Birmingham City University
Faculty of Technology, Engineering and the Environment

Postgraduate Programme

Programme Specification

MSc Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Date of Course Re-approval	Version Number	Version Date
08 April 2011	1.01	May 2011

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Definitive Documents and Version Control

This document has a version number and reference date in the footer.

The process leading to the introduction of new courses, major changes to courses, and minor changes to courses and modules follows the appropriate formal procedure as described in the Faculty's Academic Procedures and Quality Manual.

On the front sheet of this document, the date of course approval/review refers to the most recent full approval/review event. The version date will be that of the most recent event at which formal consideration was given to course changes.

Further details about the course and document development may be obtained from minutes of the approval or minor changes board. A history of the document since the last full approval/review event is summarised in the table below and further information relating to past versions can be obtained from the Faculty Office.

Version	Event	Date of event	Authorised by
1.0	Approval meeting	08 Apr 2011	Dean of Faculty
1.01	Approval – meeting conditions	May 2011	Panel Chair

Programme Specification
MSc Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Date of Publication to Students: September 2011

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 https://mytid.bcu.ac.uk/, (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.

Awarding Institution / Body:	Birmingham City University
Teaching Institution:	Birmingham City University
Interim Awards and Final Award:	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma Master of Science
Programme Title:	Logistics and Supply Chain Management
Main fields of Study:	International Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Materials and Manufacturing Operations, Procurement and Operations Management, Enterprise Systems Management and International Business and IT Strategy.
Modes of Study:	Full Time, Part Time by Blended Learning
Language of Study:	English
UCAS Code:	N/A
JACS Code:	H700

Professional Status of the programme (if applicable):

Accreditation with CILT and CIPS is under discussion.

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

There are no specific subject benchmarks, however the FEHQ Master's degree characteristics, (September 2009) and the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, (August 2008) at level 7 have been consulted in the development of this programme. In addition the Skills for Logistics, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply curriculum standards will be applied where appropriate.

Programme philosophy and aims

The term logistics addresses every aspect of operation of product based and service industry sectors. Logistics can affect the operations from the initial design process and sourcing of the raw materials and bought in components to the long-term satisfaction of the customer. This is achieved by ensuring the supply of the right goods in the right quantity of the right quality at the right price to the right place at the right time. With companies facing ever-increasing competition coupled with the need to reduce waste and improve the overall service offered to customers from initial design to final delivery, the need for highly skilled Logistics practitioners and managers has never been more paramount.

Supply Chain Management addresses the main aspects of operations of both product based and service industries. It is concerned with the initial design process, sourcing of materials to the long-term satisfaction of the customer. Customer satisfaction is achieved by ensuring the supply of the right goods, in the right quantity of the right quality at the right price to the right place at the right time.

The aim of the course is to provide competent, innovative practitioners and managers with ability to apply the principles of International Logistics and Supply Chain management, Logistics and Enterprise System Management, Distribution and Materials Management and Manufacturing and Procurement Operations Management to the solution of operational and strategic supply chain problems in both industry and commerce. The postgraduate course provides an academic base that will contribute to the development of knowledge and an opportunity to apply that knowledge to real problems.

The postgraduate course is designed to allow maximum flexibility in delivery. The courses will allow employed students to decide themselves how best to study. The attendance mode and the duration of the course will be agreed to and takes the form of an individual learning review over 4 stages of the course.

The aims of the programme are to provide learners with:

- Essential knowledge and understanding of management principles.
- Generic management competencies including financial acumen, human capital development, emotional intelligence, knowledge management, information management and research methods in addition to the more specialised topic areas relevant to specialist area of study.
- A course of study that will extend them intellectually and practically according

to their abilities and to provide the opportunity to allow students to reflect on their learning.

- An opportunity to acquire skills in response to the market need for competent Logistics and Supply Chain practitioners capable of operating across multi national organisations embracing differing cultural dimensions.

- An opportunity to distinguish between supply and demand processes and determine appropriate techniques to manage each.

- A knowledge and full understanding of the breadth of capability in the latest software tools for facilitating multi-site logistics operations communications.

- An opportunity to demonstrate their skills as one of a new generation of Logistics and Supply Chain practitioners, with a wider, more creative, flexible skill set, including a good understanding of internal and external customer requirements.

- The skills and knowledge of new, emerging technologies, processes and production methods, and how to apply them across differing industry sectors.

- Logistics and Supply Chain practice and interpersonal skills necessary to liaise and work in operational teams, structuring their work and meeting the varying demands placed on them; as they would in the work place.

- A programme with an emphasis on active and participative education, including practical learning, problem based learning and group work which will develop their skills of analysis, synthesis, decision making and the ability to cope with new and unfamiliar problems.

- An opportunity to relate practical real life problem based learning to industry and commerce, then to apply new technologies and techniques to solve present and future problems, in an international arena.

- Skills to interpret the effect on managing projects of constantly increasing legislative controls globally, with particular respect to safety, legislation and environmental issues including reverse logistics and green supply chains..

- Techniques to examine appropriate methods to the analysis of human factors with regard to Logistics and Supply Chain practice.

- Knowledge of techniques to plan and manage Logistics and Supply Chain practice in order to achieve the specified objectives.

- An ability to handle uncertainty and ambiguity and deal with complex Logistics and Supply Chain practice issues.

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

Learning Outcomes

1. Knowledge and Understanding

On completion of the programme, students should be able to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge and understanding of concepts, theories and principles of operations and project management and professional practice in a logistics and supply chain management environment.
2. The skills of analysis, synthesis and decision-making in the resolution of logistics and supply chain management problems.
3. Logistics and supply chain management methodologies, innovation and creativity in management across the extended enterprise in a global arena.
4. The structure of industrial systems and how these systems may be used to meet the varying demands placed on companies.
5. Organisational configuration to achieve more rapid responsiveness to a changing global environment.

2. Intellectual Skills

On completion of the programme, students should be able to:

1. Argue rationally and draw independent conclusions based on a rigorous, analytical and critical approach to support an argument.
2. Write fully researched and referenced reports which evaluate both technical and management issues.
3. Synthesise theory and practice systematically and creatively to specify, design and implement effective solutions.
4. Demonstrate, in an analysis of a specified problem, a high level of competence and understanding of the data manipulation, information presentation and delivery.
5. Apply new technologies and techniques to solve present and future industrial and commercial problems nationally and internationally.

3. Practical Skills

On completion of the programme, students should be able to:

1. Access information from a variety of sources and appraise its suitability for master's level research.
2. Apply the knowledge, skills and methodologies of project management to the analysis and solution of complex problems.
3. Possess a defined body of knowledge, skills and understanding and analyse its relationships with conceptual frameworks and professional practice.

4. Reflect on personal attributes, both theoretical and practical, and modify approach to maximise learning opportunities.

5. Interpret and critically evaluate knowledge, concepts and ideas and/or forms of creative expression, to deliver a quality product or service.

4. Transferable/Key Skills

On completion of the programme, students should be able to:

1. Manage learning and self-development, including time management and prioritising of work when tackling and solving complex problems;

2. Communicate effectively in writing, orally and in presentations to specialist and non-specialist audiences;

3. Make effective use of IT including word and data processing packages, internet and electronic information sources;

4. Systematically research a topic, synthesise and critically evaluate data and information from a variety of web-based and traditional sources;

5. In cooperation with others, plan and implement tasks at a professional level and contribute to team goals through making sound judgements.

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Knowledge and understanding are acquired though formal lectures, tutor-led seminars and practical activities, and a range of independent learning activities. Emphasis is placed on guided, self directed and student-centred learning with a progressively increasing independence of approach, thought and process. This independent learning includes an element of peer review in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the learning.

Lectures are used to introduce subject themes, theories and concepts, which are further explored in seminars. Technology enhanced learning is used, where appropriate, through the provision of online resources, discussion forums and other activities. Advanced textbooks are used, together with professional e-library material and journal articles, in order to ensure that students develop a critical understanding of work at the forefront of their discipline. The module guides' direct students to a full range of resources, including books and journals, as well as specialised course-based material.

Analytical and problem solving skills are further developed using a range of appropriate 'real' and 'theoretical' case studies and problem-based learning scenarios.

Practical, sessions are used to develop practical skills and to place theory in a work-related context. The Module will be strongly student focussed with topics introduced and material delivered via the MSc Support web site and during tutorials. The support for the learning process will come from a variety of methods including formal tutorials, discussion groups, Laboratory workshops, invited guest speakers and

meetings.

Where appropriate the SAP TERP10 methodology will be considered and the use of case examples will provide the student with opportunities to identify solutions to real life or simulated real life cases.

Learners extend research skills ability, together with additional induction sessions, to develop the key skills of research, academic writing and time management required for study at masters level. These skills are further developed and placed into context by undertaking a major individual project.

Transferable/key skills are pervasive and incorporated into modules and assessments as appropriate, e.g. team-working skills are fostered via group activities. Learners are encouraged to plan their own work schedules and are required to meet deadlines. Reflection and self awareness are fostered throughout.

A range of assessment methods are employed, assessment criteria being published in each assignment brief. Knowledge and skills are assessed, formatively and summatively, by a number of methods such as coursework, examinations (seen and unseen, open and closed-book), presentations, practical assignments, vivas, online forums, podcasts, and project work.

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

The course is divided into eight taught modules of 15 credits and a Masters project of 60 credits. Students complete 60 credits for Postgraduate Certificate, 120 credits for Postgraduate Diploma and 180 credits for MSc. Each credit represents 10 notional hours of student learning and assessment.

The MSc programme is normally studied over one year full-time or two years part-time (one year and one term full-time for January start). Students may, if they wish, move between full and part-time modes of attendance. The academic year is divided into semesters of approximately 14 weeks each, which run from September to January and January to May.

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit ratings and the awards that can be gained are shown below.

Note: There are no pre-requisites; any combination of four modules will achieve an award. **Common modules are denoted by (c).**

MSc Logistics and Supply Chain Management Structure

Master's Project
The proposal and literature review will be completed in the research methods module in the first Semester. Students will be encouraged to undertake their dissertation in a work placement or a BCU Case Study Problem-based Investigation

Procurement and Operations Management (c)
15 Credits

Enterprise Systems Management (c)
15 Credits

Materials Management
15 Credits

Logistics and Distribution Systems (c)
15 Credits

Business & Information Strategy (c)
15 Credits

Developing Human Capabilities(c)
15 Credits

Research Methods & Professional Development (c)
15 Credits

International Logistics & Supply Chain Management
15 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:

- An induction programme dealing with orientation and the dissemination of essential information, including an introduction to PDP;
- A dedicated Learning Centre with open access learning materials, resources and full-time staff specialising in a variety of support areas;
- A Student Handbook, and extensive on-line resources, containing information relating to the University, Faculty, School, course and modules;
- Access to administrative staff and to academic staff, including the tutors and Course Director;
- Support staff to advise on pastoral and academic issues;
- Access to Faculty resources, including a range of IT equipment and the services of, and guidance from, IT support staff;
- Access to the University's Student Services, including those offered by the careers service, financial advisers, medical centre, disability service, crèche, counselling service and chaplaincy;
- Provision of resources for Professional Development Planning (PDP) to enable reflection on learning, performance and achievement and to plan personal, educational and career development. The university offers a range of on-line courses (http://www.moodle.bcu.ac.uk) to support PDP topics including: Reflection, Career & Employability, Action Planning, Self Awareness and Self Employment.

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

The following Faculty committees are involved in evaluation and enhancement of quality, standards and student experience:

- Board of Studies,
- Faculty Board and its sub-committees,
- Learning and Teaching Committee,
- Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee,
- Student Experience Committee.

Evaluation processes, in which students are involved, include annual course and module reviews, course review and re-approval events, professional body accreditation visits and external examiner visits. Mechanisms for student input include meetings with course tutors, feedback questionnaires, faculty and university student satisfaction surveys and representation on the committees referred to above.

Appendix A – Table of Common & Specialist Modules

Table of Common Modules		
Project Management	**MSc Logistics and Supply Chain Management**	**Quality Management**
Developing Human Capabilities(c) 15 Credits	**Developing Human Capabilities(c) 15 Credits**	**Developing Human Capabilities(c) 15 Credits**
Research Methods & Professional Development (c) 15 Credits	**Research Methods & Professional Development (c) 15 Credits**	**Research Methods & Professional Development (c) 15 Credits**
Master's Project 60 Credits	**Master's Project 60 Credits**	
Business & Information Strategy (c) 15 Credits	**Business & Information Strategy (c) 15 Credits**	
Developing Financial Capabilities (c) 15 credits		**Developing Financial Capabilities (c) 15 credits**

Table of Specialist Modules		
Project Management	**MSc Logistics and Supply Chain Management**	**Quality Management**
International Business & Marketing 15 credits	**Procurement and Operations Management 15 Credits**	**Applied Research Dissertation 60 Credits**
Project Management Methods 15 credits	**Enterprise Systems Management 15 Credits**	**Applied Research Methods 15 Credits**
Logistics Management for Projects 15 credits	**Materials Management 15 Credits**	**Customer Focussed Quality Management 30 Credits**
Operations & Process Management 15 credits	**Logistics and Distribution Systems 15 Credits**	**Business Centred Quality Management 30 Credits**
	International Logistics & Supply Chain Management 15 Credits	