Why study business and management?
Degrees in business and management are some of the most popular among students. There are plenty of courses which look at how organisations operate – what they do, their styles of management and their business strategies – but business is also closely related to other social sciences, like psychology and economics. Many students choose business because it opens the door to a wide range of careers in the private, public and third sectors, from management consultancy to social enterprise. Whatever the sector, business and commerce touch almost every aspect of our lives. It is truly an international, fast-changing and challenging field, often involving considerations of ethics, social and environmental responsibility.

What will I study at university?
A diverse range of courses is available, each with a different emphasis or specialism. Some will have a defined vocational element, where students can work in a team to create a company and market a product; others will make work placements, sometimes abroad, a compulsory part of the degree. Many universities have good links with businesses, providing visiting lecturers and the chance to build contacts.

Joint honours degrees may combine business with:
- Mathematics/statistics
- Computer science
- Economics
- Psychology
- Languages

A wide selection of modules may include:
- Marketing communications
- Consumer behaviour
- Corporate finance
- E-business
- Ethics, responsibility and citizenship
- International retailing

“I used to use business to make money. But I’ve learned that business is a tool. You can use it to support what you believe in.”
Po Bronson, American journalist and author

What skills will I gain?
Business and management is a very flexible degree, developing many skills which are attractive to employers. For example:
- The ability to work under pressure
- Good communication skills
- The ability to work collaboratively
- Effective problem-solving and decision-making
- The ability to view issues at international level

After my degree... what next?
After an undergraduate degree, MSc and MA programs allow students to specialise in a particular area of business such as shipping, real estate or quantitative finance. Many courses are taught by professionals with up-to-date knowledge of the relevant field who can pass on their knowledge of real business situations.

Many postgraduates study part time and are supported by their employer, either through time off to study or the payment of course fees – or
Graduate jobs in business and management are varied, ranging from general management roles to consultants offering subject-specific advice. Examples include:

- Management consultants, who help organisations to solve issues, create value, maximise growth and improve the business
- Environmental consultants, who deal with issues such as contamination, waste management and the development of environmental policy and environmental management systems
- Recruitment consultants
- IT consultants
- Financial managers
- Health service managers, who are responsible for the provision of healthcare through the management of hospital, general practitioner or community health services
- Hotel managers
- Retail managers, who run stores to maximise profit and meet a company’s targets.
- A business degree can also open doors for those with an entrepreneurial instinct who fancy running their own companies.

A business degree can also open doors for those with an entrepreneurial instinct who fancy running their own companies.

Further resources

The Chartered Management Institute (CMI) is the only chartered professional body in the UK dedicated to management and leadership, with over 100,000 members. The CMI sets awards qualifications, sets standards, and assesses training needs.

www.managers.org.uk

British Academy of Management (BAM) runs two journals, an annual conference and a range of training and development events and programmes that support the development of
Business and management

academics worldwide. BAM also represents the management community to government and research councils and has strong links with a number of related organisations both in the UK and internationally.

www.bam.ac.uk

The Times 100 teaches business studies by example with extensive revision pages and free case studies from real-world companies. The case studies, each constructed around a key element of the business studies curriculum, bring to life the complexities of business with real information and issues in a relevant context.

businesscasestudies.co.uk

The Association of Business Schools (ABS) is the voice for the UK’s business schools and independent management colleges, setting the agenda for business and management education in the UK within an increasingly international environment. It develops policies and promotes, communicates and lobbies on them at local, regional, national and international levels.

www.associationofbusinessschools.org

Civil Service Fast Stream – there are five separate Fast Stream schemes for graduates interested in public sector careers in Analytical Research (Statistics, Economics, etc) Human Resources, the EU institutions in Brussels, Technology in Business and the Northern Ireland Civil Service. Case studies of people who have followed them may be found on the Fast Stream website.

faststream.civilservice