



## Making a Difference

This new compulsory course for the Stage 2 of the MBA will develop your capability to make a real difference to organizational performance as a manager to leader. It will provide you with an integrated learning experience to enable you to make a difference both in your own organization and enhance your own personal professional development.

The course is presented in Romania by CODECS, partnership of OU Business School from Great Britain.

### Details on

[www.codecs.ro](http://www.codecs.ro); phone  
021 252.51.82/3/4;  
fax 021 252.56.13

Code **B830**

LEVEL: **Postgraduate**

Points: **30**

Computer and Internet access required

3-day residential school

### Description

This is a new, compulsory, 30-point course in Stage 2 of the Open University's Master of Business Administration (MBA), presented over one year, with two start dates each year. The high-level learning aims of the course include: enabling you to develop the skills to make a real difference to organizational performance as a manager/leader; to develop and demonstrate a capability for critical and independent learning; and to develop and demonstrate the capability to apply MBA learning integratively to real-world problems.

The course requires you to undertake independent study using a range of resources. It is studied via distance-learning materials, face-to-face and online tuition, web-based resources and peer group study. B830 will also feature an investigation and report in some area of management practice. The teaching and learning will be organized on explicitly developmental lines. Work contributing to all of the above areas will occur at different times of the year and there will be a consistent anchoring of the work in your own context and practice. There will, however, be a different focus and style of work at different times of the year. The first part of the course, which will include a residential school, will be organized primarily as a structured route through B830's core curriculum and themes. The second part of the course will be much more student-determined in its focus and its timing; it will be based round the investigation which you opt to carry out. The final part of the course will involve structured reporting, analysis and reflection.

The curriculum is likely to cover some or all of the following themes: sense-making; complexity; ambiguity; risk; uncertainty; power; cross-boundary management; leadership; judgement; decision-making; ethics; corporate responsibility; innovation; evaluation and measurement; communication.





## What's included

Course books, other printed material, audio CDs, CD-ROMs, computer conferencing, website downloaded software.

## You will need

CD player and a computer as described in our Personal Computing for OU Study section.

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## Vocational relevance

MBA students and their employers place strong emphasis on the value of effective practical application and the need to address complex real-world management problems. The course has been designed to meet these requirements, particularly in relation to students demonstrating and developing a capacity for critical and independent learning and a capability to apply MBA learning integratively to real-world problems.

## Entry

You must have studied the first of the compulsory courses of Stage 2 of the MBA, B820 Strategy, before studying this course. If you have any doubt about the suitability of the course, please contact your Regional Centre.

## Residential school

At this stage of the course development, the broad aims of the school are to provide you with hands-on experience of a range of personal and managerial tools and techniques, opportunities to reflect on the principles of practice-oriented management theory, engagement in activities aimed at developing further your ability to relate theory to your own organizational context.

Satisfactory attendance is required in order to gain credit for this course.

An alternative learning experience (ALE) will be available for those students who, under exceptional circumstances, are unable to attend the residential school.

The cost of the residential school is included in the course fee.

## Support from your tutor

You will have a tutor who will help you work through the course programme and mark and comment on your written work, and whom you can ask for advice and guidance. You will contact your tutor by telephone, correspondence, email and computer conferences. We will offer group tutorials or day schools that you are strongly encouraged, but not obliged, to attend. Where tutorials or day schools are held depends on the distribution of students taking each course.

Your Regional Centre will provide you with both general and certain specialist help with your studies.

Ask your Regional Centre if you need to know more before you decide whether to register.

## Assessment

It is expected to be three tutor-marked assignments and an end-of-course assignment. The assessment timetable will support flexibility enabling you, if you wish, to shift workload to suit your own study pattern. This may involve doing the majority of the work in the earlier or later stages of the course.