Est. 1841 | YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Programme Specification

Award and title: Foundation Degree in Operations Management

School:	York Business School
Subject area:	Business Management
Entry from academic year:	2026-27
in the month(s) of	September
Awarding institution:	York St John University
Teaching institution:	York St John University
Delivery location:	Online
Programme/s accredited by:	End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO)
Exit awards:	Certificate of Higher Education Operations Management
UCAS code / GTTR / other:	None
Joint Honours combinations:	None
QAA subject benchmark statement(s):	Business and Management (2023)
Mode/s of study:	Full time for two years plus EPA (typically 5 months) *Please note there is an additional month allowed for completion of the Gateway period resulting in an on-programme expectation of 2 years 6 months (approximately).* No less than 20% of the training will take place away from the usual working environment
Language of study:	English
Paired with Foundation Year	No
Study abroad opportunities:	No
Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:	No
Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?	No

---

Introduction and special features

The Foundation Degree in Operations Management is awarded upon successful completion of the Operations Manager Foundation Degree Apprenticeship (OMFDA). The OMFDA is a work-based distance learning programme. The Operations Manager Foundation Degree Apprenticeship at York St John University offers a unique opportunity to earn a Foundation Degree while gaining real-world experience through a nationally recognised apprenticeship. This programme is designed for professionals working in operational roles across sectors such as logistics, healthcare, manufacturing, local government, third sector, and professional services. A key strength of this programme is its alignment with Skills England priorities, its responsiveness to regional workforce needs, and its commitment to inclusive, values-led education. Apprentices graduate with the skills, knowledge, and behaviours needed to lead teams, manage change, and drive performance in complex operational environments.

York Business School is committed to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), a United Nations initiative that promotes responsible and sustainable business education. With a strong and sustained emphasis throughout on ethical practice and social responsibility, this programme ensures that apprentices are aware of their impact on people, society and the environment.

Special features:

- Dual Recognition: A Foundation Degree and the ST0385 apprenticeship standard, with the opportunity for progression into the final year of the Level 6 Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship (CMDA) on successful completion of 240 credits and End Point Assessment.
- Online Delivery: A fully online, day-release model that supports learners across the UK, removing geographic barriers and enabling access for working professionals.
- On-demand learning, enabling you to access educational resources and materials at your convenience. This flexibility enables you to tailor your learning experience around your schedule, increasing understanding and application of course content.
- Authentic assessment methods, offering you valuable opportunities to critically reflect on practices within your own organisations.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, you must:

- be 18 years or older, and ideally to have achieved a Level 3 (or equivalent) and Level 2 in English and Mathematics (or equivalents) prior to entry.
- be in full-time employment.
- have the full support from employers prior to application for the course.

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.

Functional Skills

It is a key requirement for those aged 18 or under at the start of your apprenticeship to have achieved Level 2 English and Mathematics prior to progressing through the programme Gateway to the End Point Assessment. If you cannot evidence attainment of GCSE English and Mathematics (Grade C or 4), or equivalent, prior to recruitment, you must undertake the Functional Skills test at Level 2 during the apprenticeship. This assessment will be undertaken via an external provider. You will be supported throughout the process.

You will be given a mock assessment (as an additional assessment) to identify gaps in knowledge and support needs and allocated support accordingly. This support may include 1:1 sessions; small group support; online materials and workbook activities. You will undertake a further mock assessment and when ready will be entered for the external assessment. If any further gaps are identified, further development activities will be set, and the process will continue.

Funding and support to complete Level 2 English and Mathematics is available to all apprentices, including those aged 19 or over at the start of their apprenticeship. This is discussed during the Initial Assessment, where employer and apprentice will have the opportunity to state their intentions.

Programme aim(s)

- Develop confident, ethical, and inclusive managers who can manage operational teams and drive performance across diverse organisational contexts and who effectively demonstrate the competencies, knowledge, skills and behaviours to enhance employability and career progression.
- Enable apprentices to apply academic theory to real-world challenges, fostering reflective practice, professional growth, and readiness for progression into senior leadership roles or further study.
- Enable you as a graduate to improve operations and management decision-making across a range of organisations with a clear understanding of the importance of diverse cultures and global issues.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:
(including KSB's from Apprenticeship Occupational Standard)

Level 4

4.1 Describe and explain a range of relevant concepts, theories, and models to the solution of operations management problems.
4.2 Describe and identify operations and business-based decisions in a variety of organisational contexts.
4.3 Demonstrate the ability to apply a range of academic and intellectual skills relevant to level four study including, information-gathering, analysis, and problem identification to operations management.
4.4 Demonstrate an awareness of individual competency requirements and professional development requirements of an Operations Manager.
4.5 Demonstrate the use of research skills to gather information.
4.6 Develop your own learning with guided support to explore a wide variety of learning resources, materials and self-directed learning opportunities such as reflective practice and personal development planning, demonstrating independence in own learning.

Level 5

5.1 Compare, contrast and evaluate a range of relevant concepts, theories, and models to the solution of operations management problems.
5.2 Analyse and discuss tactical operations and business-based decisions in a variety of organisational contexts.
5.3 Apply a range of academic and intellectual skills relevant to level five study including, information gathering, problem-solving, analysis, and evaluation, and demonstrate an increasing criticality of theory and practice.
5.4 Exhibit the development and achievement of professional skills in relation to communication, organisation and working with others from organisational and national cultures and backgrounds.
5.5 Demonstrate the use of research and enquiry to further their understanding.
5.6 Demonstrate independence and own learning to explore a wide variety of learning resources, online materials and self-directed learning opportunities such as reflective practice and personal development planning.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Block	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
BMO4001M	4	1	Understanding Your Organisation, People and Processes	20	C	NC
BMO4002M	4	2	Ethical Operations and Sustainability	20	C	NC
BMO4003M	4	3	Managing Budgets and Business Resourcing	20	C	NC
BMO4004M	4	4	Managing Organisational Activities and Change	20	C	NC
BMO4005M	4	Year	Developing Academic and Professional Skills	40	C	NC
BMO5001M	5	1	Developing and Managing Effective Teams	20	C	NC
BMO5002M	5	2	Risk and Finance Resource Management	20	C	NC
BMO5003M	5	3	Technological Innovations and Impact	20	C	NC
BMO5004M	5	4	Achieving Organisational Performance	20	C	NC
BMO5005M	5	Year	Operations Work Based Project	40	C	NC
BMO5006M	5		Operations Manager Work Based Learning End Point Assessment	0	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 40 in order to progress.)

Learning, teaching and assessment

This is an online programme and your learning is supported using a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) called Moodle that will provide all learning materials, resources and access to additional academic and pastoral resources and services. This VLE can be accessed using mobile technology and when offline. Throughout the programme, you will be learning in the workplace, undertaking continuous professional development, observing practice and taking part in mentoring sessions, performance reviews and building evidence of performance. You will utilise knowledge gained in the academic environment along with practical workplace experience to develop an understanding of all aspects of operations management.

Each year (Level) is split into four teaching blocks, each consisting of 10 weeks, with one 20 credit module being taught per block in addition to a yearlong module. (Please refer to figure 1 below.) Each block should have 10 days off the job allocation per 20 credit module. These days are made up of 3.5 hours online contact time each week plus guided learning activities and independent reading and resources to be undertaken during the day. This includes time to complete the summative assignment activities.

Figure 1: Sample Learning Journey

Level 4 Learner Journey				
Block 1	**Block 2**	**Block 3**	**Block 4**	**Development**
Understanding Your Organisation, People and Processes	**Ethical Operations and Sustainability**	**Managing Budgets and Business Resourcing**	**Managing Organisational Activities and Change**	*Study Skills* *Organisational and Time Management Skills*
Developing Academic and Professional Skills				

Level 5 Learner Journey				
Block 1	**Block 2**	**Block 3**	**Block 4**	**Development**
Developing and Managing Effective Teams	**Risk and Finance Resource Management**	**Technological Innovations and Impact**	**Achieving Organisational Performance**	*EPA preparation* *Developing Critical Thinking*
Operations Work Based Project				**Gateway**
				followed by EPA

The 20 credit modules taken in each block are designed to provide you with the opportunity to broaden knowledge in key areas of operations management and the blocks work together to build your knowledge and understanding. This approach enhances the learning enabling you to see the relationships between different aspects of business, promoting your knowledge, skills and behaviours in the subject area.

You will also undertake a skills-based module worth 40 credits in level 4. This year-long module will focus on your personal and career development needs. It will support you in identifying your levels of competence, using a range of diagnostic tools, and to identify the level of competence you should aim to have achieved by completion each year and your apprenticeship. In level 5, the 40-credit module requires completion of an Operations Management Project, that provides an opportunity to investigate an authentic, challenging, management project within your own organisation.

Each block begins with preparation and reading which includes online resources and suggested reading which will be available on Moodle to help you get ready for the upcoming sessions. Interactive activities will be provided to introduce the module's focus, helping you engage with the content from the outset. You will be expected to commit around 1 day per week (on average) Off the Job (OTJ) hours to your studies although this may vary to suit each individual.

By spreading out the delivery over a ten-week block, you are not overloaded with information in a short period. Instead, you will have time between sessions to reflect on what you have learned, consolidate your knowledge, and complete readings. This approach promotes deeper understanding of the material and the opportunity to apply the learning within the workplace. There is sufficient time available over each block to reach out to your module tutors with any questions or concerns you might have about the material. Assignments are authentic and require active participation and are designed so you can complete them progressively. Regular feedback opportunities are available to keep you engaged and ensure continuous learning.

An authentic assessment strategy for the Operations Manager Foundation Degree Apprenticeship programme has been designed to ensure that you acquire the relevant knowledge and skills at each stage of the programme. Each module includes opportunities for formative assessment and feedback, helping you refine your work before final submission. Detailed feedback on assessments will support development and continuous performance improvement throughout the programme.

You will be assigned a Work Based Learning Tutor (WBLT) who will be involved in all aspects of support provision throughout your apprenticeship. WBLTs also review initial skills scans (including individual plans for disabled students) and identify any needs emerging over the course of the apprenticeship, signposting to relevant services as deemed necessary. WBLTs will also discuss Learning Analytics or engagement behaviour (such as library use, e-resource/e-book access, assignment submissions, Moodle forum posts, Moodle quiz submissions, Moodle page views and Moodle logins). You will take part in tripartite meetings with your line manager (and mentor) and WBLT; these will be held every 10 weeks. The meetings will not be linked to teaching blocks or assessments. WBLTs support you throughout your programme, ensuring consolidation of learning in the workplace, and facilitating opportunities for experiential learning, leading to you building your portfolio of evidence for End Point Assessment, and development of the knowledge skills and behaviours of the apprenticeship standard.

You will use the University's assessment criteria to provide feedback and engage in reflective discussions on what is needed to achieve a higher grade. Additionally, you will receive ongoing feedback from both your peers and staff regarding your learning and development.

Advice will be available on further areas for research and guidance on enhancing knowledge of business and practice. The programme also offers study support, including academic writing and research skills, to boost employability and career development in the field of business.

End-point Assessment (EPA)
The end-point assessment is delivered and assessed across a zero-credit module. It is carried out by Independent Assessors from an external End Point Assessment organisation and consists of the following as set out in the Operations Manager Apprenticeship Level 5 standard:

- You will undertake a Work Based Project agreed with your Organisation, that represents the skills, knowledge and behaviours in the apprenticeship standard. The project must enable you to demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills to meet the outcomes in the standard, the approach to planning and completion of the project and the application of the behaviours.

- You will submit a portfolio of evidence, gathered and generated over the period of the apprenticeship which will provide evidence of your ability to apply and demonstrate management concepts. This portfolio will be reviewed by the independent assessor and will be tested against specific criteria, including knowledge, skills and behaviours from the apprenticeship standard.

All assessments must be successfully completed, usually, within a 5-month period after entering the end point assessment period. To allow the live assessment to be booked with the end point assessment

organisation, the portfolio and work-based project must be complete to be submitted alongside the evidence of Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English (where applicable under Skills England regulations) confirmation of the completion of the 240 credits of the apprenticeship, and confirmation of meeting other criteria such as working and operating as a Level 5 operations manager.

The End Point Assessment is assessed using Fail, Pass and Distinction criteria. The independent assessor will award marks based on their assessment of the portfolio, work-based project and the presentation and interview completed on the Live Assessment Day.

The overall grading of the end point assessment will not affect the overall classification for your degree; however, the degree classification and transcript will not be issued until end point assessment is completed.

Resits/retakes for the end point assessment are governed by the policy set out in the standard and resits are determined by the End-Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO).

Successful completion of the EPA will result in the achievement of the apprenticeship standard and the Operations Manager Foundation Degree Apprenticeship.

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. In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

- This programme does not permit the option to study part time to redeem progression failure in Level 4.
- This programme does not have the option for an automatic programme restart to redeem progression failure in level 4.

Eligibility for intended University awards

Apprentices must complete all the requirements set out in the apprenticeship standard and assessment plan (off-the-job learning (the academic qualification), on-the-job learning and end-point assessment (EPA)). If apprentices on a non-integrated apprenticeship have successfully completed their University credits but do not progress and attempt the EPA, they may not be eligible for a University award.

Further information on eligibility for University awards and graduation is available in the Apprenticeship Policy of The Code of Practice for assessment.

Eligibility for a CertHE exit award may be applicable in the following circumstances:

- The apprentice withdraws before progressing to level 5 but has successfully passed 120 credits at
- Level 4
- At level 5 semester 1, the apprentice fails some credit at 2nd attempt and cannot progress to
- semester 2, having already passed at least 120 credits (including 120 credits at Level 4)
- At level 5 semester 2, the apprentice fails some credit at 2nd attempt and cannot progress to Gateway, having already passed at least 120 credits (including 120 credits at Level 4)
- The apprentice withdraws before reaching Gateway or completing their End Point Assessment but has successfully passed at least 240 credits (including at least 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5).

Late result modules

This programme contains the following modules, where the result of the first attempt is not known in time for the June School Assessment Boards (or equivalent level progression point for non-standard entry points). This may delay progression to the next level of study.

- BMO4004M Managing Organisation Activities
- BMO4005M Developing Academic and Professional Skills
- BMO5004M Achieving Organisational Performance
- BMO5005M Operations Work Based Project

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
- Operations manager / Skills England
- Freedom of Speech Code of Practice
- The University's Approach to Dignity and Respect

Date written / revised: October 2025
Programme originally approved: 15 January 2026