University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**Suffolk MBA (SMBA)**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 7**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM)** **Chartered Management Institute (CMI)**
Credit Structure[2]	**180 Credits at level 7**
Mode of Attendance	**Full-time and Part-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**1 year full-time** **2 years part-time**
Intended Award	**Suffolk Master of Business Administration** **Suffolk Master of Business Administration (Marketing)** **Suffolk Master of Business Administration (Leadership)**
Named Exit Awards	**PgD Business Administration** **PgC Business Administration**
Entry Requirements[4]	• **Requires students to hold a degree with a 2:2 minimum classification or international equivalent** • **Students will be required to have a minimum of 1 year's business experience** • **Applicants to supply a reference**
Delivering Institution	**University of Suffolk**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Suffolk MBA course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2026-27 academic year[5].

Course Summary

The Suffolk MBA here at the University of Suffolk offers business knowledge at a senior level of management and advances leadership skills. 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 Suffolk MBA is designed to fit in with existing career commitments, offering flexibility for managers and senior leaders across several different industries and sectors who are wanting to boost their career prospects whilst continuing to work.

Students will be involved in live management issues through various projects and assessments, developing leadership and management skills, and undertaking both group-

[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.

based and individual work. The blended approach to the Suffolk MBA combines a multitude of different traditional classroom learning supported by additional forms of online learning.

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 SMBA 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.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the Suffolk Master of Business Administration course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. 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 SMBA 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. The awareness and ability to both marshal and manage the implications of ethical dilemmas and work proactively with others to formulate appropriate solutions to these dilemmas.
4. A critical awareness of both current and prospective issues in business and management informed by leading edge research and practice in the field with a focus on marketing or leadership.
5. An understanding of appropriate techniques to allow thorough investigation of relevant business and management issues.
6. 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.
7. Increased critical awareness and the ability to undertake analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory areas of knowledge and communicating the outcome effectively.
8. 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.
9. The ability to navigate the challenges of working under pressure in a group as either member or leader, where appropriate.
10. The ability to communicate complex data effectively, both orally and in writing, and to demonstrate professionalism and proficiency in the use of relevant media.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark:

Business and Management (2023), the updated (2019) version and QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024).

Course Structure

The Suffolk MBA comprises 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.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 7			
7	Finance for Non-Finance Leaders	15	M
7	Managing in a Changing Environment	15	M
7	Future of Work	15	M
7	Data in Decision Making	15	M
For the Suffolk Master of Business Administration award			
7	Leadership & Organisational Behaviour	30	M
7	Marketing, Branding and Strategy	30	M
7	Management Project	60	M
For the Suffolk Master of Business Administration (Marketing) award			
7	Leadership & Organisational Behaviour	30	M
7	Marketing, Branding and Strategy	30	M
7	Management Project (Marketing)	60	M
For the Suffolk Master of Business Administration (Leadership) award			
7	Leadership & Organisational Behaviour	30	M
7	Marketing, Branding and Strategy	30	M
7	Management Project (Leadership)	60	M

The optional recovery modules are only available in the exceptional circumstances where a student must retrieve credits or where a standard optional module cannot be delivered.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, depending on module selection students will be awarded either a Suffolk Master of Business Administration, Suffolk Master of Business Administration (Leadership), or a Suffolk Master of Business Administration (Marketing),

Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Business Administration on successful completion of 120 credits, a PgC Business Administration on successful 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 (Wednesday evening 17:00-20:30) plus 2 Saturdays (10:00 _ 16:00) (block delivery) per 30 credit module, equalling 33 hours (6 weeks) of face-to-face teaching.

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

A 15 credit module will consist of 16.5hrs of face to face teaching (3 Wednesday evenings and 1 Saturday). There will be three modules studied each semester (along with management project throughout the programme). 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 hours 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.

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 (including live projects, essays, reports, a vlog recording, a viva, 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 the Suffolk MBA will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£14,976 per year
Part-time UK	£2,496 per 30 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£18,288 per year
Part-time EU/International	£3,048 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.