy review, Project 21C, UoP was recommended to introduce some modules carrying higher credit values (increasing from 20 credits to 40 credits) and consolidate the number of programmes and modules available across all bachelor's degree programmes in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business, which included the home programme of the BBM programme.
- 4.1.3 The Academic Committee (AC) at HKU SPACE endorsed in November 2021 the following modifications to align with the home programme, to be effective from September 2023 onwards:

- (a) To add the words “knowledge and understanding of” in the first sentence of the original Programme Intended Learning Outcomes; and
- (b) To make the changes in the programme structure, credit size and contact hours.

4.1.4 The BPM and BBM programmes share the same Programme Objectives (POs) for the broad-based learning in Business Management and Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) as depicted below. These two programmes both provide for an intermediate exit non-honours degree with details stated in Paragraph 2.3. The POs and PILOs of BPM and BBM programmes to be implemented from AY2023/24 onwards are:

Programme Objectives (POs)

Both programmes aim to:

- develop the knowledge and skills base which will enable effective performance as a practicing manager;
- produce graduates who are enterprising, readily employable and well equipped for lifelong learning and the professional world;
- develop graduates possessing a broad range of key personal, cognitive/intellectual, transferable, practical and employment skills;
- develop graduates with a broad understanding of the complex, diverse, dynamic business and enterprise environment and the implications for management;
- provide the opportunity for students to enhance their employability through undertaking an appropriate work placement;
- facilitate recognition of the effects of management within longer timescales and in relation to a broad range of stakeholders;
- enable an understanding of the international dimensions of business management;
- develop knowledge and understanding of the ethical and moral responsibilities of corporate leaders and managers.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)

On completion of the programme, students should have developed knowledge and understanding of:

A. Knowledge and understanding

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

1. the complex, diverse, dynamic internal and external business and enterprise environment for management;
2. the skills and techniques relevant to the management of people, operations and other resources, effective decision making and performance as a practicing manager;
3. the effects of management in relation to a broad range of stakeholders, including the ethical and moral responsibilities of corporate leaders and managers;
4. a range of current pervasive issues confronting international management including: sustainability, corporate responsibility, globalisation, innovation and enterprise.

On completion of the programme, students should be able to:

B. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

5. analyse new and/or abstract data and situations using appropriate techniques;
6. transform abstract data and concepts towards a given purpose and design appropriate solutions;
7. select and manage information, research, investigate and critically evaluate evidence using critical thinking and other appropriate research methods and use the findings to support conclusions and recommendations;
8. apply appropriate knowledge and skills, including numeracy and quantitative skills, in unfamiliar contexts to identify, define and resolve complex problems.

C. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

9. interact and work effectively in a group, negotiating and handling conflict as appropriate, in order to achieve an objective;

10. access and utilise a wide range of learning resources and manage own learning;
11. communicate effectively in writing and orally using a range of methods;
12. undertake ethical research using appropriate strategies and methods;
13. demonstrate autonomy in taking responsibility for own work and development;
14. demonstrate competence in the application of numeracy and quantitative skills.

D. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

15. successfully manage and deliver a project/work on time;
16. choose and utilise a range of appropriate skills and techniques relevant to the management of people, operations, other resources and making effective decisions;
17. reflect upon and evaluate own actions and performance with a view to enhancing self management and devising plans for enhancing personal and career development;
18. demonstrate awareness of ethical and sustainability issues in their work.

E. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

19. write reports for commercial and academic audiences;
20. select and apply appropriate skills and techniques and work with minimal supervision.

IBM programme

- 4.1.5 The POs and PILOs of the IBM programme to be implemented from AY2023/24 onwards are:

Programme Objectives (POs)

The programme aims to:

- develop a broad understanding of the complex, diverse and integrated nature of business activity involved in international management;
- develop an appreciation of the global marketplace in which

businesses operate and the implications of this for business decisions and organisational culture;

- foster awareness of the various dynamic contextual factors that will influence domestic and international business;
- promote in-depth knowledge and understanding of functional disciplines associated with international business and identify their contribution to strategic decisions; and

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)

On completion of the programme, students should have developed:

A. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. understanding of the holistic nature of business in its broadest sense;
2. the ability to use an appropriate theoretical model to explain the elements and integrated nature of the national and international context within which businesses operate;
3. complex knowledge and understanding of the key functional areas;
4. understanding of inputs, processes and outcomes of strategic decision making;
5. knowledge of communication / information technology used in the workplace;
6. evaluation skills in understanding of the international/ multi-national workplace;
7. an appreciation of the nature of enterprise and the need for innovation in decision making;
8. appreciation of the nature of globalisation and the implications for business.

On completion of the programme, students should have developed the ability to:

B. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

9. undertake critique rival frameworks and theories;
10. undertake abstract analysis and synthesis;
11. undertake intelligent application of appropriate principles in assessing policy or practice;

12. undertake problem solving and research method.

C. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 13. undertake literary and Information processing;
- 14. self-manage;
- 15. communicate (oral, written and citation);
- 16. utilise numeracy / quantitative skills;
- 17. utilise learning skills (reflection / evaluation synthesis).

D. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 18. exercise initiative and personal responsibility;
- 19. make decisions in complex and unpredictable contexts;
- 20. demonstrate the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

E. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 21. computer and information management technology skills;
- 22. presentation and oral communication skills;
- 23. written communication skills.

All programmes

- 4.1.6 The Operator provided the following to demonstrate how the BPM and IBM programmes/ the BBM programme align with and continue to align with the requirements of the HKQF standard at Level 5:
- (a) a mapping table showing the alignment between the POs and PILOs;
 - (b) a mapping table showing the alignment between PILOs and the GLD at HKQF Level 5; and
 - (c) a mapping table showing the alignment between each module and PILOs.

- 4.1.7 After reviewing the documents provided by the Operator, the Panel held the view that the POs and PILOs of the BPM and IBM programmes/ the BBM programme are appropriately/ continuously pitched at HKQF Level 5.
- 4.1.8 After considering the above information, the Panel considered that the POs and PILOs of the Programmes are pitched at QF Level 5 and the Programmes can meet the market need.

4.2 **Learner Admission and Selection**

The minimum admission requirements of the learning programme must be clearly outlined for staff and prospective learners. These requirements and the learner selection processes must be effective for recruitment of learners with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake the programme.

All three programmes

- 4.2.1 The minimum admission requirements for the three Programmes from AY2023/24 onwards are as follows. The set of requirements for the BBM programme is updated from the last approved one to be in line with the two newly proposed programmes.

Applicants shall:

- I) 1. hold an Advanced Diploma or Higher Diploma/ Associate Degree in a business-related discipline awarded within the HKU system through HKU SPACE;

OR

2. hold a recognised Advanced Diploma or Higher Diploma/ Associate Degree in a business-related discipline awarded by a recognised institution;

AND

- II) preferably have 2 years full-time work experience or 4 years part-time work experience.

If the above academic qualification is from an institution where the language of teaching and assessment is not English, applicants shall provide evidence of English proficiency such as:

- (i) an overall band of 6.0 in the IELTS (with minimum component scores of 5.5 in all four components: listening, reading, speaking and writing); or
- (ii) an overall score 76 or above in the TOEFL iBT (with minimum component scores of listening 17, reading 18, speaking 20, writing 18)

Applicants from I)1. and I)2. may be required to take and pass additional module(s), based on individual merit, before the start of the programme.

Mature students (according to University of Plymouth regulation) and applicants with other equivalent qualifications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4.2.2 As informed by the Operator, according to the UoP's regulation, mature students are those who are "over the age of 21 when they start their degree". The Operator also confirmed in the response to the Panel's initial comments that students of the three Programmes will be admitted to Year 2 of the Programmes and will normally complete their studies in 24 months.

4.2.3 Concerning the qualifications and their relevant minimum volume and depth of study that will/ may be considered for admitting these three top-up Programmes, the Panel noted the following in the accreditation document, the response to the Panel's initial comment, during the meetings at the site visit and the follow-up supplementary information provided:

- (a) For Admission Route I), the Operator elaborated that "Only graduates from programmes that are recognised at HKQF Level 4, such as an Associate Degree, Higher Diploma or Advanced Diploma, will be considered for admission".
- (b) A list of examples of 29 qualifications offered by 12 local institutions, all at HKQF Level 4, was provided for the Panel's better understanding. The Panel noted that all these 29 qualifications are study programmes with at least 120 HKQF credits, of which there were two with 120 HKQF credits and others were with HKQF credits ranging from 240 to 339.
- (c) The Operator confirmed to the Panel that to ensure potential applicants understand the minimum admission requirements of the three Programmes, the list of examples mentioned in (b) will be stated explicitly at the information seminars that would be held once or twice a month to promote UoP's programmes

and on the relevant publicity materials of the three Programmes.

4.2.4 In line with HKCAAVQ's policy on the yearly quota of non-standard admission for its accredited programmes, the maximum number of non-standard admission (including mature aged students) for degree programmes should be capped, on a programme basis, at a maximum of 5% of the actual number of new students of the year. The cap is applied in line with the general expectation on self-financed degree-awarding institutions in safeguarding teaching and learning quality and thereby upholding the credibility and recognition of the qualifications. The Operator was informed that this policy applies to the Programmes upon their accreditation/ re-accreditation.

4.2.5 For AY2023/24 to AY2027/08, the proposed yearly maximum numbers of new students of the three Programmes are listed below. The Operator also provided the Panel with an overview of the maximum number of students per year in the three Programmes for the same period (details in Appendix 2).

		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Programmes						
BPM	Part-time	35	35	50	50	50
IBM	Part-time	50	50	65	65	65
BBM	Full-time	30	30	30	30	30
	Part-time	150	150	150	150	150

BBM programme

4.2.6 The Operator provided the following admission information of the BBM programme from AY2018/19 to AY2021/22:

- (a) The enrolment figures in 2018-22;
- (b) the admission Profiles of 2018-22; and
- (c) the number of new students accepted as mature students in the period was 1-5, i.e. 0.9-4.1% of the total number of new students of the year.

- 4.2.7 In consideration of the above information, the Panel formed the view that the minimum admission requirements are clearly outlined for staff and prospective learners. The requirements and the learner selection processes are appropriate for recruiting learners with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake the programmes.

4.3 Programme Structure and Content

The structure and content of the learning programme must be up-to-date, coherent, balanced and integrated to facilitate progression in order to enable learners to achieve the stated learning outcomes and to meet the programme objectives.

BPM programme and IBM programme

- 4.3.1 The BPM and IBM programmes are both top-up programmes operated with part-time mode of delivery. The normal duration is 24 months. Both Programmes comprise seven modules carrying a total of 180 credits.
- 4.3.2 The BPM and IBM Programme Structures at HKU SPACE starting from September 2023 are depicted below:

BPM programme

No.	Modules	HKQF Level	HKQF Credits
FHEQ* Level 5 module (Total 2 modules)			
1	Managing Business Information: Economics and Financial Data and Business Analytics	5	40
2	Managing Change	5	20
FHEQ* Level 6 module (Total 5 modules)			
3	Business Consultancy	5	20
4	Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity	5	20
5	Honours Project	5	40
6	Strategy and Leadership	5	20
7	Project Management	5	20
Total:			180
*Note: The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland			

IBM programme

No.	Modules	HKQF Level	HKQF Credits
FHEQ* Level 5 module (Total 2 modules)			
1	International and Digital Business and Accounting	5	40
2	International Trade and International Finance	5	20
FHEQ* Level 6 module (Total 5 modules)			
3	International Strategy and Business Improvement	5	40
4	Human Resource Management in a Global Context	5	20
5	Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity	5	20
6	International Supply Chain Management	5	20
7	Global Marketing Management	5	20
Total:			180
*Note: The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland			

BBM programme

4.3.3 The BBM programme is a top-up programme that will continuously be operated with full-time and part-time modes of delivery. The normal duration is 18 months and 24 months for full-time and part-time modes respectively. The Programme comprises seven modules carrying a total of 180 QF credits.

4.3.4 The modified BBM Programme Structure at HKU SPACE starting from September 2023 is depicted below:

No.	Modules	HKQF Level	HKQF Credits
FHEQ* Level 5 module (Total 2 modules)			
1	Managing Business Information: Economics and Financial Data and Business Analytics	5	40
2	Marketing for a Digital World	5	20
FHEQ* Level 6 module (Total 5 modules)			
3	Business Consultancy	5	20
4	Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity	5	20

5	Honours Project	5	40
6	Strategy and Leadership	5	20
7	Human Resource Management in a Global Context	5	20
Total:			180
*Note: The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland			

All programmes

- 4.3.5 Students may exit with an intermediate award, a non-honours degree, if they have completed 140 credits with 40 credits from modules No.1-2 and 100 credits from modules No.3-7; or 60 credits from modules No.1-2 and 80 credits from modules No.3-7. The granting of the intermediate award, which is a compensatory exit in nature, is based on the discretion and policy of UoP.
- 4.3.6 Based on the above information, the Panel considered that the structure and content of the learning programmes are up-to-date, coherent, balanced and integrated to facilitate progression in order to enable learners to achieve the stated learning outcomes and to meet the programme objectives.

4.4 Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The learning, teaching and assessment activities designed for the learning programme must be effective in delivering the programme content and assessing the attainment of the intended learning outcomes.

All programmes

- 4.4.1 The BPM, IBM and BBM programmes employ teaching and learning activities such as lectures and tutorials. Guest speakers who are industrial practitioners and employers from the respective industries will be invited to deliver guest lectures on specific topics. The medium of instruction of the three Programmes is English.
- 4.4.2 The maximum class sizes for a typical lecture and tutorial are 100 and 40 students respectively.

4.4.3 The Panel was provided with the following documents and information regarding the teaching and learning of the two Programmes:

- (a) the mapping results as stated in Paragraph 4.1.6;
- (b) samples of Module Handbooks of the three Programmes with details of learning and teaching methods, and the assessment methods to be adopted in each module;
- (c) samples of teaching and learning materials of the IBM and BPM programmes; and
- (d) list of Guest Speaker Talks and Seminars held in 2019-22.

4.4.4 After reviewing the accreditation document, the Panel stated in the Summary of Initial Comments that the textbook and readings of the individual modules in the three Programmes are considered not up-to-date. The Operator had updated the noted reference materials in response. Hence, the Panel **ADVISES** the Operator to continue updating the reference lists in a timely manner in all teaching materials including the PowerPoint presentation materials.

4.4.5 The Panel was informed through the accreditation document that prior to the commencement of the modules, the UoP and HKU SPACE teaching staff will communicate closely with each other on the delivery of relevant modules, including the module intended learning outcomes and assessment expectations. Throughout the whole delivery process of the module, regular communication will be maintained between the UoP and HKU SPACE teaching staff, and immediate clarification and assistance would be provided to the Hong Kong teaching team. Based on the UoP teaching materials, HKU SPACE teaching staff will complement the teaching materials through contextualisation using local and regional case studies or examples so as to enhance the relevance of the topics taught.

4.4.6 Regarding the assessment of the three Programmes, the Panel was provided with the following information:

- (a) samples of marked assessments of four modules of the BBM programme, including the two Projects;
- (b) samples of Internal Moderation Report of the BBM programme; and

- (c) a list of sample project titles together with a brief description of the Honours Project of the BPM programme.

4.4.7 The Panel noted in the Assessment Setting, Marking and Moderation Policy 2021/22 that all assessment tasks of each module need to be approved at UoP and they are also subject to scrutiny by Subject External Examiners (EE), who are appointed by the UoP. All assessments are designed and set by UoP Module Leaders, in consultation with local teachers, allowing for variations to be made to suit the Hong Kong context. Students in Hong Kong are assessed by the same assessment methods as students taking the relevant programmes in the UK.

4.4.8 The graduation requirements of the three Programmes are:

Students are required to complete and pass all the 7 modules totalling 180 credits in order to be awarded the

- (a) Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management (Project Management); or
- (b) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) International Business Management; or
- (c) Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management.

4.4.9 The graduation requirements of the three corresponding intermediate awards are stated in Paragraph 4.3.5.

4.4.10 After considering the above information, the Panel formed the view that the learning, teaching and assessment activities designed for the programmes are appropriate for delivering the programme content and assessing the attainment of the intended learning outcomes.

4.5 **Programme Leadership and Staffing**

The Operator must have adequate programme leader(s), teaching/training and support staff with the qualities, competence, qualifications and experience necessary for effective programme management, i.e. planning, development, delivery and monitoring of the programme. There must be an adequate staff development scheme and activities to ensure that staff are kept updated for the quality delivery of the programme.

All programmes

- 4.5.1 For the staffing of the three Programmes, the Panel was provided with the staffing information below:
- (a) UoP allocates each partnership a Partnership Manager (PM) who is responsible for the relationship between UoP and the TNE partner. The PM is responsible for and will be the main day-to-day point of liaison between the cognate faculty and HKU SPACE Programme Leader;
 - (b) At the programme level, the Programme Team is headed by Programme Leaders from UoP and HKU SPACE, who are knowledgeable in and well informed about the academic areas of their programmes, and the Team is also supported by administrative staff at both institutions;
 - (c) The normal appointment criteria for HKU SPACE's teaching staff is at least a Master's degree in relevant subject disciplines. Appointment for senior levels will require more extensive and substantial experience;
 - (d) All FHEQ Level 6 modules of the three Programmes will be taught jointly by UoP and HKU SPACE teaching staff, while all FHEQ Level 5 modules will be taught solely by HKU SPACE teaching staff;
 - (e) The appointment of local teaching staff is endorsed by UoP Programme Leaders/ Module Leaders;
 - (f) According to the staffing plan of the three Programmes and the plan of the modules tentatively assigned to individual teaching staff provided, the Panel noted that since there are common modules mostly between the BBM and BPM programmes, and two common modules between the BBM and IBM programmes, some UoP and HKU SPACE teaching staff are going to teach in at least two of the three Programmes. A total of 14 teaching staff per year are to be deployed in the delivery of the three Programmes during AY2023/24 to AY2027/28;

- (g) A document on the Allocation of Programme Management and Teaching Responsibilities of UoP and HKU SPACE;
- (h) The maximum teaching hours per week for full-time teaching staff of UoP and HKU SPACE is 18 hours and 15 hours per week respectively; and
- (i) Teaching performance of each teaching staff will be monitored by the Programme Leaders, and the process is annually reported in the Annual Monitoring Reports and discussed in the Academic Committee meeting.

4.5.2 The Operator also provided to the Panel the following documents:

- (a) Plymouth Business School Guide for Module Leaders;
- (b) Plymouth Business School Guide for Programme Leaders; and
- (c) the Duty List of a Programme Leader.

4.5.3 The Panel reviewed the profiles of the programme management, namely 10 UoP teaching staff and 11 HKU SPACE programme and teaching staff (two full-time and nine part-time) of the three Programmes, and the modules tentatively assigned to them. The Panel considered that the qualifications and experience of the teaching staff are commensurate with the capacity needed for teaching the respective Programmes.

BBM programme

4.5.4 The Panel was informed by the part-time Hong Kong teaching staff during the site visit meeting that their personal weekly teaching load ranged from 3-15 hours. The Panel shared their concern about the weekly load of 15 hours and the teaching staff concerned responded that he is currently self-employed and not occupied by another full-time job, and the noted weekly load of his own are manageable.

4.5.5 Having met with the teaching staff, students and graduates, the Panel observed that the teaching team is dedicated and committed to supporting the students and that the students recognise this and are appreciative of the teaching staff being attentive and responsive to their questions during and outside classes; and are willing to provide prompt responses through different means of communication such as emails and social media applications.

- 4.5.1 Based on the above information, the Panel considered that the Operator has adequate programme leaders, teaching and support staff with the qualities, competence, qualifications and experience necessary for effective programme management. And the staff development scheme and activities are adequate to ensure that staff are kept updated for the quality delivery of the programmes.

4.6 **Learning, Teaching and Enabling Resources/Services**

The Operator must be able to provide learning, teaching and enabling resources/services that are appropriate and sufficient for the learning, teaching and assessment activities of the learning programme, regardless of location and mode of delivery.

All programmes

- 4.6.1 For financial resources, the Operator provided a summary of income and expenditure projected for the BPM and IBM programmes in the coming 2023/24 to 2025/26. The Operator also provided a summary of income and expenditure from the 2019/20 to 2024/25 for the BBM programmes, the full-time and part-time modes of study, from the 2019/20 to 2024/25 academic years. From the financial information, it is noted that there is a projected surplus for the three Programmes in the coming years. The Operator also informed the Panel of the breakeven number of students for each Programme.
- 4.6.2 Based on the financial information provided by the Operator and the track record of the partnership between HKU SPACE and UoP, it is considered that the Operator has adequate financial resources to support the three Programmes.
- 4.6.3 The Panel was also provided with the library holdings and the planned acquisitions relevant to the three Programmes.
- 4.6.4 Based on the information provided, the Panel considered that the Operator provided appropriate and sufficient resources for the learning, teaching and assessment activities of the Programmes.

4.7 **Programme Approval, Review and Quality Assurance**

The Operator must monitor and review the development and performance of the learning programme on an on-going basis to ensure that the programme remains current and valid and that the

learning outcomes, learning and teaching activities and learner assessments are effective to meet the programme objectives.

4.7.1 With respect to the development, approval, monitoring and reviewing of the development and performance of the three Programmes, the Operator provided the following quality assurance records:

- (a) extracts of meeting minutes of the following relevant board and committee in respect of the three Programmes:
 - Academic Committee;
 - College Board;
 - Board for Continuing and Professional Education and Lifelong Learning;
 - School Academic and Management Board; and
 - Programme Validation Panel.
- (b) sample minutes of Programme Team meetings of the BBM and BPM programmes, showing mainly the deliberation process.
- (c) reports/ findings of the following:
 - Annual Monitoring Reports of HKU SPACE
 - Award External Examiner's Reports 2019-2022
 - Subject External Examiner's Reports 2019-2022
 - Learning Experience Survey Summary Reports 2018-2021
 - Extract of Graduate Survey Results 2021

4.7.2 Having reviewed the accreditation documents, the above documents and discussed with internal and external stakeholders of the Programmes, the Panel had the following observations and comments:

- (a) The quality assurance procedures for monitoring and reviewing the performance of the Programmes are in place for the two newly proposed Programmes, and also comply with and are conducted on an ongoing basis for the BBM programme.
- (b) There were records showing that sufficient channels (informal & formal) are available for feedback from different stakeholders internally and externally.
- (c) The Operator has taken remedial/ follow-up actions in response to the feedback received during the programme approval process and also to those mentioned in (b).

- (d) The Operator has continuously monitored and reviewed the development and performance of the BBM programme so as to ensure that it is kept up-to-date and in line with industry standards and expectations.
 - (e) The following performance indicators of both study modes of the BBM programme were monitored from AY2018/19 to AY2021/22. No major issues have been reported:
 - the enrolment figures since 2018/19;
 - the grade distribution and pass rates of all the modules;
 - the graduation and retention rates of the BBM programmes in Hong Kong and the UK; and
 - the distribution of the award classification in 2020-21.
- 4.7.3 UoP and HKU SPACE have worked in partnership since 2009. The Operator informed the Panel that there is no expected date of renewal or termination of the agreement, which shall remain in force unless and until being terminated by either party giving to the other party no less than twelve months' prior written notice of termination.
- 4.7.4 The Operator informed the Panel that the three Programmes and the relevant three intermediate awards have been successfully registered under the Non-local Higher and Professional Education (Regulation) Ordinance (Cap. 493) with Registration Numbers specified in Paragraph 1.1.
- 4.7.5 Based on the above information, the Panel concluded that the development of the programmes has been properly monitored; and also believed that by following the above mentioned programme approval, review and quality assurance mechanisms, the programmes will be/ will continuously to be monitored and reviewed on an on-going basis to ensure that the programmes remain current and valid and that the learning outcomes, learning and teaching activities and learner assessments are effective to meet the programme objectives. The programmes have also met the local legal requirement.

5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ACCREDITATION REPORT

5.1 Variation and withdrawal of this Accreditation Report

5.1.1 This Accreditation Report is issued pursuant to section 5 of the AAVQO, and contains HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding the accreditation, including the validity period as well as any conditions and restrictions subject to which the determination is to have effect.

5.1.2 HKCAAVQ may subsequently decide to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report if it is satisfied that any of the grounds set out in section 5 (2) of the AAVQO apply. This includes where HKCAAVQ is satisfied that the Operator is no longer competent to achieve the relevant objectives and/or the Programme no longer meets the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator (whether by reference to the Operator's failure to fulfil any conditions and/or comply with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report or otherwise) or where at any time during the validity period there has/have been substantial change(s) introduced by the Operator after HKCAAVQ has issued the accreditation report(s) to the Operator and which has/have not been approved by HKCAAVQ. Please refer to the '*Guidance Notes on Substantial Change to Accreditation Status*' in seeking approval for proposed changes. These Guidance Notes can be downloaded from the HKCAAVQ website.

5.1.3 If HKCAAVQ decides to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, it will give the Operator notice of such variation or withdrawal pursuant to section 5(4) of the AAVQO.

5.1.4 The accreditation status of Operator and/or Programme will lapse immediately upon the expiry of the validity period or upon the issuance of a notice of withdrawal of this Accreditation Report.

5.2 Appeals

5.2.1 If the Operator is aggrieved by the determination made in this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of this Accreditation Report.

- 5.2.2 If the Operator is aggrieved by a decision to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of the Notice of Withdrawal.
- 5.2.3 The Operator should be aware that a notice of variation or withdrawal of this Accreditation Report is not itself an accreditation report and the right to appeal against HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding accreditation arises only from this Accreditation Report.
- 5.2.4 Please refer to Cap. 592A (<http://www.legislation.gov.hk>) for the appeal rules. Details of the appeal procedure are contained in section 13 of the AAVQO and can be accessed from the QF website at <https://www.hkqf.gov.hk>.

5.3 **Qualifications Register**

- 5.3.1 Qualifications accredited by HKCAAVQ are eligible for entry into the Qualifications Register ("QR") at <https://www.hkqr.gov.hk> for recognition under the QF. The Operator should apply separately to have their quality-assured qualifications entered into the QR.
- 5.3.2 Only learners who commence the study of the named accredited learning programme during the validity period and who have graduated with the named qualification listed in the QR will be considered to have acquired a qualification recognised under the HKQF.

Ref: 100/42/03
16 February 2023
JoH/AnC/VT/vt/jnl

Appendix 1

HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education and University of Plymouth

- Learning Programme Accreditation for**
(i) Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management (Project Management)
(ii) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) International Business Management
Learning Programme Re-accreditation for
(iii) Bachelor of Science (Honours) Business Management

16-18 November 2022

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