

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	PgD Business Administration
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	N/A
Credit Structure ²	Minimum of 120 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Full time or Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	Up to 1.5 years full time Up to 3 years part time
Intended Award	PgD Business Administration
Named Exit Awards	PgC Business Administration
Entry Requirements ⁴	<p>Students will be required to have at least three years relevant work experience before starting</p> <p>Preferably students will hold a degree with a 2:2 minimum classification, but experience will also be considered.</p> <p>Will be required to supply two references. Preferably one academic and one from recent or current employment.</p> <p>Applicants will be asked to attend an interview</p>
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

This PgD Business Administration will allow you to engage in part of the Suffolk Executive MBA (SEMBA) whilst also allowing organisations to engage as a more cost effective CPD offering. Undertaking this qualification demonstrates determination to succeed in your chosen career and achieve your potential. With its distinctive nature the course aims to develop analytical and strategic management skills using concepts derived from a wide range of academic disciplines. With its flexible and practical nature, the PgD Business Administration is designed to fit in with existing career commitments, offering flexibility for managers and

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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senior leaders across several different industries and sectors who are wanting to boost their career prospects whilst continuing to work.

By offering an initial 120-credit option it allows students / organisations an opportunity to have a more in-depth understanding of how the Suffolk Executive MBA will begin to enhance a participant's ability to think critically. Whilst not being confined to which modules studied (which make up 120 credits) students are able to obtain their **PgD Business Administration**.

Students will be involved in live management issues through various projects and assessments, developing leadership and management skills, and undertaking both group-based and individual work. The blended approach to the PgD Business Administration teaching combines a multitude of different traditional classroom learning supported by additional forms of online learning and a Postgraduate Workshop Series. The Postgraduate Workshop Series aims to address a wide range of current management issues and offers an opportunity to discuss these themes with academics and practitioners.

At the University of Suffolk, we actively encourage students to fundamentally question generally accepted management and leadership understanding by drawing upon the full range of social scientific knowledge. Not only does this develop a greater awareness of the complex nature of organisations and their functions, but it develops the transferable skills of evaluation and analysis required of senior management. This enables students to respond creatively and effectively to the challenges presented by a global business environment, and to broaden the range of management responsibilities they undertake.

Course Aims

The overall aim of the overarching PgD in Business Administration is to develop the analytical and strategic management skills of the students using concepts derived from a wide range of academic disciplines thus enabling them to respond creatively and effectively to the challenges of the local and global business environment.

This overall aim embraces several distinct and individual aims.

- To provide a coherent and integrated course of study that will satisfy the needs of students and organisations operating within increasingly complex, dynamic and diverse external environments.
- To develop students' intellectual ability; based on analysis, synthesis and reflection, to analyse complex and changing environments.
- To enable students, in terms of personal efficacy, to plan, develop and implement responses to changing environments using an interdisciplinary approach to management.
- To enable students to identify sources of sustainable strategic advantage for an organisation but also to be more self-confident in managing and dealing with strategic level issues.
- To provide an opportunity for experienced specialists to broaden the range of management responsibilities they can undertake with confidence.

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Course Learning Outcomes

These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

By the end of the Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration course participants are expected to demonstrate the following:

1. A systematic, critically informed understanding of organisations and how they are managed.
2. The ability to apply relevant knowledge to dealing with complex situations while simultaneously exercising a sensitivity to extant relationships, cultural considerations and formal procedures elsewhere in the business or organisation
3. An understanding of appropriate techniques to allow thorough investigation of relevant business and management issues.
4. A practical understanding of how both established and evolving techniques of research and enquiry are used to generate relevant knowledge as well as an understanding of how that knowledge may be applied creatively.
5. Increased critical awareness and the ability to undertake analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory areas of knowledge and communicating the outcome effectively.
6. The ability to conduct research into business and management issues that requires familiarity with a range of relevant data in order to inform the learning process, as well as a level of conceptual understanding to critically evaluate published research in order to identify new or revised approaches to practice.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark: Master's Degrees in Business and Management (2023), and QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024).

Course Structure

Students will pick 120 credits (after discussion with course leader) from the Suffolk Executive Waterfront MBA, comprising modules at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level			
7	Finance for Non-Finance Leaders	15	M
7	Managing in a Changing Environment	15	M
7	Future of Work	15	M
7	Using Data in Decision Making	15	M
7	Marketing, Branding and Strategy	30	M
7	Leadership & Organisational Behaviour	30	M

Awards

On successful completion of a minimum of 120 credits, students will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgC Business Administration on completion of 60 credits

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full time will have 3.5 tutor-structured learning hours per week for 4 weeks (on Wednesday 17:00 – 20:30) and 2 Saturdays (10:00-16:00) (block delivery) per 30 credit module equalling 26 hours of tutor-structured teaching. 15-credit modules run similar to the above but with 1 Saturday 20 hrs of tutor structured learning. Three modules will be studied each semester. Students studying part time are likely to pick and choose modules as they see fit, but with the recommendation of them aiming to complete 2 modules a semester. Blended Delivery is a mode of study which encompasses both online and face to face learning. Students receive access to online learning materials and a module leader for each class studied. Students primarily attend campus for the face-to-face element, whilst also accessing online material to act as a signpost / guide you towards more in-depth exploration of the subject. Tutor-structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars, and practical activities. Full-time students will normally be expected to undertake 24 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

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Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assessing each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be 100% coursework (depending on module choice this could include presentations, essays, reports, a podcast recording, group work, and research projects).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,990 per year
Part-time UK	£1,665 per 30-credit module
Full-time International/EU	£16,020 per year
Part-time International/EU	£2,670 per 30-credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur other costs for books and other learning materials amounting to approximately £200 per year.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).