

Programme Specification

Executive MBA

<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>	October, January, April, July
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	Lincoln University of Business and Management, Dubai
<i>Delivery location:</i>	Lincoln University of Business and Management, Dubai (online delivery only)
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate Business Administration Postgraduate Diploma Business Administration
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Subject Benchmark Statement for Business Management (March 2023)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full-time for 6 months – Executive Capstone Project with 120 credits RPL
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The Executive MBA has been designed to support your career progression, preparing you to carry out senior strategic roles successfully or to build your own business. You will study with a cohort of experienced professionals drawn from a range of industries, building your network and giving you insights into best practice. As a consequence, you will explore issues that have significant impact within organisations by working with others and building on both personal individual experiences and comparing and contrasting with those of cohort members. You will carry out projects and assignments designed to help you apply the theories, tools and techniques you learn.

Much of the learning is developed through the establishment of collaborative learning communities of programme participants and tutors and you will become part of that community of learning. Your understanding is developed around the key skills, processes and practices of business, leadership and management. Solutions to real problems are suggested, discussed and analysed within the learning community with the support of tutors and fellow learners.

You will develop a critical understanding of the issues relating to business and management, which will enhance your ability to maximise individual and organisational potential. The Executive MBA brings together relevant contemporary academic theory and research with practical understanding of activities within organisations. This will be developed by enabling you to share knowledge, relate this to theories developed from relevant research, and learning by practical application. Through the development of an

integrated and critically aware understanding of management in the context of contemporary business issues, the programme involves you in a demanding process of personal and professional development. The Executive MBA programme is built around your need to undertake a programme of development suited to becoming a leader and manager and this involves you in developing a critical appreciation of the issues and complexity around the present and future business environment and the need for strategies of sustainability in business and society.

A distinctive feature of the programme is its strategically designed induction framework, aimed at enhancing student readiness, retention, and academic success, particularly for those returning to education after a professional break. The induction provides a comprehensive overview of the programme structure, delivery schedule, assessment strategy, and academic expectations, ensuring clarity from the outset. It incorporates structured training on the virtual learning environment (Moodle), academic writing and referencing standards, and detailed guidance on assessment requirements to promote academic confidence and performance. Students are also formally briefed on institutional regulations and policies, including academic misconduct, suspension of studies, mitigating circumstances, and overall academic integrity, reinforcing a culture of professionalism and ethical scholarship. This proactive and structured orientation strengthens student engagement, minimises academic risk, and supports progression through clear alignment with institutional quality assurance standards.

Special features of the programme include:

- Assessment methods used to mirror organisational based activities
- Opportunity to work with a range of experienced managers and professionals, both as tutors and peers
- Provides a supportive platform for critical reflection, through the application of academic theories to your real work situations
- Potential to learn from other experienced managers and professionals participating in the programme
- Participation in active and supportive forums drawing on practical expertise

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [postgraduate](#) study. In addition, you must have:

- A Bachelor's degree or equivalent, achieved at Class 2:2 or above, from an approved University or Institution
and
- Possess High School equivalent and/or a college diploma, along with a minimum of 2 years' corporate work experience appropriate to enable you to contribute to the programme.

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/>). You might be able to demonstrate English Language capability through work based references.

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 aim(s)

The overall aim of the programme is to develop your critical understanding and self-awareness of the issues relating to business and management, so that you may develop your own leadership skills and knowledge and develop both your individual and organisational potential. You will be supported as you:

- Develop critical awareness and understanding of the key concepts of leadership, management, organisational strategy, and national and organisational culture
- Develop the ability to connect theory with practice in creative and innovative ways and reflect upon the learning involved as well as the outcomes
- Develop critical awareness and understanding of the impact that leadership, management, strategy and culture can have within organisations
- Develop and enhance life-long learning skills and personal development in order to work with self-direction and originality

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 Demonstrate in-depth, specialist knowledge and mastery of techniques relevant to the study of opportunities and challenges of business management
- 7.2 Demonstrate an advanced and critical understanding of concepts, information and techniques informed by knowledge at the forefront of the study of contemporary business issues within the context of society
- 7.3 Demonstrate a systematic, integrated and critically aware understanding of business management, leadership, and team working
- 7.4 Critically reflect and evaluate management, leadership and team working skills and take a proactive, independent and self-reflective role in working and developing professional relationships with others
- 7.5 Formulate a critical awareness of current issues in business management informed by contemporary research and practice
- 7.6 Demonstrate a deep knowledge and critical understanding of organisations, context and response to changes in the global business environment
- 7.7 Extrapolate information critically and creatively utilising appropriate decision-making techniques in order to extract meaning and understanding, solve problems, and identify and evaluate options in a world of uncertainty and imperfect information
- 7.8 Design, conduct, analyse and disseminate an extended independent piece of research or business related project from inception to completion

Programme structure

Full-time delivery (1 year)

Code	Level	Term	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
MBB7012M	7	1	Executive Perspectives on Innovation, Change & Leadership	30	C	X
MBB7013M	7	2	Organisational Design and Strategic Thinking	30	C	X
MBB7014M	7	3	Enterprise & Entrepreneurship	30	C	X
MBB7015M	7	4	Strategic Resource Management	30	C	X
MBB7058M	7	3-4	Executive Professional Development through Reflective	60	C	NC

		Practice			
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Full-time delivery (top-up stage 6 months)

Code	Level	Term	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
MBB7058M	7	3-4	Executive Professional Development through Reflective Practice	60	C	NC

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 50) in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

The programme is designed to meet the needs of professional participants with appropriate current or recent work experience who wish to add a level of theory-based understanding to the knowledge they have gained through experience. The programme delivery is based on principles of adult learning, recognising that participants are likely to bring a large amount of experience and knowledge to the group, and can share this with each other. The style of the programme is participative and resources for learning explicitly include the knowledge, experience and skills of all participants and staff.

Some participants may not have been engaged in formal education for some time and may never have studied social sciences at postgraduate level: support with study skills, conventions of academic analysis and writing will be available for you.

A key part of the philosophy of the programme is that by bringing together relevant academic theory and practical experience, you can enhance your deep understanding of these elements and develop yourself as an individual and as a leader.

All modules are delivered utilising a range of teaching, learning and assessment strategies including lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and global café style learning activities. All modules are assessed through a programme of work undertaken whilst studying for the award. A range of assessment tools are used including presentations, critical essays, portfolios and reflective journals and case study work. Each module tutor will provide opportunities for formative assessment feedback to inform your work prior to submission.

You will receive detailed feedback on assessment to help you develop and continuously improve your performance whilst on the programme. Advice will be provided in relation to development, further areas for research and guidance on how to enhance your subject knowledge.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's general [regulations](#) for postgraduate 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 and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)

- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
 - York St John University General Regulations for Postgraduate Awards
 - QAA Master's degree characteristics (September 2015)
 - Principles for Responsible Management Education (Prime): Inspirational Guide for the Implementation of Prime.
 - CMI Level 7 Senior Leader Degree Apprenticeship Standards
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Date written / revised: June 2026

Programme originally approved: 12/02/18