

Programme Specification

Award and title: Master of Research in Business

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	York Business School
<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>	York
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods in Business
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full time (1 year) Part time (2 years)
<i>Language of study:</i>	English

Introduction and special features

York Business School comprises of a range of subjects including Business and Management, Accounting and Finance, Economics, Marketing, Fashion, and Tourism. Our Masters of Research in Business programme enables you to propose a thesis which sits within a distinct subject or which is interdisciplinary in focus. The study of Business provides opportunities for innovation and inclusive research and learning where emphasis is placed on intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and giving back, fulfilling responsibilities to our communities.

Our programme is designed to offer high quality training in the practice, methodologies and techniques of research linked to the broad discipline of business and management. This specialised Master's course will provide you with the skills to carry out high-quality research into business, management, diverse organisations and other related professional areas. The programme supports progression into doctoral degrees as well as providing a foundation for careers in research in the workplace, public or third sector or, indeed, academic life.

Working closely with a supervisor and supported with relevant courses in research methodologies and techniques; to build critical understanding of contemporary business issues, you will independently create an original piece of work. Our aim is to help you become a reflective researcher aware of the critical nuances and assumptions, key strengths and limitations of your research. You will become highly skilled in a multitude

of management and organisational research techniques and further readily able to apply this knowledge and understanding to new and diverse business domains.

Upon graduating, such experience and specialised knowledge will provide access to a wide variety of research-focused and/or employment opportunities. You will have capability to understand the nature of research to conduct and report on empirical research projects, answering key research questions through the design and application of appropriate methodologies, including qualitative, quantitative and experimental techniques.

You will work with academic staff who are internationally regarded researchers and inter-disciplinary practitioners. York Business School has a thriving research culture and infrastructure, and MRes students are central to this ethos and supportive framework, through a range of tailored PGR activities and School seminar series.

At York Business School, the principle of responsible business, policy and practice are central to everything we do. This vision helps us equip our students effectively with the skills to act as global citizens, capable of addressing the needs of our communities and society. As a member of the Chartered Association for Business Schools, we have strong links with industry. We are a Business School at the heart of York and North Yorkshire, but with a global perspective and will always strive to work collaboratively.

Core elements for MRes Business:

- a core teaching team of business, industry-focused experts.
- the specificity of a thesis proposed by you and the breadth of the programme of study.
- the study of a variety of research methodologies.
- the study of how your research project connects to the real-world.
- skills in collaborative working practice through workshop activity.
- skills in independent research through analytically focused modules.
- the opportunity to focus on independent research through the thesis.
- engagement with a research community of peers.
- the opportunity to engage with external partners across industry, public and third sector organisations.

Admissions criteria

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

A 2:2 in Business or a closely-related discipline. Applicants whose first degree is not in Business will be accepted on a case-by-case basis to ensure that they have covered sufficient levels of Business and research methods during their first degree.

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. The Master of Research in Business programme aims to equip you with an understanding of the research skills methodologies and techniques that will enable you to research in higher education.
2. The programme will aim to provide you with an understanding of the form and function of Business in the 21st century and how your work connects more broadly with business and management disciplines, with other academic disciplines and beyond the university.
3. The programme aims to prepare you in undertaking an extended research project which would be applicable to those wishing to undertake a PhD in a business and management related field or to apply these skills in a workplace context.

Programme learning outcomes

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

Level 7

- 7.1 To demonstrate critical understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies across Business and Management, including how onto-epistemic themes shape research design, methods, and the analysis and presentation of data.
- 7.2 To critically evaluate and systematically apply qualitative and/or quantitative forms of enquiry through an original and independent piece of advanced business and management research.
- 7.3 Identify, explore, and interpret research methodologies as they apply generally to Business and specifically to your project.
- 7.4 Critically examine how your research contributes to knowledge in your identified subject and how the skills and knowledge generated by your independent research can be applied outside the academy.
- 7.5 Synthesise theories and methodologies to engage with and apply discipline specific knowledge to real-world contexts, which is demonstrated via the production of an extended written thesis showing independent, novel research.
- 7.6 Demonstrate the academic skills appropriate to level 7, including the development of standards of presentation to sustain arguments in professional and academic domains, as part of a community of reflective practice.

Programme structure

Full-Time

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
YBR7004M	7	1	Contemporary Theories and Philosophies in Business	30	C	NC
YBR7005M	7	1	Research Methods and Techniques in Business	30	C	NC
YBR7006M	7	2-3	Thesis in Business	120	C	NC

Part-Time

Code	Year	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
YBR7004M	1	7	1	Contemporary Theories and Philosophies in Business	30	C	NC
YBR7005M	2	7	1	Research Methods and Techniques in Business	30	C	NC
YBR7006M	2	7	2-3	Thesis in Business	120	C	NC

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

Learning, teaching and assessment

The learning, teaching and assessment approaches used in the Master of Research in Business programme are based on the principles of learner-driven pedagogy to enable you to develop as a reflective practitioner within your specific discipline area, and with an understanding of business and management research methodologies and pedagogic approaches. The programme is focused on developing an array of essential graduate attributes, through inclusive teaching, learning and assessment practices. The programme design is informed by the following principles:

- The use of active learning approaches, which are practical, authentic, and experiential in nature.
- To develop levels of responsibility, accountability, and autonomy in relation to research.
- A focus on a broad understanding of research methods associated with a range of business and management disciplines and subjects and their application to your research project.
- To participate in current debates about business and management
- Encouraging reflection as an aid to learning
- Developing skills in and the application of knowledge to an extended research project.

The programme has been designed to recognise that you will bring significant experience and knowledge, that can be shared, and subsequently shape the learning environment. Therefore, the programme's pedagogy is diverse, rooted in research-based and enquiry-led learning. As is commensurate with Master's level research, seminar/workshops will be introduced and facilitated by academic staff but will be participatory from the outset. You will arrive on the MRes with an outline project identified (as part of your application) and this will form the basis of the first two taught modules. During these modules you will apply different methodologies to your project proposal.

The first taught module, 'Contemporary Theories and Philosophies in Business', will introduce a range of contemporary theories in business and management and critically evaluate a variety of underpinning philosophies and research paradigms and how these apply to real-world contexts. Students will explore how business and management theory shapes and reflects societal values, ethical debates, cultural attitudes and identities. This module will be assessed by a 5000-word portfolio.

The second taught module is 'Research Methods and Techniques in Business'. This module will introduce you to a range of research methodologies (including research ethics) to enable you to develop broad skills; evaluate the approaches essential to your research projects; identify why particular methods do not suit your research.

These two modules are intended to complement each other, with the first focussing on the development of the project, the second looking at the application and impact of the research. They are taught concurrently as a precursor to the Thesis in Business module. The thesis module is taught predominantly using a one-to-one supervisory model. The module will have periodic group workshops where you will bring your diverse projects together to share the experience of research with your peers. Workshops will include formative presentations of work in progress.

All modules are designed and delivered utilising a range of teaching, learning and assessment techniques, and may include (in person, 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 and project-based research.

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](#)

Date written / revised: 28 February 2025 / 9 May 2025
Programme originally approved: 03 March 2025