

Programme Specification

MRes in Management Studies

<i>School:</i>	YSJU London
<i>Subject area:</i>	Management Studies
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September and February
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	YSJU London
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Management Studies
<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 and Management (Masters, 2023) Master's Degree Characteristics (February 2020)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full time (12 months)
<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

Introduction and Special Features

The primary objective of the MRes in Management Studies (MSR) programme is to offer you the opportunity to build, grow and enhance your personal and professional scientific skills. The programme will facilitate an environment for future researchers to rigorously explore, through research, interaction with established academics and industry professionals, and via their independent study, the contemporary and pressing issues in social sciences. This will range from the various domains of management and business in public and private organisations, domestically, regionally, and globally.

The programme combines fundamentals and cutting-edge principles, theories, and data analysis techniques aligned with the scope of Management Studies. It has a focused taught component (one-third), and a subsequent research component (two-thirds). Generally, this programme is designed to equip future researchers with the essential aspects of scientific inquiry, to provoke and enthuse their reflective capabilities, critically contrive on a wider range of philosophical approaches, and employ and analyse different data sources to formulate their strategy in studying a phenomenon of interest. While the programme is divided into three core modules, five profound aspects are highly embedded.

In the programme's first module, you will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and theory from the module ***“Critical and Reflective Thinking on Philosophies and Methodologies of Social Inquiry”***. In this module, the **first aspect** of the programme emerges to allow students to expound, expose, and critically evaluate the different schools of thought ranging from the dominant positivistic stances of scientific inquiry to social constructionism, conventionalism, and post-modernism stances. Ideally, this aspect will allow you to reflect on ‘*how and why*’ ideas and concepts are born. Another compelling aim is to prepare you, who will be by then a new researcher, to have a significant grasp over the different links between matching and varying philosophical and methodological perspectives paving the way to prepare a rigorous methodology for your thesis. The **second aspect** that emerges through this module aims to train you on the various methods of data collection and analysis techniques. Throughout the programme, you will be able to identify challenges in today’s world and ways to create concepts around them. Hence, this second aspect of the programme will allow you to provoke your thinking and start forming the strategy and direction of your research. The content of this aspect will expose a range of techniques that will help you in collecting and analysing data corresponding to the nature of your research, triangled from the views of the researcher (the candidate), the researched (the phenomenon of interest), and the research participants (data source).

In the second module of this programme, you will study ***“Analysing Contemporary Challenges and Knowledge in Organisations and Management”***. In this module, the **third**

aspect of the programme unfolds allowing you to review, discuss and reflect on various contemporary challenges in different domains of organisations, management, and businesses, focusing on today's societal, environmental, and economic issues on both individual and collective levels. This aspect aims to allow you to cast a deeper light on some of the pressing matters that face societies and organisations. Following this aim, the **fourth aspect** of the programme emerges through this module which entails training you in designing the analysis of your literature review. The target here is to answer the question of: *How can I identify the gap in knowledge of the phenomenon I will explore?* You will be ready to dig deeper into the recent knowledge in your areas of interest, and to do so you need to be aware of various scientific ways of reviewing current and previous research, synthesis concepts, and building theoretical, practical, and conceptual frameworks that you can explore and drive practical and/or conceptual findings and recommendations. This aspect aims to identify the different ways of reviewing the literature of your areas: ranging from systematic to narrative literature review strategies.

Finally, emerges the **fifth and last aspect** of the programme. This aspect constitutes the full content of the third module "*Thesis*", which marks the research component of the programme, and your independent research and study stage. This module runs throughout the two semesters where the University will assign experienced academics coupled with, in some instances, industry-based advisors as part of your supervisory team who will assist and supervise you in writing and completing your research. Whether full-time or part-time, you will start working on the research topic with your assigned supervisor(s) starting from your first semester. Each student will also be provided an industry-based advisor depending on availability and where necessary. Supported by a supervisory team of academics, you will develop a research thesis alongside an innovative mindset to gain a competitive advantage in the global market and possess the skillset necessary for further development in terms of academic progression. The curriculum for this module, and the programme, is designed to serve the overarching ethical and sustainable guidelines of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, without compromising the conventional nature and speciality of its modules. As part of your academic journey, you will be allocated a coach plus a tutor and supported by the well-being services to ensure a successful outcome of the programme. This will enable you to succeed during your research and in skills refinement and development to become an effective researcher today.

You will interact throughout your studies with highly qualified academic members of staff who possess solid international experience and have a range of research expertise that matches the research interests of students. YSJU will provide you with an interesting research and development environment with its academic support facilities to help you nurture your skills. Upon the successful completion of this programme, you will be equipped with the knowledge, analytical, and research skills that will prepare you to pursue the highest level of academic and

executive education on a doctoral level (PhD/DBA). This will be achieved through applying the acquired skills to explore and review various domains of business and management pertaining to the modules you have learned. With the assistance of our established academics, the review of such domains coupled with your learning of distinct research methodologies and methods, you will be able to analyse, research, and write academically and professionally with a critical lens on areas that need further investigation on a master's level.

Additionally, your exposure and application to various knowledge and methodologies through your research will allow you to master practice-based concepts, and be subject-matter-experts, to pursue careers relevant to your area of interest. In pursuing industry careers, the knowledge and skills gained through the modules will be portrayed by your ability to critically reflect, assess, and write various professional reports that link theoretical frameworks with practice, and address contemporary issues in various business and management settings on the challenges facing organisations in various disciplines and contexts. Whatever career you choose to pursue, whichever sector you intend to work in, there will be a requirement to apply your knowledge ethically and responsibly and to disseminate your research and practice-based knowledge to benefit your communities and organisations. Thus, generating ideas, establishing new ways of thinking and working, finding solutions, or accessing new networks to gather data, and produce new opportunities for your organisation.

Admissions Criteria

Students must meet the University's general entry criteria for postgraduate study. In addition, students must have:

1. A Bachelor's degree or equivalent, in a relevant subject field achieved at Class 2:2 or above (or GPA 3 out of 4 – or above, or GPA 4 out of 5 – or above) from an approved university or institution, **or criteria 2, and a must for criteria 3.**
2. A Master's degree, in a relevant subject field achieved at a MERIT award, or equivalent to Class of 2:2 or above (or GPA 3 out of 4 or above, or GPA 4 out of 5 or above) from an approved university or an international institution and:
3. An IELTS (International English Language Testing System: Academic) with a score 6.5 overall, and 6.0 in all components: Writing, listening, Reading, and Speaking from an approved institution and:

4. As a part of your application, you are required to submit a short proposal that must **NOT exceed 1500 words**. This proposal must be aligned with the research themes that you are interested in carrying on for your thesis.

5. Candidates may be required to pass an invited **screening interview with** a panel of academic/s from the field. The panel will convene twice a year for one month each round to conduct interviews with selected prospective students.

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 based on [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme Aim(s)

The MRes in Management Studies is a specialist degree of research that aims to equip students with the skills that will enable them to contribute to the academic literature and/or contemporary management practice. It will provide students with approaches of a research-led teaching environment that will enable them to acquire the transferable skills they need to progress efficiently and effectively in the world of organisations and management. It will provide them with the essential knowledge of research philosophies, methodologies, and recent skills for literature analysis, and academic writing.

The programme aims to build students' analytical skills enabling them to foster in both academic and industry settings. Finally, this programme also aims to prepare those who wish to undertake a DBA / PhD in management and business within its broader branch of social sciences. It will allow students to understand the research mechanism by working closely with senior academics.

Programme Learning Outcomes

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

7.1 Demonstration of critical reflectivity and evaluation significant to the type of literature review adopted and justification of selection of materials that scope their work.

7.2 Make informed judgements that involve a synthesis of relevant fields of management studies and their associated theories to develop a deep knowledge of their organisational/professional situation.

7.3 Exploration and evaluation of literature in relation to the research area and the implications for their chosen field/research problem.

7.4 Identify, explore, inculcate, and interpret the various approaches of philosophical and methodological issues pertaining to contemporary research methods and techniques that are at the forefront of management and/or organisation research and theory.

7.5 Demonstration of critical development of arguments, justification of research approach and contribution to your chosen field/research problem.

7.6 Application of critical thinking and problem-solving skills in the identification of the changing environmental issues and how that may affect their chosen field/research problem.

7.7 Critically expand their awareness of the modes of engagement a researcher deploys in undertaking management studies research in various and ambiguous situations and their ethical implications.

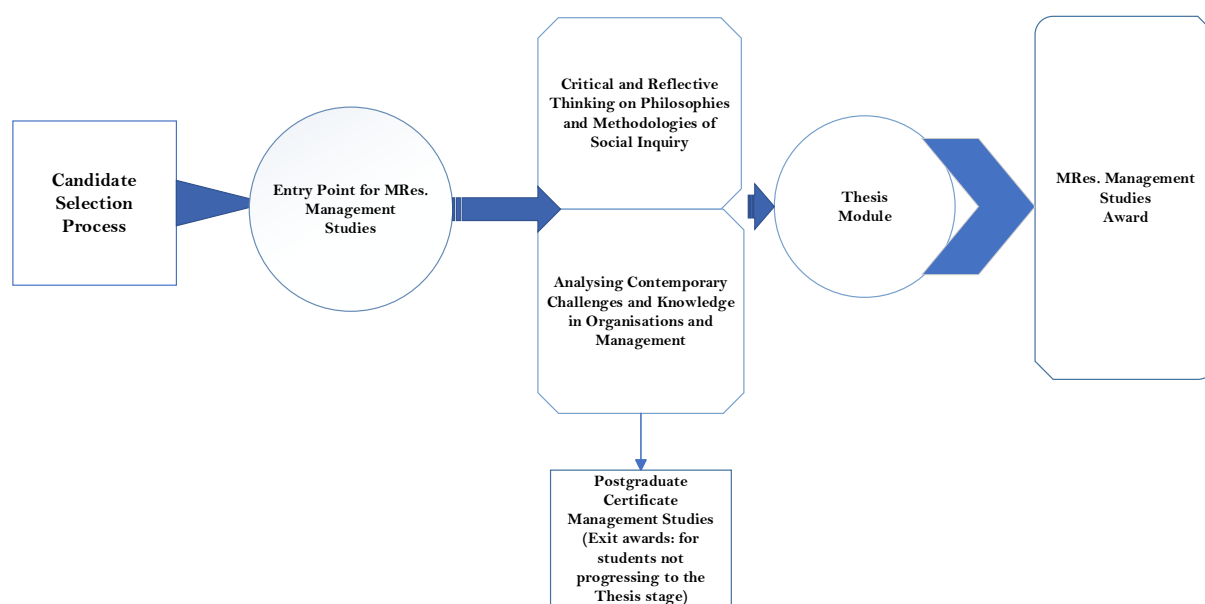
7.8 Demonstrate the academic skills appropriate to level 7, including the development of standards of oral and written presentation to sustain arguments, and the presentation of original questions to peers in professional and academic domains, as part of an international community of reflective practitioners.

7.9 Develop an interpretation of the research life cycle, as the basis to produce novel and independent research.

Programme structure

Full-Time Programme Structure (12 months)

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non- compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
MSR7001M	7	1	Critical and Reflective Thinking on Philosophies and Methodologies of Social Inquiry	30	C	NC
MSR7002M	7	1	Analysing Contemporary Challenges and Knowledge in Organisations and Management	30	C	NC
MSR7003R	7	2 & 3	Thesis	120	C	NC



Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The learning, teaching and assessment approach is based on the principles of learner-driven pedagogy, integrative curriculum design, and sustainable assessment, to develop the innovative professional and reflective practitioner. The programme is focused on developing an array of desirable graduate attributes, through inclusive and equitable teaching, learning and assessment practices, that prioritise students' experiences, cultures, and potential leaders of tomorrow. As a result, several tenets underpin the programme's design including:

- The use of active learning approaches, which are practical, authentic, and experiential in nature.
- Develop levels of responsibility, accountability, and autonomy over time
- Focusing on holistic competence, as well as programme content
- Encouraging reflection as an aid to learning

The programme recognises that students are likely to bring significant experience and knowledge, that can be shared, and subsequently shape the learning environment. Therefore, the programme's pedagogy is divergent, and rooted in research-based and inquiry-led learning. You may not have engaged in conventional education for some time or may never have formally studied a Master of Research at a postgraduate level. Thus, support with study skills, conventions of academic analysis and scholarly writing will be available throughout the programme.

All modules are designed and delivered utilising a range of teaching, learning and assessment techniques, including (online and/or video) lectures, workshops, seminars, debates, discussion forums and tutorials. By utilising a range of assessment practices, the programme will ensure an inclusive and individualised experience, through mechanisms such as portfolios, presentations, vivas, and project-based research. Academics will provide formative assessment opportunities and feedback/forward, to inform your work before submission. You will benefit from a variety of feedback modes (as appropriate to the method of assessment), encompassing verbal/audio, written/rubric, live/in-person and via individual and/or group techniques. Feedback received will detail how you can develop areas of research, subject knowledge, and professional practice.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [regulations for](#) research 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](#)

- [YSJU Research Degrees Regulations 2023-24](#)

Date written/revised: 3 July 2025 (revised)

Programme originally approved: