

1495



UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN
BUSINESS SCHOOL

Block Taught Explained

All our postgraduate programmes are either normal taught (NT) or block taught (BT) with the current list of block taught programmes below:

International Business Management (IBM)

Master Business Administration (MBA)

Master Business Administration - Energy Management (MBA Energy)

Master Business Administration – Business Analytics

International Human Resource Management (IHRM)

Marketing Management (MM)

Block taught courses run from September to September, or January to January, including over summer, and involve students taking 4 blocks of 3-week-long courses each semester, for a total of 12 over the course of their programme to achieve the required 180 credits.

Each 3-week rotation consists of a prep week, a week of intensive teaching, and a week to complete assessments for the course.

For example:

Preparation, Week 1: reading/preparing materials for intensive week. Sometimes, includes some tutorials, but students are mainly expected to study independently.

Intensive Teaching, Week 2: Involves teaching on campus, frequently 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Students are also required to read additional materials each evening in preparation for the following day.

Assessment, Week 3: May have some on-campus tutorials, but mainly focused on students completing their assessments for the course due normally on Monday of the following week.

Most block taught programmes follow a similar structure to the one below (MSc International Business Management (IBM)), and students do not normally complete exams. Instead, summative assessments are submitted every 3 weeks.

Students will have the opportunity to study alongside colleagues from different programmes, and the September and January intakes follow the same course order for most programmes. The sample build below follows the full time IBM programme, and represents how all block taught programmes are organised, with differences in prescribed courses. Block taught programmes do not offer elective options, i.e. they consist of 12 prescribed courses, although some offer 2 options for some summer blocks. The below is based on term dates for 2020-21. The Event Week in March was introduced in 2020-21 to give students the opportunity to speak to industry expert in their chosen field.

All block taught programmes also offer a part time route to students which includes the same overall courses as the full-time variant for the most part ¹, and an example build for a part-time IBM student can be found below the full-time sample below. Students on a part-time programme have 24 months minimum to complete and normally undertake 2 courses instead of 4 per semester but can take up to 5 years to finish. The example below is based on a 24 months duration.

MSC INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT – FULL TIME EXAMPLE

***Please note this is an example timetable for September 2020 entry. We will endeavour to make all course options available; however, these may be subject to timetabling and other constraints. Please see our InfoHub pages for further information.**

Block	Courses running	Teaching week dates (2020-21)
Semester 1		
Block 1	BU501H	Week 1: 28 Sep – 02 Oct 2020
		Week 2: 05 Oct – 09 Oct 2020
		Week 3: 12 Oct – 16 Oct 2020
Block 2	BU5026	Week 1: 19 Oct – 23 Oct 2020
		Week 2: 26 Oct – 30 Oct 2020
		Week 3: 02 Nov – 06 Nov 2020
Block 3	BU5057	Week 1: 09 Nov – 13 Nov 2020
		Week 2: 16 Nov – 20 Nov 2020
		Week 3: 23 Nov – 27 Nov 2020
Block 4	BU5072	Week 1: 30 Nov – 04 Dec 2020
		Week 2: 07 Dec – 11 Dec 2020
		Week 3: 14 Dec – 18 Dec 2020
Holidays		21 Dec 2020 – 08 Jan 2021
Resubmissions for resits/self-study		11 Jan – 22 Jan 2021

¹For MBA and MBA Energy Management part time students, there is the option to take a 30-credit project to replace two 15-credit courses. Normally, this would replace 2 summer school courses, but the project itself can be completed in any semester.

Block	Courses running	Teaching week dates (2020-21)
Semester 2		
Block 1	BU551H	Week 1: 25 Jan – 29 Jan 2021
		Week 2: 01 Feb – 05 Feb 2021
		Week 3: 08 Feb – 12 Feb 2021
Block 2	BU5577	Week 1: 15 Feb – 19 Feb 2021
		Week 2: 22 Feb – 26 Feb 2021
		Week 3: 01 Mar – 05 Mar 2021
Event Week		08 Mar – 12 Mar 2021
Block 3	BU5579	Week 1: 15 Mar – 19 Mar 2021
		Week 2: 22 Mar – 26 Mar 2021
		Week 3: 29 Mar – 02 Apr 2021
Holidays		05 Apr – 23 Apr 2021
Block 4	BU5583	Week 1: 26 Apr – 30 Apr 2021
		Week 2: 03 May – 07 May 2021
		Week 3: 10 May – 14 May 2021
Semester 3/Summer Semester		
Block 1	BU5991	Week 1: 17 May – 21 May 2021
		Week 2: 24 May – 28 May 2021
		Week 3: 31 May – 04 Jun 2021
Block 2	BU591K	Week 1: 07 Jun – 11 Jun 2021
		Week 2: 14 Jun – 18 Jun 2021
		Week 3: 21 Jun – 25 Jun 2021
Block 3	BU591L	Week 1: 28 Jun – 02 July 2021
		Week 2: 05 July – 09 July 2021
		Week 3: 12 July – 16 July 2021
Block 4	BU5940	Week 1: 19 July – 23 July 2021
		Week 2: 26 July – 30 July 2021
		Week 3: 02 Aug – 06 Aug 2021

MSc International Business Management – part time example

Note: BU5991 must be taken in year 1, whereas the first and second semester courses can be taken any year. The other summer semester courses should be taken in year 2 according to the programme build, though there is some flexibility on this. The choice of course will determine the dates of teaching.

***Please note this is an example timetable for September 2020 entry. We will endeavour to make all course options available; however, these may be subject to timetabling and other constraints. Please see our InfoHub pages for further information.**

Block	Courses running	Teaching week dates (2020-21)
Semester 1		
Block 1	BU501H	Week 1: 28 Sep – 02 Oct 2020
		Week 2: 05 Oct – 09 Oct 2020
		Week 3: 12 Oct – 16 Oct 2020
Block 2	BU5026	To be taken 2021-22
Block 3	BU5057	Week 1: 09 Nov – 13 Nov 2020
		Week 2: 16 Nov – 20 Nov 2020
		Week 3: 23 Nov – 27 Nov 2020
Block 4	BU5072	To be taken 2021-22
Holidays		21 Dec 2020 – 08 Jan 2021
Resubmissions for resits/self-study		11 Jan – 22 Jan 2021
Semester 2		
Block 1	BU551H	Week 1: 25 Jan – 29 Jan 2021
		Week 2: 01 Feb – 05 Feb 2021
		Week 3: 08 Feb – 12 Feb 2021
Block 2	BU5577	Week 1: 15 Feb – 19 Feb 2021
		Week 2: 22 Feb – 26 Feb 2021
		Week 3: 01 Mar – 05 Mar 2021
Event Week		08 Mar – 12 Mar 2021
Block 3	BU5579	To be taken 2021-22
Holidays		05 Apr – 23 Apr 2021
Block 4	BU5583	To be taken 2021-22
Semester 3/Summer Semester		
Block 1	BU5991	Week 1: 17 May – 21 May 2021
		Week 2: 24 May – 28 May 2021
		Week 3: 31 May – 04 Jun 2021
Block 2	BU591K	To be taken 2021-22
Block 3	BU591L	To be taken 2021-22
Block 4	BU5940	To be taken 2021-22