Undergraduate Programme Specification

Session	2026/27	**Last Modified**	4/2026
Named Award Title	BA (Hons) Business		
Award Title for Each Award	BA (Hons) Business BA Business DipHE Business CertHE Business		
Date of Approval	March 2022		
Details of Cohort Applies to	All students who entered at SCQF Level 9 or above		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	**Teaching Institution(s)**	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination		English	
Award Accredited by		n/a	
Maximum Period of Registration		Refer to Authorised Interruption Guidance Notes (uws.ac.uk)	
Duration of Study			
Full-time	4 years	**Part-time**	Typically 6 years
Placement (compulsory)	n/a		
Mode of Study	☒ Full-time ☒ Part-time		
Campus	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☒ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☒ Other (specify) Dumfries and Galloway College (SCQF Level 9 and 10)
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Divisional Programme Board	**Management, Organisations People**		
Programme Leader	W Kwiatkowski		

Admissions 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:

SQA National Qualifications:

Or GCE

Or SQA National Qualifications / Edexcel Foundation

Level 9 entry:
HND: in Business, Business Management, Administration & IT; Events Management; graded unit not required

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

Level 9 entry:
DUT: in a business-related subject

Further desirable skills pre-application
Applications can also be submitted by applicants who do not meet the above criteria but have relevant experience under the University's Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning provisions (see reg. 2.13 of the UWS Regulatory Framework).
For applicants whose first language is not English, reg. 2.12 of the UWS Regulatory Framework sets out the English Language Requirements in terms of IELTS.

General Overview
The BA (Hons) Business programme at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) offers you the opportunity to study towards a degree that is designed to meet the needs of today's employers in a complex and ever-changing contemporary business environment, which is defined by the need to balance people, planet, and profit, as well as growing expectations of fair, transparent, sustainable and ethical behaviour. Irrespective of whether you aspire to work in industry, government, or non-governmental sectors, in a small, medium or large organisation, locally or across the globe, you will have the opportunity to earn a qualification that will prepare you for these challenges. Alternatively, it will prepare you for further study at a postgraduate level or pursuit of professional qualifications (e.g. Charted Management Institute, Charted Institute of Personnel and Development, Chartered Institute of Marketing) in your chosen specialist area.

In line with the UWS Curriculum Framework, the programme is committed to the use of leading pedagogical approaches and teaching technologies. It also recognises the diversity of our student body and its needs. Reflective of the latter, it is offered on both full-time and part-time basis, with part-time students attend daytime classes with full-time students. Relatedly, it deliberately employs a wide range of teaching and assessment methods, as well as encourages reflective learning. In doing so, it facilitates development of a wide range of transferable skills (e.g. critical thinking, problem solving, verbal and written communication skills, presentation skills, digital skills, teamwork, leadership, research) that will help you stand out in the eyes of employers or assist you in becoming an entrepreneur.

In terms of subject matter knowledge, the programme has been designed to help you develop awareness of the role of businesses and other organisations in society, understanding of key business functions (e.g. accounting and finance, human resources management, marketing), and knowledge of other specialist areas relevant to businesses and other organisations (e.g. strategy, leadership, ethics, sustainability, innovation, technology). Your learner journey with follow the route outlined in the programme structure:

- Year 1 - Foundations of business and the business environment:

You will gain awareness of the role organisations play in modern societies, as well as acquire fundamental understanding of key business functions, including accounting and finance, human resources management and marketing.

- Year 2 - Business functions, operations and ethics:

Building on your learning from the previous year, in the second year of your studies, you will develop further your understanding of key business processes, whilst also developing knowledge in the areas of sustainability, ethics and digital workplaces.

- Year 3 - Business strategy and leadership:

Alongside developing an understanding organisational strategy, organisational culture and leadership, you will elevate your awareness of contemporary business issues, as well as develop an understanding of research methods that will prepare to undertake an honours research project in the final year of your studies.

- Year 4 - Business research project and specialist subjects You will develop knowledge of further specialist areas, including social innovation, organisational change and knowledge management, as well as work with a supervisor to complete your honours dissertation.

Each year you will have access to a range of optional modules that will enable you to tailor your education to your interests and career aspirations.

If you would like to know more about the programme, please email us at askbabusiness@uws.ac.uk.

Typical Delivery Method

Full-time students will typically be expected to attend 9 hours of on-campus sessions per week. Sessions will typically run for 12 weeks in each taught term.

Part-time students will attend daytime classes with full-time students, with the exact number of hours to attend on campus each week determined by individually agreed study plans.

Any additional costs

n/a

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

Learning outcomes throughout the programme have been designed to ensure that, in addition to acquiring subject matter-related knowledge, students will have the opportunity to develop skills and attributes that are most valued by employers.

As a graduate from UWS you will be:

- Universal - globally relevant with widely applicable abilities, skills and behaviours;
- Work ready - dynamic and prepared for employment in complex, ever-changing environments which require lifelong learning and resilience;

• Successful – have a solid foundation on which to continue succeeding and realising your potential, across various contexts.

During your time at 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 expected from professional working life in the 21st century.

The employability skills and attributes which students will gain experience in developing, applying and reflecting upon during the workplace learning will be those identified by The Council for Industry and Higher Education as the key competencies valued by employers.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

There are no formal arrangements for work-based learning and/or placement opportunities currently embedded into the programme. However, we support our students in obtaining relevant work experience.

Attendance and Engagement

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this programme, academic engagement equates to the following:

Students should also reference the 'BCI Guidance on Implementation of the Revised Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure', which details the School attendance and engagement requirements and how this will be monitored for attendance.

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.

To meet the diverse needs of our student body, we are dedicated to adapting learning experiences where required. This personalised approach ensures that all students can succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances. By embracing and promoting these principles, we aim to cultivate a learning community where everyone feels valued, supported, and empowered to achieve their full potential.

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

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 7 Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	
A2	
A3	
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	
B2	
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	
C2	
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	
D2	
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	
E2	
E3	
E4	
E5	

Level 7 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 7 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 7 **Criteria for Progression and Award** *Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations*

SCQF LEVEL 8 Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	
A2	
A3	
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	
B2	
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	
C2	
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	
D2	
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	
E2	
E3	
E4	
E5	

Level 8 Modules

CORE

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

				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 8 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 8
Criteria for Progression and Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

To progress to the next level of study (i.e. SCQF level 9), students are expected to complete the full 120 credits each year. However, a student who has not earned passes in up to 40 credits-worth of modules may be allowed to progress to the next level of study 'with deficit' in accordance with reg. 3.13 of UWS Regulatory Framework.

In line with reg. 1.21 of the UWS Regulatory Framework, students who complete 240 credit points, including at least 90 credits points at SCQF Level 8 or above, including all core modules at this level, will be eligible for a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) in Business exit award. Students who complete 240 credit points, including at least 90 credits points at SCQF Level 8 or above, without completing at least one core module at this level, will be eligible for a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) in Combined Studies exit award (see reg. 1.61 of the UWS Regulatory Framework). Awards shall be made with distinction in line with regs. 3.25-3.26 of the UWS Regulatory Framework.

For further information, please refer to the UWS Regulatory Framework and the Student Experience Policy Statement.

SCQF LEVEL 9 Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate knowledge of a substantial range of major concepts, values and principles associated with business.
A2	Demonstrate in-depth and in-context study of a broad range of areas in business-related disciplines.
A3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of emerging business issues.
A4	n/a
A5	n/a
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply knowledge and understanding of relevant and up-to-date theories and practice to undertake independent research.
B2	Reflect critically on own learning.
B3	n/a
B4	n/a
B5	n/a
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Utilise and evaluate numerical information in a business context.
C2	Make formal and informal presentations on standard/mainstream general business topics to a range of audiences.
C3	n/a
C4	n/a
C5	n/a
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Use knowledge, understanding and skills to critically evaluate and formulate evidence-based arguments and identify solutions to clearly defined problems of a generally routine nature.
D2	Identify and address own learning needs within defined contexts and to undertake independent learning with limited guidance.
D3	n/a
D4	n/a
D5	n/a
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Work in groups or teams as a participant in a way that contributes effectively to the group's tasks.
E2	Interact effectively with tutors and peers.
E3	n/a
E4	n/a
E5	n/a

Level 9 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
9	BUSN09078	Emerging Issues in Business	20	☒	☐	☐	
9	BUSN09079	The Landscape of Leadership	20	☒	☐	☐	
9	BUSN09080	Organisation Strategy and Culture	20	☒	☐	☐	
9	BUSN09082	Research Design & Methods	20	☐	☒	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 9 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
9	BROA09007	Global & Creative Industries	20	☐	☒	☐	1
9	BUSN09042	Enterprise Creation	20	☐	☒	☐	1, 2, 3
9	BUSN09092	Project Management	20	☐	☒	☐	1, 3
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

Footnotes for Option Modules

1) Optional modules are pre-selected in agreement with Dumfries and Galloway College for students based at that institution. Lanarkshire- and Paisley-based students need to select two optional modules. Availability of optional modules on each campus depends on student numbers. Students may elect to study a language in lieu of the optional modules specified above. However, such intentions must be first discussed with the programme leadership.

2) Part of the entrepreneurial suite of optional modules.

3) Recommended optional module for BA (Hons) Business students.

Level 9
Criteria for Progression and Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

To progress to the next level of study (i.e. SCQF level 10), students are expected to complete the full 120 credits each year. However, a student who has not earned passes in up to 20 credits-worth of modules may be allowed to progress to the next level of study 'with deficit' in accordance with reg. 3.14 of UWS Regulatory Framework.

In line with reg. 1.21 of the UWS Regulatory Framework, students who complete 360 credit points, including at least 90 credits points at SCQF Level 9 or above, including all core modules at this level, will be eligible for a Bachelor's Degree (BA) in Business exit award.

Students who complete 360 credit points, including at least 90 credits points at SCQF Level 9 or above, without completing at least one core module at this level, will be eligible for a Bachelor's Degree (BA) in Combined Studies exit award (see reg. 1.61 of the UWS Regulatory Framework). Awards shall be made with distinction in line with regs. 3.25-3.26 of the UWS Regulatory Framework.

For further information, please refer to the UWS Regulatory Framework and the Student Experience Policy Statement.

SCQF LEVEL 10 Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Systematically identify and address own learning needs, in current and new areas by making use of research and professional materials.
A2	Demonstrate critical understanding of a defined business related research project or investigation.
A3	n/a
A4	n/a
A5	n/a
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Analyse problems in terms of business-related concepts and apply appropriate principles to propose solutions.
B2	Interpret and explain complex business-related concepts.
B3	Retrieve, interpret and utilise primary and secondary information from a variety of sources, including electronic sources.
B4	Identify accurately business-related issues which require researching.
B5	Maintain the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis, evaluation and judgement necessary to undertake a sustained piece of individual research on a chosen topic with minimal guidance.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Communicate effectively and appropriately orally and in writing.
C2	Make use of and evaluate numerical and statistical information.
C3	Distinguish between alternative opinions on the basis of evidence presented in coherent and logical arguments.
C4	Make effective use of information retrieval systems and use information technology applications to present documents in an appropriate form.
C5	n/a
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	

D1	Maintain expertise in the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis, evaluation and judgement necessary to undertake a sustained piece of individual research on a chosen topic.
D2	Engage in discourse in relation to business-related studies and associated ethical issues.
D3	Give reasons for opinions and identify flaws in arguments in relation to a business-related discipline.
D4	Adopt an evaluative approach to the study of business subjects.
D5	Bring together information from a variety of sources, including research publications.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Work effectively together with others in groups or teams, taking a leadership role where appropriate.
E2	Systematically identify and address own learning needs both in current and in new areas, making use of research and other appropriate materials.
E3	Demonstrate the ability to learn independently and with minimal guidance.
E4	n/a
E5	n/a

Level 10 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
10	BUSN10078	Knowledge (Mis)management	20	☒	☐	☐	
10	BUSN10XXX	(De)Globalisation and Business Management	20	☒	☐	☐	
10	MARK10017	Honours Project	40	☒	☒	☐	1
10	BUSN10080	Organisational Change and Crisis	20	☐	☒	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

Footnotes for Core Modules

1) Students complete their honours dissertations over terms one and two.

Level 10 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
10	ACCT10016	Personal Finance	20	☐	☒	☐	1
10	BUSN10076	Enterprise with Creative Media	20	☐	☒	☐	1, 2
10	BUSN10079	The Common Good	20	☐	☒	☐	1
10	MARK10016	Marketing Strategy Theory (MST)	20	☐	☒	☐	1

				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

Footnotes for Option Modules

1) The optional module is pre-selected in agreement with Dumfries and Galloway College for students based at that institution. Lanarkshire- and Paisley-based students need to select one optional module. Availability of optional modules on each campus depends on student numbers. Students may elect to study a language in lieu of the optional modules specified above. However, such intentions must be first discussed with the programme leadership.

2) Part of the entrepreneurial suite of optional modules.

Level 10
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

In line with reg. 1.21 of the UWS Regulatory Framework, students who complete 480 credit points, including at least 90 credits points at SCQF Level 10 or above, including all core modules at this level, will be eligible for a Bachelor's Degree with Honours (BA (Hons)) in Business exit award. Students who complete 480 credit points, including at least 90 credits points at SCQF Level 10 or above, without completing at least one core module at this level, will be eligible for a Bachelor's Degree with Honours (BA (Hons)) in Combined Studies exit award (see reg. 1.61 of the UWS Regulatory Framework). Awards shall be made with distinction in line with regs. 3.25-3.26 of the UWS Regulatory Framework.

For further information, please refer to the UWS Regulatory Framework and the Student Experience Policy Statement.

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 BA, BAcc, or BD awards the award will be BA Combined Studies. For students studying BEng or BSc awards, the award will be BSc Combined Studies.

Version no: 1

Change/Version Control

What	When	Who
Updated to reflect roll out of new L8 in 2026-2027.	4/2026	W Kwiatkowski
L10 updated in line with 2021 ILR paperwork, with subsequently approved changes, for rollout. Names of modules updated to their revised names for 2025-2026.	2/2025	W Kwiatkowski