BSc Business Administration (BBA)

Frequently Asked Questions

We have listed here the most common queries we get from prospective students. If your query is not answered in this section, please contact the BBA Programme Administrator and we'll do our best to help.

What grades do I need to get a place on the programme?
What if I just missed my offer grades?
What do you mean when you say the offer will consist of “a spread of subjects”?
What if Bath is not my first choice?
If successful, can I defer my place for a year?
Can I transfer from another University programme onto year two, three or four of your degree?
Can I come and study the final year at Bath and gain a University of Bath degree?
What type of placement can I get?
Can I find my own placement?
How much money will I earn while on placement?
Can I do my placement abroad?
If I already have some work experience can I be exempt from the placements?
What is the mix of male to female and how many international students do you have?
I hear there is a lot of group work involved in the programme. Will I be disadvantaged if I am a shy, quiet type or have had no group-work experience?
What courses can I study throughout the degree?
Who can I turn to if I encounter problems during the degree?

Q. What grades do I need to get a place on the programme?
A. Our offers vary depending on the qualifications gained- please see our Entry Requirements.

Q. What if I just missed my offer grades?
A. The programme remains heavily oversubscribed and each year we are constrained with the number of places we can offer. If you achieve less than offer by a small margin, check the UCAS on-line record immediately. Our ability to accept you depends on supply and demand that year - only known in August – and varies from year to year although it is likely there will be very little scope for flexibility.

Q. What do you mean when you say the offer will consist of “a spread of subjects”?
A. In general we are looking for signs of a spread of ability and we pay attention to the combination of subjects - we are less likely to make an offer where there is a very tight combination of subjects – say for example A-Level Physics, Chemistry and Biology. We consider all subjects except General Studies and Critical Thinking (at A-Level).

Q. What if Bath is not my first choice?
A. If, upon receipt of your results, you meet the requirements of our offer (e.g. 3 As at A-Level) you will be accepted regardless of whether Bath was your first choice or insurance.
Q. If successful, can I defer my place for a year?
A. Yes, you can, provided you show us that you plan to use the year constructively. We look upon a gap year as an opportunity to enjoy new experiences and find that students come to university more mature and able to adapt to their new environment.

Q. Can I transfer from another University programme onto year two, three or four of your degree?
A. Unfortunately the answer to this question is NO! Our degree operates on a thin sandwich scheme (you go on placement in Year 2, Semester 1 and in Year 3, Semester 2). These 6-month placements form an integral part of the degree and every student must complete them both satisfactorily to earn the degree. Preparation for the placements takes place in semesters one and two of first year and so it is not possible to miss any part of the degree. Some options taken in the later years of the degree require that some pre-requisites be taken and we must be sure that you have taken the appropriate programmes.

Q. Can I come and study the final year at Bath and gain a University of Bath degree?
A. It is possible to study at Bath as a temporary student on our Exchange programme. We have exchange arrangements with partner institutions in the USA, Canada, Europe and Asia. Our students can spend a semester abroad and we take a number of their students in return. However, this will not entitle you to a University of Bath degree.

Q. What type of placement can I get?
A. The BBA Placements Office advertise a huge choice of placements, across a wide range of functions – for example: Marketing, Finance, Supply Chain, Accounting, Human Resources, Banking, etc. Over the years BBA students have worked for a very wide variety of companies, ranging from multinationals such as Accenture, L’Oreal, Unilever, Vodafone and Citigroup, through to SMEs, start-ups, and local companies. The majority of students are based in the UK, although you could potentially work anywhere in the world (also see below, “Can I do my placement abroad?”)

Q. Can I find my own placement?
A. Definitely, especially if you want to work away from the traditional areas, for example the music industry, PR or a football club, and if the placements we have don’t match what you are looking for. There is wide scope for finding your own placement, however it must meet the School’s placement guidelines and you would need to work with the Placements Office on this both to secure an opportunity and then get it approved.

Q. How much money will I earn while on placement?
As with all jobs, the money you earn will depend on the placement you choose. The placement process is a competitive one, just like getting a job once you have graduated. During year one, your Placements Officer will train you in interview techniques and CV development which should prepare you for the application and selection process of the firms.

Some placements are higher paid than others but will involve greater pressure and workloads. It is of course down to you to find a placement that suits you! Our highest paid placement is around £45,000 (pro rata) working for an investment bank in the City. However, the average salary is around £17,000 - £23,000. Most students have a good time on placement, gain much valuable experience and manage to save some money.

Q. Can I do my placement abroad?
A. Yes! You can work wherever you like, provided you are able to secure a visa if necessary. Our students get placed throughout the UK, and a small percentage take placements in Europe, or as far afield as North America and Asia. We source a growing number of placements outside of the UK, with a number of students also sourcing overseas placements through their own contacts.

Q. If I already have some work experience can I be exempt from the placements?
A. No, I am afraid not. The placements are an integral part of the degree programme and you will have to complete them satisfactorily to proceed through the programme.
Q. What is the mix of male to female and how many international students do you have?
A. The male to female mix is about 50/50 on our Business Administration degree. The allocation of places for the programme is currently 150. Of these 115 are Domestic/European places, and 35 places are allocated to overseas students. This makes the course very cosmopolitan with students bringing a wide range of experiences and different perspectives to the course. Each year we get students from the US/Canada, India, China, Norway as well as European countries such as Ireland, Spain, Italy, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Q. I hear there is a lot of group work involved in the programme. Will I be disadvantaged if I am a shy, quiet type or have had no group-work experience?
A. No, not at all. The majority of our students come to the university having had no experience of group work and it takes most students some time to adapt to their new surroundings. There is a strong focus on developing team-working skills on the programme and a significant amount of group work is involved. Don't let this put you off however! Most students are unsure of themselves at first, you will find your feet quickly though and will hopefully soon enjoy it! It is a great way to meet your classmates and the degree is known as one of the more social programmes at the university.

Q. What courses can I study throughout the degree?
A. We have in place a broad range of options that you can choose. In the first year everyone studies core business subjects such as Accounting, Economics, Statistics, Behaviour in Organisations, and others. The aim is to provide a firm grounding that can be built on in the later years of the programme. Languages can be studied on an extra-curricular basis. In Years 2 and above you can take options such as Accounting, Economics, Human Resources, Law, Business IT etc. Descriptions of the units can be found in the Programme and Units Catalogue. Students are free to specialise in one particular area or choose a greater variety of options if they desire. The choice is yours!

Q. Who can I turn to if I encounter problems during the degree?
A. There is an excellent personal tutor system here in the School of Management. Each lecturer is responsible for a small number of students and helps them settle in and deal with any issues they may encounter. We also have an Undergraduate Student Experience Officer who can offer general advice and also give more specific help to students who find they need additional support.

University-wide there is a number of sources of help and advice: Nightline - a night time telephone service run by students; AWARE - a professional counselling service run by fully qualified counselors; Sabbaticals - students who have been elected to full-time positions in the Student Union. Any of these people can be approached for a general chat or more detailed advice.

If your query remains unanswered please contact us and we should be able to help you.