

University of the West of Scotland
Postgraduate Programme Specification
Session: 2024/25

Named Award Title:	MSc Human Resource Management
Award Title for Each Award:	PgCert Human Resource Management PgDip Human Resource Management MSc Human Resource Management

Date of Validation / Approval:	June 2024
Details of Cohorts Applies to:	September 2025 Commencement
Awarding Institution/Body:	University of the West of Scotland
Teaching Institution(s):	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination:	English
Award Accredited By:	Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development (CIPD)
Maximum Period of Registration:	
Duration of Study:	12 - 18 months
Mode of Study:	Full Time Part Time
Campus:	Paisley
School:	School of Business & Creative Industries
Programme Board:	Management, Organisations & People
Programme Leader:	Catherine Clark

Admission Criteria

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

Appropriate Undergraduate Qualifications

First or second-class Honours degree, or equivalent, in social science or business-related disciplines. Applicants with a non-business related degree but with significant professional experience in Human Resource/People Management will also be considered.

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

Applicants may also be considered with other academic, vocational or professional qualifications deemed to be equivalent. Relevant professional experience will be considered at the discretion of the Programme Leader.

Further desirable skills pre-application (i.e. to satisfy additional PSRB requirements or other)
IELTS overall score 6.0 with no element below 5.5, or equivalent UKVI recognised English language qualifications.

General Overview

The BA(Hons) Business & HRM at the University of the West of Scotland is a highly specialist degree programme, designed to support and develop current and future professionals in human resource and people management.

In line with the UWS Curriculum Framework, aiming for flexibly (using best-in-class technologies and pedagogies, meeting the learning needs of students in contemporary Scotland) and inclusive (recognising the diversity of the student body, and the need to be accessible to all) education, the programme is designed around the various needs of our diverse student body. This means the programme is offered on a full- and part-time basis across all four years.

The programme has been accredited by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) (PENDING), and therefore meets the highest standards in the profession of human resource and people management. For that reason, the programme design is driven by the CIPD Core Knowledge and Core Behaviour, in line with the CIPD CPD Map, as outlined below:

- **Core knowledge:** People Practice; Culture and Behaviour; Business Acumen; Analytics and Creating Value; Digital Working; and Change.
- **Core behaviour:** Ethical Practice; Professional Courage and Influence; Valuing People; Working Inclusively; Passion for Learning; Insights Focused; and Situational Decision Making; Commercial Drive.

Upon successful completion of the MSc students will qualify for Associate membership from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). Furthermore, both the university and the programme aim at making a contribution not only to the Human Resource/People Management profession, but also to communities and the wider society. This is nurtured by a pro-active approach towards incorporating the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG), with a focus on the following:

- **UNSDG 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- **UNSDG 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

The aim of working towards achieving these principles are embedded throughout the entirety of our HRM degree programme at UWS, and through the provision of the opportunity to develop requisite knowledge, critical thinking and skills. The programme has been designed to deliver up-to-date practical and professional skills, underpinned by appropriate academic theory. This is fostered by a comprehensive learning journey, supported by a clear programme structure — in line with UWS' Curriculum Framework, aimed at delivering simple, coherent and authentic education. The MSc Human Resource Management programme is structured as follows:

- **Term 1: The HRM/People Management Environment**
 - In term one students develop a professional foundation and understand the generalist HRM role. Students explore the contemporary context of HRM and its implication for professional practice, develop skills necessary for an HR professional; and explore the various facets and functions of HRM and its role in change management.
- **Term 2: HRM/People Management in Organisations:**
 - Term two focuses on the specialism within HRM. Students have the opportunity to explore the specialisms of employment relations, reward and performance, and talent management in greater depth. This allows them to build on the professional skills and generalist knowledge developed in term one. They are also prepared for undertaking their dissertation with a research skills module.
- **Term 3: Researching HRM/People Management:**
 - In term three, students exclusively focus on their MSc Project. Students are supported and guided in developing an original piece of research. This allows them to further pursue a specialism, explore an industry of interest, or examine a contemporary issue in HRM. Students academic and professional skills are further developed as they work independently to achieve this.

Therefore, the programme takes a strategic approach to developing skills and knowledge, throughout which it develops students' intellectual and imaginative understanding and judgement, the ability to resolve problems effectively and the ability to recognise the relevance of a wide variety of approaches fundamental to People/Human Resource Management.

The programme engenders an analytical and creative approach, encourage independent judgement and critical self-awareness all directed towards continual improvement in the Human Resource/people management areas.

In line with the University's Curriculum Framework, the MSc Human Resource Management utilises a range of learning, teaching and assessment methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved - fostered by the university's contemporary approach to hybrid learning. This approach exposes students to the wide range of learning, teaching and assessment methods in order to assist in the development of a variety of skills within students and to achieve a wide range of learning outcomes.

Furthermore, the programme aims at providing a meaningful balance between academic knowledge and employability-focused skills within its assessment strategy. This includes the use of written assignments, presentations, assessment centres/in-trays, role plays, vivas, among others.

Students studying for a single title in Human Resource Management are expected to achieve all of the learning outcomes of this programme. The programme is delivered on a full-time basis and is completed in 12/15 months (depending on term of commencement). The part-time programme is delivered during the day and can be completed on a flexible basis.

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

Upon completion of the course, students will have attained SCQF level 11 skills in relation to employment and PDP. In knowledge and understanding and practice, cognitive skills, communication, ICT and numeracy, and in autonomy, accountability and working with others.

The processes of reflection and independent learning are strongly emphasised with the HRM discipline and this programme will endeavour to support student develop these skills. As a graduate from UWS you will be:

- **Universal** - globally relevant with comprehensively applicable abilities, skills and behaviours.
- **Work ready** - dynamic and prepared for employment in complex, ever-changing environments which require lifelong learning and resilience.
- **Successful** - as a UWS graduate with a solid foundation on which to continue succeeding and realising your potential, across various contexts.

Through studying and graduating from UWS, you will develop attributes across three dimensions:

- **Academic** - knowledge, skills and abilities related to high-level academic study.
- **Personal** - qualities and characteristics of well-rounded, developed, responsible individuals.
- **Professional** - skills, aptitudes and attitudes required for professional working life in the 21st Century.

The underpinning attributes are developed through the key skills and competencies you will learn as part of your postgraduate degree programme.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

There are no formal arrangements for Work-based learning and/or placement opportunities. However, we support our students in obtaining relevant work experience which will, however, not be credit-bearing.

Engagement

In line with the [Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure](#), Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on the VLE, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link:
[UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code](#).

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards ([Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework](#))

A. SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)

Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)

Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key theories, concepts and principles on Managing and Leading People including within the context of an HRM perspective.
A2	Display a critical awareness of the current issues relevant to Business Performance, Strategic Management and Managing Business Information.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Use a significant range of specialised techniques and applications relevant to the skills required in the Human Resource Management profession and in the Strategic Business Environment.
B2	Practice a range of skills such as dissemination and analysis of case material within the Business Environment and Human Resource Management.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Communicate to a range of audiences, using oral and written means, academic and applied material within the Strategic Business Environment and Human Resource Management.
C2	Utilise a range of software and numerical skills to enhance synthesis and analysis of key Business Environment and Human Resource Management concepts.
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Apply critical analysis and evaluation to key issues within Human Resource Management and the Strategic Business Environment.
D2	Review and judge academic and applied case material within the Human Resource Management and Strategic Business Environment.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in learning through the programme curriculum.
E2	Engage in group-based exercises, demonstrating responsibility for self and others in the pursuit of joint learning goals.

Learning Outcomes – Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

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* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

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Learning Outcomes - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

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Level 11 – Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Criteria for Progression and Award

Students completing any 60 credits of taught modules (excludes MSc Project (HRM)) are eligible for the exit award of the Postgraduate Certificate Human Resource Management.

Students completing all 120 credits of taught modules (excludes MSc Project (HRM)) are eligible for the exit award of the Postgraduate Diploma Human Resource Management.

Students completing all 180 credits are eligible for the exit award of the MSc Human Resource Management.

Students may be given an exit award of PgC/PgD in Combined Studies where a student has met the credit requirements for an award in line with SCQF credit minima (see Regulation 1.21), but cannot continue on the named award (HRM).

Level 11 – Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)
 Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)

Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate extensive detailed and critical knowledge of the key general and specialised sub-disciplines within Human Resource Management.
A2	Demonstrate detailed and critical knowledge of a range of specialised theories, principles and key concepts in the related specialist disciplines.
A3	Demonstrate a critical awareness of current issues in Human Resource Management, International Human Resource Management and Leadership.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Use a significant range of specialised skills, techniques, practices and / or materials that are at the forefront or informed by forefront Human Resource Management developments.
B2	Plan and execute a piece of secondary and primary research leading to a management research report.
B3	Demonstrate originality and creativity in analysing applied case material within a wide range of specialised Human Resource Management disciplines.
B4	Demonstrate the ability to reflect on learning and engage in continuing professional development.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Communicate fluently to peers and tutors, conveying knowledge, analysis and interpretation of academic and applied material within Human Resource Management.
C2	Utilise a wide range of software to enhance analysis.
C3	Undertake critical evaluations of a wide range of numeric and graphical data relating to International Human Resource Management.
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Identify, conceptualise and define new and abstract problems within Human Resource Management theory and practice.
D2	Develop original and creative responses to the analysis and synthesis of material.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Demonstrate leadership and accountability in terms of independent learning and joint learning initiatives.
E2	Demonstrate critical reflection regarding individual and peer roles and responsibilities.
E3	Deal with complex ethical and professional issues and make informed judgements on issues not addressed by current Human Resource Management professional and/or ethical codes of practice.

Learning Outcomes – Postgraduate Certificate (PgDip) Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

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Learning Outcomes - Postgraduate Certificate (PgDip) Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

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Level 11 – Postgraduate Certificate (PgDip) Criteria for Progression and Award

Students completing any 60 credits of taught modules (excludes MSc Project (HRM)) are eligible for the exit award of the Postgraduate Certificate Human Resource Management.

Students completing all 120 credits of taught modules (excludes MSc Project (HRM)) are eligible for the exit award of the Postgraduate Diploma Human Resource Management.

Students completing all 180 credits are eligible for the exit award of the MSc Human Resource Management.

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Masters

Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)

Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate extensive, detailed and critical knowledge of the literature within Human Resource Management with advanced knowledge in at least one of specialist areas.
A2	Display awareness of current issues in both mainstream and specialised disciplines within Human Resource Management.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Plan and execute a significant piece of secondary and primary research within International Human Resource Management and write this up in dissertation format.
B2	Within this apply a range of standard and specialised research instruments and techniques of enquiry.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Utilise a range of written skills to compare and contrast literature and to report on research findings.
C2	Use appropriate software to analyse data.
C3	Undertake a range of critical evaluations of a range of numerical and graphical material.
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Critically review, consolidate and extend knowledge, skills, practices and thinking through the production of a dissertation in the field of Human Resource Management.
D2	Demonstrate analysis of complex issues and make informed judgements in the absence of complete or inconsistent data/information.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Demonstrate the ability to interact with supervisors in an effective manner.
E2	Demonstrate critical and reflective practice on own and others' roles and responsibilities.
E3	Deal with complex ethical and professional judgements on key issues.

Learning Outcomes – Postgraduate Certificate (Masters) Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	HURM11001	HRM in Context	20	✓			
11	HURM11002	HR Professional Skill	20	✓			
11	HURM11009	The HR Generalist	20	✓			
11	HURM11004	Resourcing and Managing Talent	20		✓		
11	HURM11005	Reward and Performance Management	20		✓		
11	TBC	Research Methods & Skills (shared)	20		✓		
11	HURM11007	MSc Project (HRM)	60	✓	✓	✓	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

On successful completion of the Pg Diploma element of the programme, students will have the opportunity to undertake a significant piece of research which will form the basis of their master's dissertation. The dissertation coordinator will allocate a supervisor based on the topic in question. Students are entitled to 10 hours of supervision time, and the length of the dissertation should be circa 15,000 words.

Students who have completed the HRM Project module will have undertaken a number of workshops/classes to support this research process. This will be supplemented at the dissertation stage by a number of front-loaded workshops on research paradigms, philosophies and approaches.

Learning Outcomes - Postgraduate Certificate (Masters) Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

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Level 11 – Postgraduate Certificate (PgDip) Criteria for Progression and Award

Students completing any 60 credits of taught modules (excludes MSc Project (HRM)) are eligible for the exit award of the Postgraduate Certificate Human Resource Management.

Students completing all 120 credits of taught modules (excludes MSc Project (HRM)) are eligible for the exit award of the Postgraduate Diploma Human Resource Management.

Students completing all 180 credits are eligible for the exit award of the MSc Human Resource Management.

Students may be given an exit award of PgC/PgD in Combined Studies where a student has met the credit requirements for an award in line with SCQF credit minima (see Regulation 1.21), but cannot continue on the named award (HRM).

Regulations of Assessment

Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the [University Regulatory Framework](#).

An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework.

To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

Combined Studies

There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School. Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61).

For students studying at Level 11, they will normally be eligible for an exit award of PgCert / PgDip / Masters in Combined Studies.

Change/Version Control

Changes made to the programme since it was last published:

What	When	Who
Updated Links: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Engagement Procedure• Equality and Diversity• University Regulatory Framework• Removed invalid links	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 2023-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor

General housekeeping to text across sections and addition of links and some specific guidance. Addition of Duration of Study and some other text – for CMA.	12/12/23	D Taylor
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Version Number: PG1 (2023/24)