

# NCUK

THE UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

# Master's Preparation (MP)

## Programme and Module Overview



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>Programme Overview .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Entry to the Programme .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Programme Delivery .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Module Overviews .....</b>	<b>9</b>
○ <b>Life Sciences.....</b>	<b>9</b>
○ <b>Management.....</b>	<b>15</b>
○ <b>Orientation To Western Study.....</b>	<b>20</b>
○ <b>Research Methods.....</b>	<b>23</b>

# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## INTRODUCTION

The NCUK Master's Preparation (MP) programme is designed to prepare graduates or three-year diploma holders of recognised universities for study on specified courses at postgraduate master's or equivalent level at NCUK member institutions. The programme will be offered under the guidelines and regulations detailed in the current edition of the **NCUK Academic Handbook**.

NCUK Universities recognise the programme as meeting the English language entry requirements for international students, with progression contingent on students satisfying the performance criteria published in the NCUK Course Finder. The list of accepting universities can be seen on the university pages of the NCUK website.

Throughout the programme emphasis is placed on the integration of language learning, study skill development and the acquisition and/or re-orientation of subject knowledge. The philosophy permeating the delivery of the programme is that every teaching contact with a student is an opportunity to develop language and learning skills.

The programme has three routes:

- ⇒ **Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks)** is three terms in length and is designed for two groups of students: those who hold three-year diplomas plus work experience with a level of English equivalent to at least EAP grade E and graduates, or final year undergraduates, with an English language level equivalent to at least EAP grade E.
- ⇒ **Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks)** consists of two terms and is for undergraduate degree holders or final year undergraduates with a level of English equivalent to at least EAP grade D.
- ⇒ **Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks)** and is for undergraduate degree holders or final year undergraduates with a level of English equivalent to at least EAP grade D.

## AIMS

The aims of the NCUK Master's Preparation programme are to:

- ⇒ To enhance the English language ability of graduates or diplomates to a level sufficient to enable them to communicate and study effectively and confidently at postgraduate level at a Western university.
- ⇒ To develop the academic skills and an understanding of the underlying philosophies and related capabilities required for successful study at postgraduate level in Western higher education.
- ⇒ To relate the student's existing subject knowledge to that of Western graduates in similar discipline areas.
- ⇒ To cultivate a commitment to good practice in academic work and in particular an awareness of the serious adverse implications of plagiarism.
- ⇒ To provide students with the necessary skills to enable them to develop as independent, autonomous learners including the demonstrated ability to undertake a significant individual research project.
- ⇒ To give students practical experience of different methods that may be used to assess their learning.
- ⇒ To introduce aspects of Western culture and enable an understanding of the policies, procedures and regulations affecting study in the West.
- ⇒ To develop learning skills and reflective learning through the various elements of the programme.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this programme students should be able to:

- ⇒ Use English confidently in a Western academic environment and demonstrate a proficiency in English language to a standard equivalent to at least EAP grade C.
- ⇒ Learn effectively at master's level study.
- ⇒ Make effective use of a range of generic and subject specific study skills, language skills and information and communications technologies as well as self-directed study.
- ⇒ Conduct project work in appropriate subject areas including the use of primary and secondary data, the analysis of evidence and the presentation of findings.
- ⇒ Demonstrate an understanding of Western culture sufficient to aid rapid adjustment to living and studying in the west.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Master's Preparation programme is designed to allow entry at three points during the academic year. This is to allow students who have different levels of English (and differing academic backgrounds) to enter at an appropriate level. The programme is scheduled so that all routes can finish at the same point, and where possible, students can complete the same assignments and exams at the same time.

The first term for Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks) is the Preparatory Term. Assessments in this term do not count towards the final grade: they are formative. In the second term – the Core Term – Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks) students join those on the Extended (30 week) pathway. The Final Term is identical for Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks) and Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks) students.

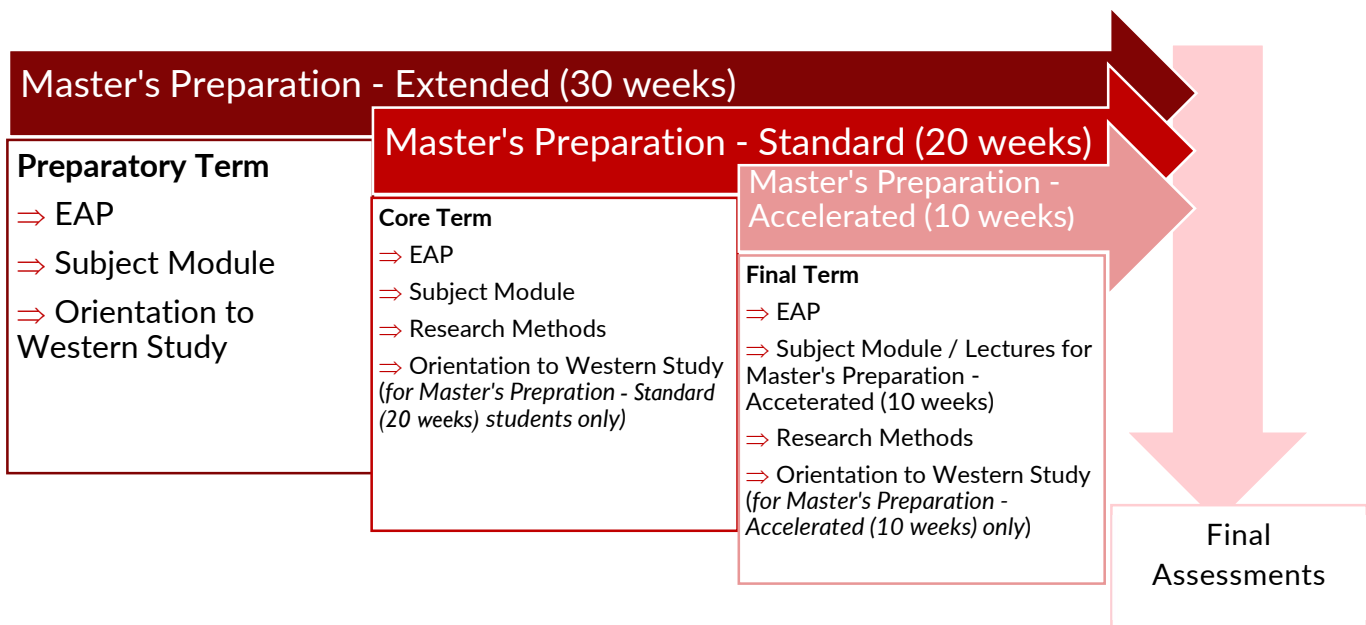
Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks) students follow a modified version of the syllabus used for the Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks) and Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks). While elements of work done on the other pathways is incorporated into the Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks), they are tested differently. However, note that the final EAP examinations for Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks) students are the same as those for Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks) and Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks) students, and the examinations are taken at the same time.

### Orientation to Western Study

All routes undertake this module for one term when they start their Master's Preparation programme. For Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks) this is in the Preparatory Term and for Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks), the Core Term. This key-skills module is usually undertaken at the start of the Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks).

### Lectures

The Master's Preparation programme will be supported by lectures. Lectures also form the platform for tasks that contribute to the EAP grade. Where the centre also runs the Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks) and/or Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks) routes it is recommended Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks) students attend some lectures that are part of the subject module (usually the Management module) for those routes.



## PROGRAMME GRADING

Students receive two overall grades for the Master's Preparation Programme. A grade from A – U for EAP and a classification of Distinction, Credit or Pass for Research Methods. The detailed descriptors used to assess EAP work are provided in the EAP syllabus.

The classifications awarded for the Research Methods module are summarised in the table below:

Research Methods Classification Summary		
Grade	%	Criteria
Distinction	70 +	Excellent – exemplary execution of tasks. Objectives surpassed. Ingenuity demonstrated with creativity and skill.
Credit	60 - 69	Good – Competent work demonstrating ability to achieve objectives overall.
Pass	40 - 59	Adequate – ranging from a sufficient to a competent performance.

For information on the equivalencies of the NCUK EAP module to widely recognised English Language qualifications please see the entry requirements section of the [NCUK website](#).

# ENTRY TO THE PROGRAMME

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Students will be required to identify their proposed postgraduate study discipline prior to entry to the programme and take up subject study relevant to that discipline.

All applicants will be required to demonstrate a level of English language proficiency appropriate to the programme entry point. Students without approved English Language certification will sit a placement test approved by NCUK.

The Academic Manager or their nominee will interview all applicants; the interview will explore the prospective student's academic record, motivation, work experience and future study plans. Students will be required to produce certified copies of their university graduation (diploma or degree) transcripts, and these will be used as the basis for the diagnostic sessions in their specialist subject areas. The Academic Manager's decision on the suitability of a candidate will be final.

The programme will have three possible entry points at the start of each of the routes. The minimum entry qualifications are available on the NCUK website: [www.ncuk.ac.uk](http://www.ncuk.ac.uk).

Students entering the Master's Preparation programme should normally have completed an undergraduate degree that is equivalent to a UK Bachelors, in a subject relevant to their intended progression route. Three-year diploma holders from some countries (e.g. China) may be accepted on to the **Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks)**, although such students may have limited progression.

## Entry Qualifications

Owing to the variation in degree standards from country to country, and the impact of a student's original qualification on the progression options they will have post-MP, all Master's Preparation programme applications should be sent to NCUK for evaluation (email: [nse@ncuk.ac.uk](mailto:nse@ncuk.ac.uk)). The applicant can only be enrolled once the centre has received approval from NCUK. For full details of how to refer applications, please consult the **NCUK Academic Handbook, Centre Management: Student Systems**.

# PROGRAMME DELIVERY

The Master's Preparation programme is designed to accommodate diploma and degree graduates, with varying levels of English language ability. All entry points are designed for part-time and full-time delivery. The syllabus presented in this document is divided into three terms for ease of reference: Preparatory Term, Core Term and Final Term. As a guide, each teaching week for full-time delivery will have an average directed study time of 20 hours, spread over a minimum of a 10-week term (including one week for assessments). Total learning activity including private study would be expected to exceed 40 hours per week. Hours referred to in this document are teaching hours (50 minutes per hour).

The Final Term project for Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks) and Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks) students requires them to dedicate a minimum of 84 hours to independent study (this is not part of the programme's directed study time). It is expected however that students will spend considerably longer working on this aspect of the programme.

NCUK specifies minimum timetabled contact hours for its programmes but does not set a maximum class contact or total study time; it is recognised that many Study Centres will apply higher than minimum contact times to meet the learning needs of their students.

## Master's Preparation – Extended (30 weeks)

Term	Module	Directed Study Time	
		Per Week	Total
Preparatory (10 weeks)	English for Academic Purposes	10	90
	Orientation to Western Study <sup>1</sup>	N/A	9
	Subject Module	6	54
Core (10 weeks)	English for Academic Purposes	10	90
	Research Methods: Data Analysis and Project Planning	7	63
	Subject Module	3	27
Final (10 weeks)	English for Academic Purposes	10	90
	Research Methods: Project	7	63
	Subject Module	3	27
		<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>

<sup>1</sup> Orientation to Western Study can be delivered separately or integrated at appropriate points in the EAP syllabus. Hours per week are not prescribed.

### Master's Preparation – Standard (20 weeks)

Term	Module	Directed Study Time	
		Per Week	Total
Core (10 weeks)	English for Academic Purposes	10	90
	Orientation to Western Study <sup>1</sup>	N/A	9
	Research Methods: Data Analysis and Project Planning	7	63
	Subject Module	3	27
Final (10 weeks)	English for Academic Purposes	10	90
	Research Methods: Project	7	63
	Subject Module	3	27
		<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>

<sup>1</sup> Orientation to Western Study can be delivered separately or integrated at appropriate points in the EAP syllabus. Hours per week are not prescribed.

### Master's Preparation – Accelerated (10 weeks)

Term	Module	Directed Study Time	
		Per Week	Total
Final (10 weeks)	English for Academic Purposes + Orientation to Western Study	14	126
	Research Methods: Data Analysis and Project Planning	5	45
	Lectures (target is one every two-weeks)	As arranged	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>

The duration of each term may vary according to the timing of local public holidays. Terms may be interrupted by periods of holiday where necessary.

The programme may be delivered face-to-face or in blended/online modes as agreed with the Study Centre at the time of accreditation.



## **MODULE CHOICES**

Study Centres are not required to offer all the subject modules available on the Master's Preparation programme. Resources and student demand may dictate that Study Centres offer a smaller selection of subject modules. If Study Centres wish to add additional subject modules to their offering, they should inform NCUK well in advance, as the addition of some subject modules will require additional accreditation

## **CLASS SIZES**

Class sizes will vary between each element of the Master's Preparation programme. However, EAP classes and pastoral care tutorials must not exceed 16 students per class/tutorial.

Subject class sizes may be varied according to the activity e.g. lecture, seminar or tutorial. The principle to be applied to timetabling and class size should be to give students the opportunity to experience different forms of learning and to maximise opportunities for small-group work and for the development of independent learning skills. In general, NCUK would not expect tutorial or seminar groups to exceed 16 students but class sizes for lectures may be larger.

Staffing of the programme should allow for some one-to-one contact for each student.

# MODULE OVERVIEWS

MPPLS002

# LIFE SCIENCES MODULE OVERVIEW

MASTER'S PREPARATION (MP)



## SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

<b>Module Code</b>	MPLS003
<b>Module Name</b>	Life Sciences
<b>Programme Name</b>	Master's Preparation Programme
<b>Delivery period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks): three 10-week terms.</li> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks): two, 10-week terms.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended minimum teaching hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks): 108 hours over three terms.</li> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks): 54 hours over two terms.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended minimum independent study hours</b>	Between 54-108 hours dependant on programme entry.

### AIMS

The Life Sciences syllabus aims to develop the critical, analytical and communication skills necessary to study life sciences at postgraduate level in a Western higher education institute. It also seeks to allow students to gain more experience and knowledge of the life sciences by using different methods of learning and assessment for postgraduate study, improve written and oral communication skills needed for further study of life sciences and allow students to critically evaluate published literature and data to support independent research.

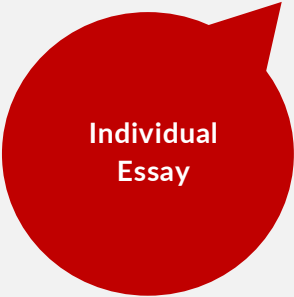
### TOPICS OF STUDY


- ⇒ Philosophy of Science
- ⇒ The Role of the Research Scientist
- ⇒ Experimental Design, Data Collection and Interpretation
- ⇒ Reporting Scientific Information.
- ⇒ Independent Learning and Communication.
- ⇒ Pathogenesis and Microbial Infection
- ⇒ The Importance of the Pharmaceutical Companies/Industry
- ⇒ Common Diseases and their Impact on Global Issues
- ⇒ Health and the Environment
- ⇒ Lifestyle and Health
- ⇒ Genetically Modified Organisms: The Arguments For and Against
- ⇒ Biotechnology
- ⇒ Ethics
- ⇒ Evolution of Life
- ⇒ Pollution and Disease
- ⇒ The biology of Climate Change


## ASSESSMENT

The assessment for the module is formative and is comprised of both coursework and examination. The Life Sciences lecturer will set all assessments.




### PREPARATORY TERM

 <p><b>Individual Essay</b></p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	1,500 words
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	An essay looking at one aspect of the content from the preparatory term.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	35%

 <p><b>Group Presentation and Report</b></p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	15-minute presentation / 1,000-word report
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	<p>Groups of 2-4 students should work together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Critically evaluate a life sciences journal article.</li> <li>⇒ Deliver a presentation of the major findings from the critical evaluation.</li> <li>⇒ Submit a written report of 1,000 words (+/- 10%).</li> </ul>
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	30% (15% Group Presentation / 15% Report)

 <p><b>Examination</b></p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	N/A
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	This should consist of one or two questions based on the syllabus content.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	35%

## CORE TERM

 <p>Literature Review</p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	N/A
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	Each student should be given a topic in the life sciences and will research information relating to the topic using a number of different primary source materials, such as journal articles. Each student will then write an individual literature review of the topic, taking in the major findings of their research.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	50%
 <p>Analysis and Presentation</p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	10 minutes
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	Students will be given a magazine or newspaper article and be asked to pick out and comment on the major points of the article. Students should prepare a 10-minute presentation to the student group.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	20%
 <p>Examination</p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	N/A
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	Students should answer one question from a choice of two or three. Questions should enable students to discuss a topic.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	30%

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Preparatory Term

On successful completion of this term, a student will be able to:

<b>LO1</b>	Demonstrate the basic skills required to study life sciences at master's level in a Western higher education environment.
<b>LO2</b>	Demonstrate knowledge of current issues related to the life sciences.
<b>LO3</b>	Explain the importance of pure and applied research in the life sciences.
<b>LO4</b>	Explain the role of research and dissemination of information in the life sciences through publications, public lectures and other forms of media.
<b>LO5</b>	Demonstrate the importance of critical thinking in the life sciences to enable the application of theories and practices to the subject.
<b>LO6</b>	Demonstrate the principles and importance of experimental design and the analysis and interpretation of results in the life sciences and know when results and conclusions are valid.
<b>LO7</b>	Describe the principles and importance of peer review and of communicating and publishing scientific data.

### Core Term

On successful completion of this term, a student will be able to:

<b>LO1</b>	Explain the key concepts and theories relating to major topics in the life sciences, such as microbial infection and vaccination.
<b>LO2</b>	Evaluate the importance of emerging diseases and their impact.
<b>LO3</b>	Discuss the major mortality and morbidity-causing diseases worldwide.
<b>LO4</b>	Analyse and evaluate the important connections between lifestyle and health.
<b>LO5</b>	Discuss the role of molecular technology (including DNA recombinant techniques) in the modern life sciences.
<b>LO6</b>	Explain some of the ethical issues in the life sciences.

**Final Term**

On successful completion of this term, a student will be able to:

<b>L01</b>	Formulate arguments on a range of issues in the life sciences.
<b>L02</b>	Explain what genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are and discuss the potential risks and benefits associated with GMOs.
<b>L03</b>	Correctly use the terminology associated with evolution, such as hypothesis, theory and fact.
<b>L04</b>	Explain the links between various types of pollutants on health and disease.
<b>L05</b>	Discuss the way in which various human activities are contributing to global warming.
<b>L06</b>	Explain the impact that human activities can have on ecosystems.
<b>L07</b>	Analyse and interpret published data on climate change.

MPPMG002

# MANAGEMENT MODULE OVERVIEW

MASTER'S PREPARATION (MP)





## SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

<b>Module Code</b>	MPM003
<b>Module Name</b>	Management
<b>Programme Name</b>	Master's Preparation Programme
<b>Delivery period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks): three 10-week terms.</li> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks): two 10-week terms.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended minimum teaching hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks): 108 hours over three terms.</li> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks): 54 hours over two terms.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended minimum independent study hours</b>	Between 54-108 hours dependant on programme entry.

### AIMS

The Management syllabus aims to develop the critical, analytical and communication skills necessary to study management-related courses at postgraduate level in a Western higher education institute. It also seeks to allow students to gain more experience and knowledge of managing within a changing environment by using different methods of learning and assessment for postgraduate study, improve written and oral communication skills needed for further study of management-related courses and allow students to critically evaluate published literature and data to support independent research.

### TOPICS OF STUDY

- ⇒ Overview of Management Studies
- ⇒ A Brief History of Management Thought
- ⇒ Managing Performance Through Motivation
- ⇒ Models of Modern Business Leadership
- ⇒ Leading through Change and Conflict
- ⇒ Understanding Organisational Culture
- ⇒ Discovering the Ethical Organisation
- ⇒ Introduction to International Business
- ⇒ The Process of Internationalisation
- ⇒ International Business: Institutions & Markets
- ⇒ The International Business Environment
- ⇒ International Business Strategy
- ⇒ International Management

In addition to a further five or six topics from the following section:

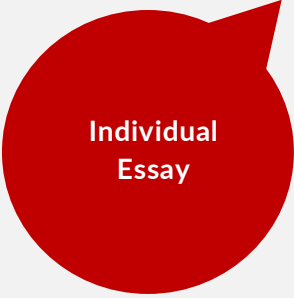


- ⇒ Global Business
- ⇒ Strategic Alliances
- ⇒ Supply Chain Management
- ⇒ Enterprise and Innovation
- ⇒ E-business
- ⇒ Critique of Management
- ⇒ Management of Diversity
- ⇒ Product and Service Quality
- ⇒ Intellectual Property
- ⇒ Tourism Management

⇒ Ethics and Corporate Responsibility


## ASSESSMENT


The assessment for the module is formative and is comprised of both coursework and examination. The Management lecturer will set all assessments.

### PREPARATORY TERM

 <p><b>Individual Essay</b></p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	1,500 words
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	An essay looking at one aspect of the content from the preparatory term.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	25%
 <p><b>Group Presentation and Report</b></p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	15-minute presentation / 1,000-word report
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	<p>Groups of 2-4 students should work together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Investigate the organisation structure and social responsibility of a business selected from the Business Week Global 1000.</li> <li>⇒ Deliver a presentation of the major findings.</li> <li>⇒ Submit a written report of 1,000 words (+/- 10%).</li> </ul>
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	25% (12.5% <i>Group Presentation</i> / 12.5% <i>Report</i> )
 <p><b>Examination</b></p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	N/A
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	The examination will consist of critical essay style answers to questions set on the rest of the syllabus and illustrated by the cases covered in class.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	50%

## CORE TERM

 <p>Case Study Analysis Report &amp; Presentation</p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	N/A
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	Working in groups, students will carry out a major case study analysis of the internationalisation of a Western company. The assignment will involve students producing both an individual report and a group poster presentation on their chosen company.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	50% (30% <i>Individual Report</i> / 20% <i>Group Presentation</i> )

 <p>Examination</p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	N/A
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	The examination will involve questions based on two or three Financial Times (FT) articles, or short case studies, identified in advance.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	50%

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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### Preparatory Term

On successful completion of this term, a student will be able to:

<b>LO1</b>	Understand management, its origins and its relationship to culture.
<b>LO2</b>	Analyse the environment of the organisation and how managers need to respond.
<b>LO3</b>	Relate organisational structures to policies and environment; explain how they can be changed.
<b>LO4</b>	Compare leadership with management and show how individuals and groups are motivated.
<b>LO5</b>	Develop skills in communication in the organisation context and recognise the cultural dimension of communication.

### Core Term

On successful completion of this term, a student will be able to:

<b>LO1</b>	Understand patterns and trends of globalisation.
<b>LO2</b>	Recognise why and how firms engage in international business.
<b>LO3</b>	Describe the roles of institutions that support and regulate international business.
<b>LO4</b>	Analyse the international business environment.
<b>LO5</b>	Identify key issues and processes in managing international business.

### Final Term

On successful completion of this term, a student will be able to:

<b>LO1</b>	Critically evaluate issues in management.
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MPPWS002

# ORIENTATION TO WESTERN STUDY MODULE OVERVIEW

MASTER'S PREPARATION (MP)



## SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

<b>Module Code</b>	MPOWS003
<b>Module Name</b>	Orientation to Western Study
<b>Programme Name</b>	Master's Preparation Programme
<b>Delivery period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks): three 10-week terms.</li> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks): two 10-week terms.</li> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks): one 10-week term.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended minimum teaching hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks) and Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks): 9 hours</li> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks): 6 hours</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended minimum independent study hours</b>	Between 6-10 hours dependant on programme entry.

### AIMS

The aim of this course is not to teach specific study skills but to offer students an introduction to the differences between their own education system and the Western education system, plus provide an introduction to Western postgraduate study. The course will help students to understand the different teaching approach of the Master's Preparation programme. It will also help students to understand how they can best learn and receive help and assistance.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### General Learning Outcome

On successful completion of this module, a student will be able to:

<b>LO1</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of Western culture sufficient to aid adjustment to living and studying in the UK.
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### Specific Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, a student will be able to:

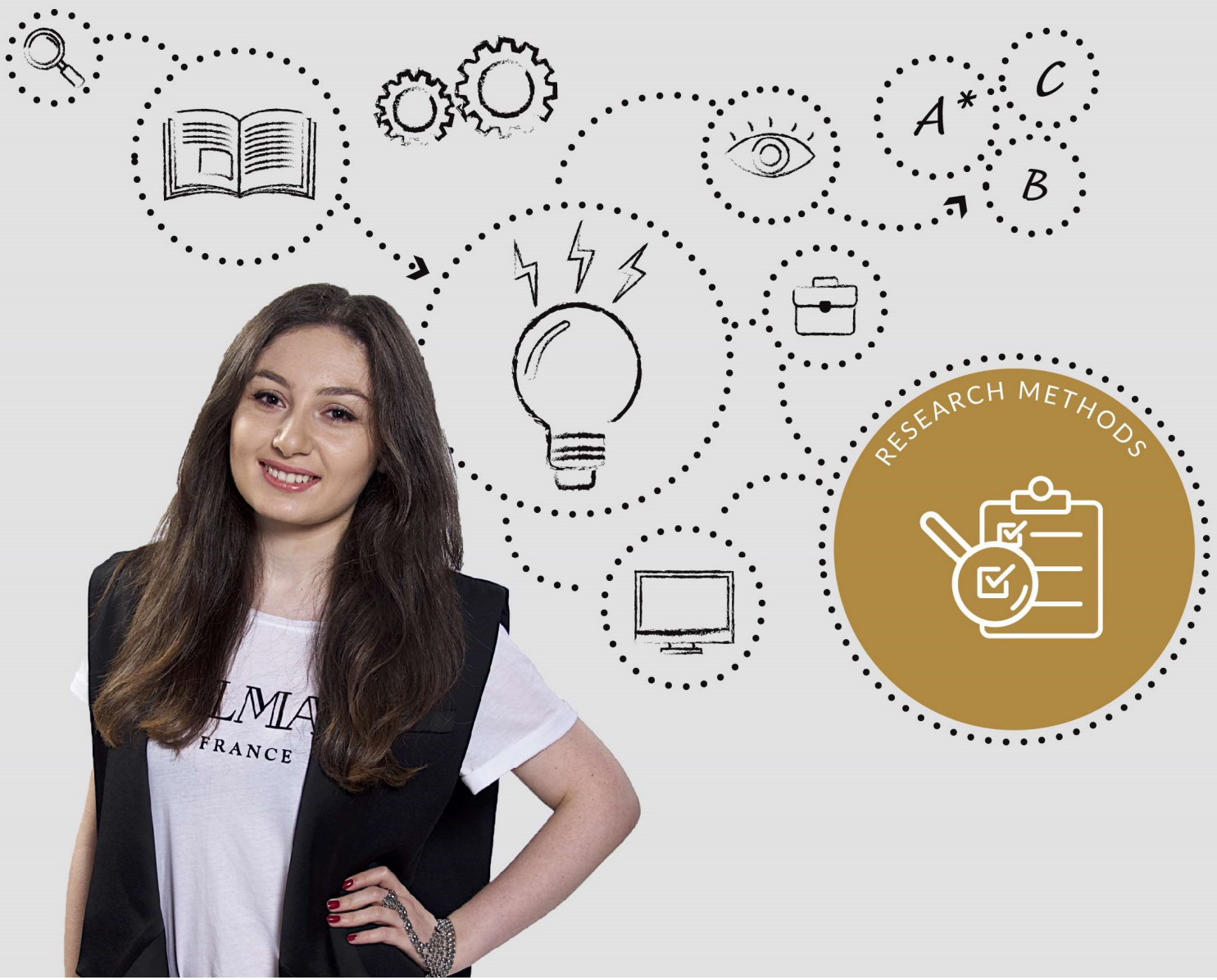
<b>SLO1</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of the differences between the students' own approaches and Western approaches to education
<b>SLO2</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of their role as a student within the Western educational approach
<b>SLO3</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the teacher within the Western educational approach

<b>SLO4</b>	Demonstrate a growing ability to function effectively in a Western learning context through assignments and participation in the course
<b>SLO5</b>	Carry out research into the types of courses on offer at NCUK member universities
<b>SLO6</b>	Make course selections based on the criteria specified

MPPRM001

# RESEARCH METHODS MODULE OVERVIEW

MASTER'S PREPARATION (MP)





## SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

<b>Module Code</b>	MPRM003
<b>Module Name</b>	Research Methods
<b>Programme Name</b>	Master's Preparation Programme
<b>Percentage breakdown of Coursework</b>	100%
<b>Percentage breakdown of Exam/Test</b>	0%
<b>Delivery period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks) and Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks): two, 10-week terms.</li> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks): one, 10-week term.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended minimum teaching hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Extended (30 weeks) and Master's Preparation - Standard (20 weeks): 126 hours (7 hours per week over 20 weeks).</li> <li>⇒ Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks): 45 hours (5 hours per week over 10 weeks).</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended minimum independent study hours</b>	Between 50-126 hours dependant on programme entry.




### AIMS

The overarching aim of the NCUK Research Methods module is to allow students to develop their academic study skills to the level required to successfully embark on a postgraduate course at a NCUK university. Through the exploration of research methods and a research project, the module aims to:


- ⇒ build awareness of issues in research design, especially different approaches to qualitative and quantitative processes in management research, and to recognise questions of ethics and intellectual property.
- ⇒ develop skills in qualitative research selection, design and analysis.
- ⇒ enable a quantitative research approach using exploratory, descriptive and causal methodologies.
- ⇒ introduce a range of analytical methods, including tools such as SPSS.
- ⇒ critically evaluate research approaches and their outcomes and apply these approaches appropriately.
- ⇒ develop and enhance practical research skills including the use and evaluation of journals and other sources.
- ⇒ enable students to establish a clear philosophical and methodological basis for the production of an academically sound dissertation and to reflect on their own research journey.
- ⇒ provide each student with the opportunity for independent study under the guidance of a supervisor.
- ⇒ provide an opportunity for the student to apply knowledge gained in previous studies and in the Core Term to a problem, and to present this solution in written and oral forms.
- ⇒ enable the student to develop the appropriate management skills and skills for organising themselves in relation to the specific aims of the individual project.
- ⇒ allow the student to interpret the results in a way which is appropriate to the individual project aims.
- ⇒ allow the student to present the results and conclusions of an investigation in a clear, concise and well-presented format in good quality English and to reflect on their own research.


## ASSESSMENT


### MASTER'S PREPARATION - EXTENDED (30 WEEKS) & MASTER'S PREPARATION – STANDARD (20 WEEKS)

 <p>Individual Project Proposal Plan</p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	N/A
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	To produce a research proposal for a Pre-Master's dissertation on a topic which, where possible, will be relevant to the postgraduate course the student hopes to progress to.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	20%
 <p>Research Project Report (Dissertation)</p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	5,000 words (+/- 10%)
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	Working independently, students will carry out the research outlined in the Individual Project Proposal and write up the work in a report (dissertation). The dissertation will be the equivalent to a 3rd year undergraduate project at a UK university.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	80% Research Methods (50% of the EAP Writing Grade / 12.5% of the overall EAP Grade)
 <p>Research Project Presentation</p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	12-15 minutes
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	<p>Students are expected to prepare and give a timed presentation on the research project. The presentation must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Cover all key points within the time limit.</li> <li>⇒ Be well structured and audience appropriate.</li> <li>⇒ Be accompanied by supporting slides.</li> </ul> <p>Students will also be expected to answer 3-5 follow up questions.</p>
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	0% Research Methods (50% of the EAP Speaking Grade / 12.5% of the overall EAP Grade)

## MASTER'S PREPARATION – ACCELERATED (10 WEEKS)

 <p><b>Research Publication Analysis x2</b></p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	500-800 words per article evaluation.
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	<p>Working individually, students are required to analyse and evaluate 3 articles. They must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Convey the information contained in the articles.</li> <li>⇒ Convey their own analysis and conclusions.</li> <li>⇒ Maintain the integrity of the information being summarised.</li> </ul> <p>Students will be required to undertake the assessment at twice during the Master's Preparation - Accelerated (10 weeks) Term.</p>
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	10% (2 assessments worth 5% each)

 <p><b>Group Research Proposal Design</b></p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	N/A
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	<p>This assessment will be carried out in small groups and will help prepare students for the individual Proposal Specification and Plan task. Each group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ select a topic from a list of current research topics/trends.</li> <li>⇒ investigate their chosen topic and identify the current research themes.</li> </ul>
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	20%

 <p><b>Research Proposal (Specification and Plan)</b></p>	<b>Duration/Word Count</b>	N/A
	<b>Total Marks</b>	100
	<b>Rubric</b>	To produce a research proposal for a Pre-Master's dissertation on a topic which, where possible, will be relevant to the postgraduate course the student hopes to progress to.
	<b>Contribution to Overall Grade</b>	70% Research Methods (50% of the EAP Writing Grade / 12.5% of the overall EAP Grade)

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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On successful completion of this module, a student will be able to:

<b>LO1</b>	Develop a research aim and achievable research objectives.
<b>LO2</b>	Plan research at postgraduate level with a clear understanding of the qualitative and quantitative issues and primary and secondary data requirements.
<b>LO3</b>	Understand the ethical issues related to undertaking research.
<b>LO4</b>	Use a range of data collection methods, selecting the most appropriate for a given situation.
<b>LO5</b>	Critically analyse literature from a variety of sources.
<b>LO6</b>	Analyse results and data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods.
<b>LO7</b>	Critically discuss the results of research and make appropriate conclusions.
<b>LO8</b>	Understand the methods used to reference the work of others.
<b>LO9</b>	Present work in an appropriate format.

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