Undergraduate Programme Specification

Session	2026/27	**Last Modified**	March 2025
Named Award Title	BA (Hons) Business and Sustainability		
Award Title for Each Award	BA (Hons) Business and Sustainability BA Business and Sustainability		
Date of Approval	17 April 2024		
Details of Cohort Applies to	Entrants from September 2024		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	**Teaching Institution(s)**	University of the West of Scotland New College Lanarkshire
Language of Instruction & Examination		English	
Award Accredited by		N/A	
Maximum Period of Registration		Authorised Interruption Guidance notes	
Duration of Study			
Full-time	Normally 2 years	**Part-time**	Normally 4 years
Placement (compulsory)	N/A/		
Mode of Study	☒ Full-time ☒ Part-time		
Campus	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☒ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☒ Other (specify) New College Lanarkshire Cubernuled/Coatbridge
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Divisional Programme Board	**Management, Organisations People**		
Programme Leader	M. Khan		

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:

• Applicants to the full-time version of the programme at NCL should have completed an SQA Higher National Diploma (HND) in a relevant programme of study, such as HND Business, Administration, Management, Leadership, Marketing, Accounting, Travel and Tourism, Hospitality etc. Entry to the degree with alternative titles will be subject to the programme leader's approval following matching of content.
• Applicants with non-Scottish based qualifications will also be considered provided these are at an equivalent level of study and that the programme title and content is relevant. Where there is any requirement to match content, this will be the responsibility of the programme leader.
• Applicants for part-time entry to the programme should also have completed an SQA HND in a relevant programme of study, such as HND Business, Administration, Management, Leadership,Marketing, Accounting, Travel and Tourism, Hospitality etc. Entry to the degree with alternative titles will be subject to the programme leader's approval following matching of content.
• Prior experiential learning in respect of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and/or Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) will also be considered for entry to the NCL-based programme for applicants, subject to UWS requirements for entry on this basis. Further information can be found in Chapter 2 (pages 14 to 18) of the UWS Regulatory Framework documents - regulatory-framework-2024-2025.pdf (uws.ac.uk)

For applicants whose first language is not English, Regulation 2.12 sets out the English Language Requirements in terms of IELTS. See details at - English Language Requirements | UWS | University of the West of Scotland.

"2.10 In addition to the above, programme documentation will set out appropriate requirements for specific prior qualifications and/or experience, and any competitive entry requirements. The University's equality and diversity policies apply, and equivalent qualifications and/or experience will be accepted in place of those specified. Programmes which provide entry into specific professions may be obliged to meet particular requirements on admissions set by Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) for entry, for example for Protection of Vulnerable Groups."

Note Regulation 2.4 on contextualised admissions.

Or GCE
N/A

Or SQA National Qualifications / Edexcel Foundation
N/A

Other Required Qualifications/Experience
N/A

Further desirable skills pre-application
N/A

General Overview

The BA (Honours) Business and Sustainability provides you, as a student, with an opportunity to study towards a degree in business that concentrates not only on general areas of the business sector but also focusses on critical issues that affect our planet and its survival. Sustainability is now recognised as a crucial element of modern business practice and key to future development.

The protection of biodiversity, grasping the impact of climate change and understanding its implications and how to reverse this, whilst also dealing with poverty and social inclusion, is considered essential to our future and to that of generations to come.

Within business there is growing attention being given to these issues and on how businesses can both cause and reverse the alarming negative trends faced the planet and its inhabitants. This programme will help to provide you with a deep understanding of the key issues and encourage you to use your skills to look at how business practice can work in tandem with sustainability to improve outcomes for the planet.

Businesses and increasingly recognising the importance of sustainability practices and there has been rapid growth in the employment market for students who have skills in this area, with recent job advertisements in the West of Scotland alone looking for graduates to fill sustainability roles such as analysts, consultants, and/or advisors to business. These well-paid roles included full-time, part-time, and internship options (Google Search 7 October 2023 using 'business sustainability jobs).

Sustainability is a global concern, and it is expected that, as a graduate, you will have developed skills that make your degree attractive to employers across the business world, whether large multi-nationals, small to medium sized enterprises, charities, or other relevant organisations.

The skills included in your degree reflect market expectations of a business degree and those of the Quality Assurance Agents (QAA) which oversees university degree programmes.

Study on this top-up programme will be offered at the UWS University Centre which is situated on the Cumbernauld Campus of New College Lanarkshire and is available to students who have previously completed a relevant SQA accredited HND programme or an equivalent qualification from elsewhere in the United Kingdom that meets SCQF level 8 specifications therefore allowing you to complete a degree in two years (for Honours) or one year (for Ordinary degree) on a full-time study basis. Alternatively, you may be able to complete in four years (for Honours) or two years (for Ordinary degree) on a part-time basis. All part-time study routes will be on a daytime in-fill attendance basis, with part-time students attending daytime modules along with full-time students.

Students who have prior experiential learning will also be considered for part-time entry and should contact the programme leader for information and advice.

Further Study Opportunities

On completion of your degree, you may wish to study at postgraduate or Master's levels at UWS in our business related programmes, either on a full-time or part-time basis. On completion of this, you may even choose to study towards completion of a doctorate.

Typical Delivery Method

The BA (Hons) Business and Sustainability programme uses a wide range of learning, teaching, and assessment methods to help you attain the learning outcomes requirements of the programme.

Modules use methods that are appropriate to their learning outcomes. These will help you to develop employability and interpersonal skills and encourage you to reflect on what you have learning and how you can build transferable skills such as managing timescales and tasks, working with others, negotiating, etc.

In your first year of study, level 9 (year 3 of the degree – your entry qualification will be equivalent to the first two years of a degree programme) you will be introduced to advanced business modules that further develop the understanding of the business environment you learned in your HN studies. This will take place within the modules 'Organisational Strategy and Culture' and 'Emerging Business Issues'.

You will also be introduced during the first term to the importance of sustainability in relation to the business environment and how it relates to the impact on the planet in the module 'Sustainable Development Goals in a Business Context'.

In term 2, you will develop your academic research skills in the module 'Research Design & Methods', requiring you to critical assess, analyse, and reflect on your learning and research capabilities. The modules 'Responsible Leadership' and 'Sustainable Business Development' will build on the first term module 'Sustainable Development Goals in a Business Context' by looking at different perspectives.

In the second year of study, level 10 (year 4 of the degree and the Honours year), you will critically develop your knowledge and understanding at an advanced level, again focussing on business related areas in the module 'Brands and Branding'.
This year will focus heavily on Sustainability in the modules 'Responsible Ethical Management', 'Common Good', and 'Circular Economy in Business'.

The keystone module for this year is your dissertation or project. This double credit module is a self-directed research project that requires you to write a dissertation or carry out a relevant work-based project agreed by an appointed supervisor.

Thie final year of study allows you to showpiece to yourself and potential employers what you can achieve at an advanced level of study.

The assessment strategies for each module combine to support your learning skills and personal development at each level, and your employability skills development.
Your studies will be supported by quality learning materials available on our UWS learning platform Aula, where you will have access to a range of resources including case studies, questions with solutions, discussion boards, journal articles, quizzes, etc.

The Aula site will also be used for submission of written assessments and class tests.
Individual and group presentations will feature as part of the assessment process.
Self-learning is key to your success, but you will be supported throughout your time on the programme.

Any additional costs

Other than course fees, no additional costs are anticipated with this programme.

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

The UK Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) published an article in 2023 summarising the key findings of a report 'An Analysis of the Demand for Skills in the Labour Market in 2035' by the Nuffield Foundation and University of Sheffield.
This report details how demand for skills will change between now and 2035 based on the expected direction of our economy and available labour resources.

It highlights the essential employment skills needed as:
• Collaboration
• Communication
• Creative Thinking
• Information Literacy (gathering, processing, and using information)
• Organising, planning, and prioritising work
• Problem-solving and decision making

Learning outcomes throughout the programme have been designed to ensure that, in addition to the development of knowledge and understanding of business and sustainability and its components, you will have the opportunity to develop the skills and attributes that are most valued by employers.

The programme has employability embedded into its core curriculum, thereby ensuring you are exposed to the development of your key skills and can reflect on your own personal development.

Employability skills development is continually reinforced throughout the programme.
As a graduate of 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

External Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) acts as the expert quality body on behalf of the Higher Education sector. It has recently updated its Subject Benchmark Statement for Business and Management degree courses.

Section 1.4 (page 3) of the new Subject Benchmark Statement states that the purposes of Business and Management degree courses are to:
• Develop a critical understanding of organisations, cultures and structures, their management, and wider economic, environmental, and social contexts
• Instil an understanding of responsible leadership
• Provide preparation for and development of a wide range of careers, including in business and management
• Develop relevant skills and attributes which enhance employability and equip graduates to become impactful global and inclusive citizens as well as reflective independent and collegial lifelong learners.
This programme closely aligns to these purposes in the learning outcomes for the programme that are demonstrated in section 21 of this document.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

N/A

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 being academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and/or online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and completing assessments and submitting these on time.

Arrangements for personal tutor support can be found in the Student Programme Handbook for this programme and details of your personal tutor will be provided shortly after enrolment.

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)

Learning Outcomes

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

Level 7 Modules

CORE

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

Level 7 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
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	N/A
A2	N/A
A3	N/A
A4	N/A
A5	N/A
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	N/A
B2	N/A
B3	N/A
B4	N/A
B5	N/A
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	N/A
C2	N/A
C3	N/A
C4	N/A
C5	N/A
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	N/A
D2	N/A
D3	N/A
D4	N/A
D5	N/A
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	N/A
E2	N/A
E3	N/A
E4	N/A
E5	N/A

Level 8 Modules

CORE

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

	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
	N/A			☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 8 Modules

OPTION

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

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

SCQF LEVEL 9 Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate and/or work with: • An understanding of the scope and defining features of business and sustainability, and an integrated knowledge of its main areas and boundaries.
A2	Demonstrate and/or work with: • A critical understanding of a range of the principles, principal theories, concepts and terminology of business and sustainability.
A3	Demonstrate and/or work with: • Knowledge of specialisms that are informed by forefront developments.
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: • In using a range of the principle professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with business and sustainability.
B2	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: • In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised and/or advanced.
B3	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: • In practising routine methods of enquiry and/or research.
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in business and sustainability, for example: • Present or convey, formally or informally, information on standard/mainstream topics in business and sustainability to a range of audiences.
C2	Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in business and sustainability, for example: • Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work.
C3	Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in business and sustainability, for example: • Interpret, use, and evaluate numerical and graphical data.
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues in business and sustainability.
D2	Identify and analyse routine professional problems and issues.
D3	Draw on a range of sources in making judgements.

D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in practice or in business and sustainability.
E2	Exercise managerial responsibility for the work of others and for a range of resources.
E3	Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities.
E4	
E5	

Level 9 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
	BUSN09088	Sustainable Development Goals in a Business Context	20	☒	☐	☐	
	BUSN09080	Organisational Strategy and Culture	20	☒	☐	☐	
	BUSN09078	Emerging Business Issues	20	☒	☐	☐	
	BUSN09082	Research Design & Methods	20	☐	☒	☐	
	BUSN09089	Sustainable Leadership	20	☐	☒	☐	
	BUSN09090	Sustainable Business Development	20	☐	☒	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 9 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules Note that there no options for this programme at level 9.							

Level 9 **Criteria for Progression and Award** ***Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations***
In line with the Regulatory Framework, for the award of BA (Ordinary) Business and Sustainability, 120 credit points must be achieved at SCQF Level 9. These may only come from the core modules shown in the table in the previous section. Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations and no imported credit can be used. (Regulations 3.25-3.26) Links: UWS Regulatory Framework AND Student Experience Policy Statement.

SCQF LEVEL 10 Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading**)**	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate and/or work with: • Knowledge that covers and integrates most of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of business and sustainability.
A2	Demonstrate and/or work with: • A critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts, and principles.
A3	Demonstrate and/or work with: • Details knowledge and understanding in one or more specialisms, some of which are informed by, or at the forefront of business and sustainability.
A4	Demonstrate and/or work with: • Knowledge and understanding of the ways in which the business and sustainability is developed, including a range of established techniques of enquiry or research methodologies.
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: • In using a wide range of the principal professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with business and sustainability.
B2	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: • In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised, advanced and/or at the forefront of business and sustainability.
B3	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: • In executing a defined project of research, development, or investigation and in identifying and implementing relevant outcomes.
B4	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding:

	• To practise in a range of professional level contexts that included a degree of unpredictability and/or specialism.
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in business and sustainability, for example: • Present or convey, formally and informally, information about specialised topics to informed audiences.
C2	Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in business and sustainability, for example: • Communicate with peers, senior colleagues, and specialists on a professional level.
C3	Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in business and sustainability, for example: • Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level and adjust features to suit purpose.
C4	Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in business and sustainability, for example: • Interpret, use, and evaluate a wide range of numerical and graphical data to set and achieve goals/targets.
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	• Critically identify, define, conceptualise, and analyse complex/professional problems and issues.
D2	• Offer professional insights, interpretations and solutions to problems and issues.
D3	• Demonstrate some originality and creativity in dealing with professional issues.
D4	• Critically review and consolidate knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in business and sustainability.
D5	• Make judgements where data/information is limited or comes from range of sources.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	• Exercising autonomy and initiative in professional/equivalent activities.
E2	• Practice in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities.
E3	• Manage complex ethical and professional issues in accordance with current professional and/or ethical codes of practice.
E4	• Recognise the limits of these codes and seek guidance where appropriate.
E5	

Level 10 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
10	MARK10010	Brands and Branding	20	☒	☐	☐	

10	BUSN10062	Responsible Ethical Management	20	☒	☐	☐	
10	BUSN10085	Circular Economy in Business	20	☐	☒	☐	
10	MARK10017	Honours Project	40	☒	☒	☐	
10	BUSN10079	Common Good	20	☐	☒	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 10 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules Note that there no options for this programme at level 10.							

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

In line with the Regulatory Framework, for the award of BA (Honours) Business and Sustainability, at least 240 credit points must be achieved, of which a minimum of 120 are at SCQF level 9 and a minimum of 120 at SCQF level 10 (including all core and options), with excpetion of those required to take the level 9 Research Methods module in place of the level 10 'Common Good' module.

No distunction is awarded at Honours level (Regulation 3.25).

Links: UWS Regulatory Framework AND 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
Update to programme specification to transfer from old template to new template.	10 March 2025	M. Khan
Minor amendments to wording to correct existing grammar errors, omissions, and update regulation paragraphs to match 2024/25 regulatory framework and handbook contents.	10 March 2025	M. Khan
Replaced a level 10 module "Social Innovation in Organisation and Society" with Brands and Branding	11 March 2025	M. Khan
Ticked Lanarkshire as place of delivery	12 March 2025	M.Khan