

## Programme Specification

### Award and title: Master of Research in Management Studies

|                                   |                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>School:</i>                    | London                                                          |
| <i>Subject area:</i>              | Management Studies                                              |
| <i>Entry from academic year:</i>  | 2027-28                                                         |
| <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>         | London                                                          |
| <i>Programme/s accredited by:</i> | Not applicable                                                  |
| <i>Exit awards:</i>               | Postgraduate Certificate Research Methods in Management Studies |
| <i>Mode/s of study:</i>           | Full-time (1 year)                                              |
| <i>Language of study:</i>         | English                                                         |

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## Introduction and special features

The primary objective of the MRes. in Management Studies (MSR) is to provide students with the opportunity to develop, extend, and enhance their personal, professional, and scholarly research capabilities. The programme is designed to create a rigorous and supportive research environment in which emerging researchers can critically explore contemporary and complex issues in the social sciences, particularly within the fields of management and business. Through engagement with established academics, industry professionals, and independent scholarly inquiry, students examine challenges affecting public and private organisations at local, regional, national, and global levels.

The programme integrates foundational and advanced theories, philosophies, and data analysis techniques relevant to Management Studies. It comprises a taught component (one-third of the programme) and a substantial independent research component (two-thirds), enabling students to acquire a comprehensive understanding of scientific inquiry and research design. The curriculum is structured to develop students' critical and reflective capacities, enhance their understanding of diverse philosophical and methodological traditions, and equip them with the ability to analyse and interpret complex data to investigate phenomena of academic and practical significance.

The first core module, *Critical and Reflective Thinking on Philosophies and Methodologies of Social Inquiry*, introduces students to key epistemological and ontological traditions, ranging from positivism and interpretivism to social constructionism and postmodern perspectives. This module enables students to critically evaluate how knowledge is generated and justified, and to examine the alignment between philosophical positions, research questions, and methodological choices. It also develops competence in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches to data collection and analysis, preparing students to design robust and ethically sound research strategies for their thesis.

The second module, *Analysing Contemporary Challenges and Knowledge in Organisations and Management*, focuses on critical engagement with current societal, environmental, technological, and economic challenges affecting organisations. Students develop advanced skills in literature searching, synthesis, and critical evaluation, and are introduced to systematic and narrative review techniques. This supports the identification of research gaps and the construction of conceptual and theoretical frameworks that underpin high-quality scholarly investigation.

The third module, the *Thesis*, constitutes the principal research component of the programme and runs across both semesters. Students undertake an original, independent research project under the guidance of an experienced supervisory team, and, where appropriate, with input from industry-based advisors. From the outset of the programme, students work with their supervisors to refine research questions, design methodologies, and conduct ethical, rigorous, and impactful research. The module culminates in the submission of a substantial thesis and the demonstration of advanced analytical, methodological, and academic writing skills consistent with Level 7 and doctoral preparatory standards. The curriculum is informed by principles of ethical practice and sustainability, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Throughout the programme, students benefit from close academic mentoring, research coaching, and access to specialist learning resources and wellbeing support services. Teaching is delivered by internationally experienced academic staff whose research expertise aligns with the diverse interests of the student cohort, fostering a vibrant and intellectually stimulating research culture.

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will have developed advanced research competence, critical thinking, and scholarly communication skills, equipping them for progression to doctoral study (PhD/DBA) or for research-informed professional and leadership roles. They will be able to critically analyse complex organisational problems, integrate theory and practice, conduct ethically responsible research, and produce high-quality academic and professional outputs that contribute to knowledge, policy, and practice within business and management contexts.

### **Admissions Criteria**

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

1. A 2:2 in Management Studies or a closely related discipline. Applicants whose first degree is not in Management Studies will be accepted on a case-by-case basis to ensure that they have covered sufficient levels of Management Studies and research methods during their first degree.
2. Applicants whose first language is not English should have IELTS at grade 6.5 or above (including a minimum of 6.5 in the writing component) or another acceptable English Language qualification.

### **Programme Aim(s)**

1. Equip students with advanced research knowledge, specialised skills, and practical experience in management studies to prepare them for a research career, enhance their personal and professional development, and address contemporary management challenges.

2. Foster essential research literacy and the capacity to critically interpret, evaluate, and apply evidence in management & business contexts, enabling students to become effective researchers and/or practitioners in fields such as leadership, strategic management, accounting, marketing and overall business context.
3. Provide an immersive research experience that emphasises rigorous methodologies and the potential for real-world impact, ensuring students can contribute to innovative solutions for contemporary challenges in organisation & management, both within the UK and internationally.
4. Develop the ability to engage with diverse stakeholders, including academic institutions, organisations, policymakers, and governmental bodies, to address complex challenges and promote evidence-based decision-making in management.
5. Prepare students for doctoral studies (DBA/PhD) or leadership roles in business & management by equipping them with transferable skills, such as effective communication, advanced data analysis, and research project management, to enhance their impact in academic, governmental, organisations and within the broader branch of social science.

### **Programme Learning Outcomes**

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

- 7.1 Display in-depth, extended, and specialist knowledge and understanding of a range of contemporary research methods, concepts, information, and techniques in relation to your field of study.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 Plan, manage, and complete novel, independent research by deploying appropriate designs and methods, considering research ethics, applying principles of research governance, and adhering to regulatory standards.
- 7.4 Demonstration of critical reflectivity and evaluation significant to the type of literature review adopted and justification of the selection of materials that scope their work.
- 7.5 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.
- 7.6 Communicate original research findings through proficient structuring, writing, and presenting complex ideas, analyses, and results while meeting contemporary standards for open, transparent, and high-quality research.
- 7.7 Demonstration of critical reflectivity and evaluation significant to the type of literature review adopted and justification of the selection of materials that scope their work.

- 7.8 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.

### Programme structure

| Code     | Level | Semester | Title                                                                              | Credits | Module status                  |                                         |
|----------|-------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|          |       |          |                                                                                    |         | Compulsory (C) or optional (O) | non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X) |
| MSR7001M | 7     | 1        | Critical & Reflective Thinking on Philosophies and Methodologies of Social Inquiry | 30      | C                              | NC                                      |
| MSR7002M | 7     | 1        | Analysing Contemporary Challenges & Knowledge in Organisations and Management      | 30      | C                              | NC                                      |
| MSR7004R | 7     | 2 & 3    | Thesis in Management Studies                                                       | 120     | C                              | NC                                      |

Please note that 30-credit modules must be passed at the relevant level to progress to the Thesis module.

### Learning, teaching and assessment

The MRes in Management Studies adopts a blended learning approach that integrates online learning activities with on-campus teaching, study days, workshops, seminars, discussion forums, debates, and personalised supervisory meetings. This delivery model creates a dynamic and supportive research environment informed by contemporary management scholarship and the research expertise of academic staff based at the London campus and associated research institutes at York St John University.

The programme is underpinned by a learner-centred and inclusive pedagogical philosophy, emphasising equity, academic integrity, and the development of advanced research capabilities within the fields of management and organisational studies. It promotes an interactive and collaborative learning culture in which students engage critically with peers, exchange knowledge, and develop professional research networks, thereby fostering a strong sense of scholarly community.

Teaching and learning strategies are grounded in active and experiential learning, enabling students to critically engage with theory and apply it to real-world and contemporary management challenges. Students are supported to progressively assume greater ownership of their learning and research, developing increasing levels of autonomy, independence, and intellectual confidence. Individual supervisory meetings provide tailored academic guidance, supporting the refinement of research design, methodological rigour, and scholarly writing.

Assessment is designed to evaluate students' theoretical understanding, critical engagement with core literature, and ability to apply research methods to complex management and

business contexts. Assessment tasks include critical reviews of published research and systematic literature reviews, which develop analytical and evaluative skills, as well as the completion of an original research thesis. The programme culminates in the submission of a 20,000-word thesis, through which students demonstrate advanced research competence and make a significant contribution to knowledge.

Feedback is embedded throughout the programme and delivered through a range of formative and summative mechanisms. Timely and constructive feedback supports students' academic development, enabling them to reflect on their progress, refine their research skills, and align their work with Level 7 and doctoral preparation standards.

Overall, the programme equips graduates with advanced research expertise, critical thinking, and professional scholarly skills, preparing them to address complex contemporary management issues and to make meaningful contributions to academic, professional, and policy-related contexts.

### **Progression and graduation requirements**

The University's [regulations](#) for taught postgraduate and research degree 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](#)
- [QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Code of Practice](#)
- [The University's Approach to Dignity and Respect](#)

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*Date written/revised: 27/2/26 (approved by RDC Chair's Action)*  
*Programme originally approved:*