

## **Programme Specification: MSc Audit Management and Consultancy**

**NOTE:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/bcbs>, (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

<b>Awarding Institution / Body:</b>	<b>Birmingham City University</b>
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	<b>Birmingham City Business School</b>
<b>Interim Awards and Final Award:</b>	<b>PG Certificate PG Diploma Masters</b>
<b>Programme Title:</b>	<b>MSc Audit Management and Consultancy</b>
<b>Main fields of Study:</b>	Internal Audit Environment Information Systems Auditing Internal Audit Practice Corporate Governance and Risk Management Financial Risks and Control Consultancy
<b>Modes of Study:</b>	<b>Full time Block Release Distance Learning</b>
<b>Language of Study:</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>JACS Code:</b>	

**Professional Status of the programme (if applicable):**

The programme is aligned to the qualifications of the Institute of Internal Auditors – UK and Ireland (IIA). The Course mirrors the structure of the IIA syllabus at PG Certificate and PG Diploma stages, students will then be able to progress to the Masters stage, in order to complete their MSc.

This continues the agreement with the IIA – accreditation for 5 years commencing 1 July 2010 was confirmed March 2010.

Success in 5 BCU examinations with at pass at 50% in both the assignment and examinations will provide for exemption from the relevant examinations at IIA as shown below.

**PG Certificate**

	<b>BCU Module success</b>	<b>IIA ref</b>	<b>IIA exemption awarded</b>
<b>Module 1</b>	Internal Audit Environment	P1	Yes
<b>Module 2</b>	Information Systems Auditing	P2	Yes
<b>Module 3</b>	Internal Audit Practice	P3	
<b>Module 4</b>	Financial Risks and Control	P4	Yes
<b>Module 5</b>	Corporate Governance and Risk Management	P5	

**PG Diploma**

	<b>BCU Module success</b>	<b>IIA ref</b>	<b>IIA exemption awarded</b>
<b>Module 6</b>	Strategic Management	M1	Yes
<b>Module 7</b>	Financial Management	M2	Yes
<b>Module 8</b>	Risk Assurance and Audit Management	M3	
<b>Module 9</b>	Advanced Internal Audit	M4	

**Masters**

	<b>BCU Module success</b>	<b>IIA ref</b>	<b>IIA exemption awarded</b>
<b>Module 10</b>	Consultancy	N/A	Not applicable
<b>Module 11</b>	Dissertation	N/A	Not applicable

**Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:**

The programme has been benchmarked to the QAA framework for Post Graduate studies.

## **Programme philosophy and aims**

**Explain the overall approach adopted by the programme and how it leads to the aims shown below:**

The programme is designed to equip existing and future Internal Auditors and potential entrants to the Consultancy field with the systematic knowledge, skills and expertise to deal with the post-recession issues of emerging businesses and new corporate plans, using the international standards and ethical standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors as a basis for study. This will be underpinned by a programme of academic study of theory relating to each module set within the context of Bloom's Taxonomy in which students will use the knowledge gained in each subject, apply it in order to analyse practical scenarios such that they may synthesise and evaluate the best outcomes from an internal; audit perspective.

This will enable participants to better understand the process of internal control, governance and risk management and hence, to critically evaluate existing processes and too make well informed and justified recommendations for their improvement. These skills and knowledge will enhance participant's career progression, personal status and support their application for remaining examinations with the IIA in order to gain professional recognition by the Institute.

The programme recognises that competent internal auditor professionals need not only a thorough knowledge of the subjects being studied but specific skills in terms of analysis, communication and negotiation in order to provide pragmatic advice and also effective control, governance and risk solutions to organisations.

The course will develop the interdependence between theory and practice through use of work based scenarios and practical examples of the application of auditing techniques across a wide range of industries and sectors and include presentations from Visiting Practitioners in each modular programme.

### **The aims of the programme are to:**

- 1.** Provide students and professionals engaged in internal audit and consultancy areas with an academic training programme that leads to academic and professional recognition.
- 2.** Provide internal auditors who need a fundamental understanding of auditing techniques with a facility for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in a form recognised by the leading professional body.
- 3.** Provide participants with critical insights into the internal audit environment and the increasing need for independent assurance through the appraisal of a number of practical case studies from different disciplines.
- 4.** Develop reflective internal audit practitioners and managers who can design and construct effective controls assurance frameworks to reflect the specific needs of an organisation.
- 5.** Enable students to communicate with staff from other professional disciplines regarding effective control, governance and risk management processes and actions.

**Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:**

Learning Outcomes	Teaching and learning methods
<p><i>Knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To recognise and demonstrate professional competence across a range of internal audit skills and knowledge understanding and application of the International Standards for Internal Audit contained within the International Professional Practices Framework published by the Institute of Internal Auditors Inc (IIA) along with the Code of Ethics.</li> <li>2. Apply a strategic understanding of the role of Internal Audit and promote its ability to add value and help an organisation achieve its corporate objectives.</li> </ol> <p><i>Intellectual skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. To critically analyse the risk, control and governance issues arising within an organisation or a specific operational activity and the relationship with the external environment through synthesizing theory and practice to design a range of solutions to critically assess the nature of control, risk and governance; with a view to providing appropriate advice that adds value and helps the organisation achieve its objectives.</li> <li>4. To demonstrate understanding and apply the concept of independence to the delivery of internal audit services.</li> </ol> <p><i>Practical skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. To evaluate and reflect upon the consequences of the provision of advice provided in a manner that demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement of business processes.</li> <li>6. To summarise thoughts and present</li> </ol>	<p>Students gain knowledge and understanding through attendance at lectures, visiting practitioners, use of the BCU VLE and through working with peers and the application of work/experience based activity.</p> <p>Core activity will reflect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Through delivery of lecture presentations on matters of the syllabus of the Institute of Internal Auditors – UK and Ireland.</li> <li>2. To encourage learning through the use of Action Learning Sets and Moodle based discussion forums to consider practical situations, past examination questions of the Institute of Internal Auditors and current events relevant to the internal audit and consultancy professions.</li> <li>3. Through provision of a virtual learning capability (Moodle) that reflects and supports the needs of each cohort of students (Full time, Block Release and Flexible Distance Learning). This will involve the use of copy slides, supporting material, video and audio clips, quizzes, electronic books, and links to relevant knowledge web-sites.</li> </ol> <p>A number of modules will further develop understanding and skills through active role play in relation to a range of practically based risk management examples.</p> <p>The provision of modular and personal tutor support to provide enhanced opportunities for formative feedback.</p> <p>The assessment techniques to be applied are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assignments</li> <li>- Presentations</li> <li>- Examinations</li> <li>- Learning Diary</li> <li>Advanced Case Study</li> </ul>

<p>them in an appropriate written, oral or pictorial manner in order to communicate effectively in a wide range of contexts and influence decisions, including at Audit Committee and Board levels.</p> <p><i>Practical skills</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. To exhibit high standards of professionalism and integrity.</li> <li>8. Pursue an independent line of approved research and present a cogent, reflective and creative analysis and discussion that evidences understanding of internal audit, risk management or governance in a chosen field.</li> <li>9. To apply Harvard referencing techniques.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Formative assessment</b> will include synthesis of learning units and techniques, using concept maps or other methods of interrogation, team work tasks and peer reviewed presentations.</p> <p>Students will be required to maintain a <b>learning diary</b> with a view to encouraging self-reflection of learning and the application of internal audit techniques and solutions.</p> <p><b>Summative assessments</b> will include a range of techniques which are detailed within each modular outline and recorded against the intended learning outcomes for that particular module.</p> <p>The culmination of the MSc programme is based upon completion of a 15,000 word dissertation which will demonstrate the students' cumulative achievement of all learning objectives and provide transferable skills that will enable effective work and career based understanding of risk matters and delivery of appropriate risk focused solutions.</p>
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## Learning teaching, and assessment methods used

### Learning

Course material will be supported by a full suite of Moodle lecture slides, notes and supporting material based upon material provided electronically by the IIA under licence and supplemented by complimentary material that. On the block release mode each module will be supported by one week's attendance at BCU. The Distance Learning module will consist of the Block Release material supported by video and audio aids and reinforced through quiz type exercises offering formative feedback on learning progress in order to help students gain a full understanding of the matters being raised within the more formal teaching method.

### Assessment

Each module will combine an element of formative assessment with a summative assignment, examination or Case Study for which specific assessment criteria will be developed.

## Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit values, and the awards which can be gained are shown in the diagram below.

### MSc Audit Management and Consultancy

<b>PG Certificate</b>	<b>PG Diploma</b>	<b>Masters</b>
The Internal Audit Environment 12 credits	Strategic Management 15 credits	Consultancy 15 credits
Information Systems Auditing 12 credits	Financial Management 15 credits	Dissertation 45 credits
Internal Audit Practice 12 credits	Risk Assurance and Audit Management 15 credits	
Financial Risk and Control 12 credits	Advanced Internal Audit 15 credits	
Corporate Governance and Risk Management 12 credits		

## Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered the following support as appropriate to meet those needs:

**Personal Course Tutor** for pastoral purposes.

**Module Tutor** for learning experience in relation to specific modules.

**Dissertation Supervisor** in relation to specific topics chosen for dissertation.

**Head of Centre** – additional support regarding successful completion of programme.

**Professional body** in relation to current issues and continuous learning.

**Criteria for admission**

Candidates must satisfy the general admission requirements of the programme.

The current admission requirements can be found under the 'Entry Requirements' tab of the web page for this course.

**Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students**

1. Student Course representatives in each year group.
2. Boards of Study.
3. Student questionnaires in relation to completion of each module.
4. Business School established modular evaluation reporting framework.
5. Module leader reports.
6. Living log of matters arising.
7. Annual Monitoring framework.