

Programme Specification

Award and title: York Business School Foundation Year

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Business
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	Lord Mayor's Walk
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	N/A
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Foundation Certificate in Business

<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Not applicable

<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study for full time Full time – 1 Year.
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The York Business School Foundation Year provides an essential introduction to the role of business in contemporary society while offering a pathway to undergraduate study at York Business School. Designed for students with little or no prior academic experience in Business, this programme equips you with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to successfully transition to degree-level study and the wider business environment.

This Foundation Year serves as an alternative entry route for those who may not yet be ready to begin university at Level 4. It forms the first stage of a four-year undergraduate programme, offering a strong academic and practical foundation. Successful completion guarantees automatic progression to Level 4 of your chosen undergraduate degree. There are also opportunities to transfer to other programmes within the University, subject to the discretion of the relevant academic school.

For details on the modules you will study after your Foundation Year, please refer to your Honours degree programme specification on the school's programme specification page.

At York Business School, you will gain a degree with a clear focus on long-term career prospects. Whether you aspire to start your own business, work in a multinational corporation, enter the public sector, or join the fast-growing service industries, an understanding of how businesses operate is essential.

York Business School is committed to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), a United Nations initiative that promotes responsible and sustainable business education. Throughout the Foundation Year, students will explore key themes of corporate responsibility, sustainability, and ethical decision-making. The curriculum encourages learners from all backgrounds to engage with global challenges and develop the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to positive economic and social change.

If you are enrolled in the “with placement” variant of your undergraduate program, you will complete a Year in Industry (also known as a placement or sandwich year) between your third and final year, making your degree a five-year program.

The Business Foundation Year at York Business School is designed to provide a strong foundation in business principles while incorporating work-related experiential learning (WREL). This practical approach ensures that you gain hands-on experience and develop key skills that will support your academic and professional journey.

Through real-world applications of business concepts, you will enhance essential transferable skills such as problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and adaptability—all of which are highly valued in the workplace. Engaging with industry-related scenarios and projects will help you understand how businesses operate in practice, preparing you for future career opportunities. Additionally, these experiences allow you to start building your professional network, which can be beneficial for employment prospects and career progression.

Special Features of the Business Foundation Year:

- A broad focus on business-related concepts, helping students understand how different business disciplines interconnect.
- A combination of broad-based and specialized modules to prepare students for further study in their chosen field.
- Strong emphasis on academic skills and work-readiness, providing a solid foundation for future success.
- Engagement with businesses and industry professionals through guest lectures and interactive sessions.
- Opportunity to qualify as a Microsoft Office Specialist (extra-curricular training offered by the University’s Digital Training Team).
- Dedicated personal and academic support to ease the transition into Higher Education. Every student is assigned an academic tutor who provides guidance throughout the programme. Diagnostic assessments will be used to identify personal development needs, helping students create a Personal Development Plan (PDP) to succeed academically and professionally.
- Live, work-related activities and/or assessments so that you can apply the theories you have learnt to real world challenges
- Excellent personal and academic support from your academic tutor throughout the programme.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. Specific GCSE requirements: GCSE grade D or grade 3 in English Language and Mathematics. Level 2 Functional Skills English and Mathematics also accepted. Mature entrants and students with work experience.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test, or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aims

The aims of the programme are to:

1. Prepare students for degree-level study through the development of essential academic and professional skills.
2. Deliver an integrated programme of study that provides a strong foundational knowledge of organizations and the global business environment, aligned with the Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME).
3. Develop students' ability to analyse information, think critically, synthesize ideas, and make informed decisions in complex and uncertain business contexts.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Foundation Year, students will be able to:

Level 3 Learning Outcomes

3.1 Describe and explain key concepts, theories, and models relevant to business and their specialist area.

3.2 Demonstrate an understanding of how external factors impact businesses and their operations.

3.3 Apply academic and intellectual skills, including research, information analysis, and problem identification.

3.4 Demonstrate effective communication, organizational skills, and teamwork in an academic and professional context.

3.5 Present information in a variety of professional and academic formats.

3.6 Reflect on personal and professional development, setting goals for future academic progression and career aspirations.

3.7 Demonstrate an awareness of career pathways within business and develop strategies for employability, including CV writing, interview skills, and networking.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
BMB3007M	3	1	Entrepreneurship and Innovation	20	C	X
BMB3008M	3	1	Next Wave: Business in the AI Era	20	C	X
BMB3009M	3	1 & 2	Future Ready: Academic and Professional Evolution	40	C	NC
BMB3010M	3	2	Business Environment and Ethics	20	C	X
BME3011M	3	2	Foundations of Economics and Finance	20	C	X

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40) in order to progress.

Structure and Support

The Foundation Year is divided into two semesters:

- Semester One: You will be taught in the same group across all modules, fostering teamwork, communication skills, and a strong sense of community to support the transition into university life.
- Semester Two: You will integrate with the wider Foundation Year cohort and be introduced to the lecture-seminar format used in Level 4 through BME3001M Foundations of Economics and Finance which will further prepare you for degree level study.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The York Business School Foundation Year employs a variety of teaching, learning, and assessment methods designed to prepare you for success in degree-level study and beyond. The programme integrates interactive, practical, and industry-relevant learning experiences, ensuring that you develop essential academic and professional skills.

Flexible Assessment and Progressive Learning

The Business Foundation Year uses a variety of assessment methods to support your academic and professional growth. These may include written assignments, reports, debates, case studies, e-portfolios, reflective pieces, presentations, and business-related projects, offering a broad and inclusive way to showcase your learning. By using different assessment types, the programme caters to diverse learning styles and helps you build confidence in multiple formats.

Beyond assessment, the programme follows a progressive learning structure, ensuring that you develop your skills and knowledge gradually. This step-by-step approach allows you to build a solid academic foundation while refining critical thinking, analytical, and problem-solving skills that are essential in business. By the time you complete the Foundation Year, you will be well-prepared to transition into undergraduate study and apply your learning in real-world business settings.

By combining practical experience with academic development, the Business Foundation Year equips you with the confidence, knowledge, and skills needed to succeed in both higher education and the professional world.

Teaching and Learning Approach

Modules are delivered through a combination of:

- Lectures – Providing foundational knowledge on key business concepts.
- Seminars – Engaging discussions to enhance understanding and critical thinking.
- Guest Speakers – Industry professionals sharing real-world insights.
- Workshops – Hands-on sessions to develop practical skills.
- Group Work – Encouraging teamwork and collaboration.
- Case Studies & Real-World Scenarios – Applying theoretical concepts to business challenges.

You will also benefit from guided learning strategies, helping you to transition smoothly to University-level studies.

Assessment Methods

You will experience a range of assessment types designed to develop both academic and workplace-relevant skills, including:

- Written Assignments – Reports, reflections, and research-based tasks.
- Presentations – Both individual and group-based to build communication and confidence.
- Tests & Practical Activities – Assessing understanding of key concepts.
- Portfolios of Evidence – Demonstrating skills and progress throughout the year.
- Debates – To assess understanding wider knowledge and to build communication and confidence.

Assessments are designed to encourage continuous learning while also preparing you for the expectations of your undergraduate degree and future career. Formative assessments and feedback opportunities will be provided to help you develop your work before final submission.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [regulations](#) for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- University Mission, Culture and Values
- University 2026 Strategy
- QAA subject benchmark statements
- Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: