



MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

This is a credit-based award.

These award regulations should not be read in isolation. It is important that you read them in conjunction with the following documents.

- [Introduction to *The Award Regulations*](#)
- [General Award Regulations](#)

If you wish to print the regulations governing your award, you are advised to print *all* these documents.

M-BA 1 DEGREE NAME

M-BA 1.1 The University offers the Master of Business Administration, referred to as the MBA. Holders of this award are permitted to use the letters MBA (Open) after their names.

M-BA 1.2 If you have included the 60-point graduate entry course as fulfilling the Stage I requirement of the degree and you are awarded either (i) a distinction grade for a minimum of 90 credit points or (ii) a distinction grade for a minimum of 60 credit points and a merit grade for a further 60 credit points of the courses required for the degree, you will be eligible for the award of the degree with distinction.

M-BA 1.3 If you have included the 60-point graduate entry course as fulfilling the Stage I requirement of the degree and you are awarded either (i) a distinction grade for 30 credit points and a merit grade for a minimum of another 90 credit points or (ii) a merit grade for a minimum of 120 credit points of the courses required for the degree, you will be eligible for the award of the degree with merit.

M-BA 2 REGISTRATION

M-BA 2.1 In order to be registered for the degree, you must satisfy Student Regulation OU 8 and show evidence of suitable preparation for postgraduate study. The

minimum entrance requirement is a degree with honours from a UK university or other recognised degree-awarding body, a qualification regarded by the University as being equivalent to an honours degree, the Open University Professional Diploma in Management, or credit in courses that would qualify for that award.

M-BA 2.2 If you do not satisfy regulation M-BA 2.1 but can satisfy the Senate that your qualifications or other evidence of competence are an adequate preparation for the programme of study, your application may, in certain circumstances, be considered.

M-BA 2.3 You must have a minimum of three years management experience by the start date of your first course.

M-BA 3 CREDIT REQUIREMENT

M-BA 3.1 To qualify for the award, you must obtain 180 credit points by the successful completion of courses in the MBA profile (unless regulations M-BA 3.2, M-BA 3.3, M-BA 3.4 or M-BA 3.5 apply to you) and satisfy the other requirements and regulations.

M-BA 3.1.1 If you commenced the degree on or before 1 May 2003, you may take until 31 December 2007 to complete Stage I and

Stage II and qualify for the award under the following rules:

- (a) Stage I may be either the Professional Diploma in Management or credit in courses that would qualify for that award, or the specified graduate entry course. Stage I must be satisfactorily completed before commencing the remainder of the programme.
- (b) Stage II comprises one compulsory 30-point course and three others from a range of 30-point courses. The compulsory 30-point course must be taken in the first year of study in Stage II.

M-BA 3.1.2 If you commenced the degree on or after 1 November 2003, the earliest date that you may complete Stage I and Stage II and qualify for the award is 30 June 2006 under the following rules:

- (a) Stage I may be either the Professional Diploma in Management, or credit in courses that would qualify for that award, or the specified graduate entry course. Stage I must be satisfactorily completed before commencing the remainder of the programme.
- (b) Stage II comprises two compulsory 30-point courses and two others from a range of 30-point courses. The first compulsory 30-point course must be taken on its own in the first year of Stage II study. The second compulsory 30-point course can be taken alongside either one or both of the two elective 30-point courses in a second or subsequent year of study.

(If you made a claim for credit transfer towards the degree and this was received by the University on or before 31 December 2007, regulations M-BA 3.2 and M-BA 3.3 apply to you.)

M-BA 3.2 If you satisfy Stage I of the degree by completing the specified graduate entry route, the Senate may permit you to qualify for the degree if you have 180 points of which not less than 90 are from successfully completed courses and not more than 90 are points of transferred credit.

M-BA 3.3 If you satisfy Stage I of the programme by completing the Professional Diploma in Management, the Senate may permit you to qualify for the degree if you have a further 120 points of which not less than 60 are from successfully completed courses and not more than 60 are points of transferred credit.

(If you made a claim for credit transfer towards the degree and this was received by the University on 1 January 2008 or later, regulations M-BA 3.4 and M-BA 3.5 apply to you.)

M-BA 3.4 If you satisfy Stage I of the degree by completing the specified graduate entry route, the Senate may permit you to qualify for the degree if you have 180 points of which not less than 150 are from successfully completed courses and not more than 30 are points of transferred credit.

M-BA 3.5 If you satisfy Stage I of the programme by completing the Professional Diploma in Management, the Senate may permit you to qualify for the degree if you have a further 120 points of which not less than 90 are from successfully completed courses and not more than 30 are points of transferred credit. If you have an award of transferred credit towards the Professional Diploma in Management, regulation M-BA 4.7 applies to you.

M-BA 3.6 The credit for this award must include from Open University courses a minimum amount of credit that meets the conditions of Student Regulation OU 3.3; that minimum amount is 60 points.

M-BA 4 CREDIT TRANSFER

M-BA 4.1 The credit transfer scheme for the degree is governed by General Award Regulations GA 6.

(If your claim for credit transfer was received by the University on or before 31 December 2007, regulations M-BA 4.2, M-BA 4.3 and M-BA 4.4 apply to you.)

M-BA 4.2 Any award of transferred credit towards Stage I of the MBA must take the form of course-related credit giving exemption from the specified graduate entry course. (If you satisfy the requirements of Stage 1 by

completing the Professional Diploma in Management, the award of the diploma may be based in part on an award of transferred credit, in accordance with the appropriate diploma regulations.)

M-BA 4.3 Any award of transferred credit towards Stage II of the MBA may take the form of course-related credit giving exemption from one or more Stage II courses, and/or full-rate transferred credit.

M-BA 4.4 The maximum award of transferred credit towards Stage II of the MBA is 60 points (half the credit requirement of Stage II), unless you have been awarded exemption from Stage I in its entirety, in which case the maximum award towards Stage II is 30 points. (If you satisfy the requirement of Stage I by completing the Professional Diploma in Management, the maximum award of transferred credit towards Stage II is 60 points – even when the Professional Diploma in Management is based in part on an award of transferred credit.)

(If your claim for credit transfer was received by the University on 1 January 2008 or later, regulations M-BA 4.5, M-BA 4.6 and M-BA 4.7 apply to you.)

M-BA 4.5 Any award of transferred credit towards the degree must take the form of course-related credit.

M-BA 4.6 The maximum award of transferred credit towards the degree is 30 points.

M-BA 4.7 If you satisfy Stage I of the degree by completing the Professional Diploma in Management and that Diploma contained an award of transferred credit, you are not permitted to benefit from any further award of transferred credit towards the requirements of the degree.

M-BA 4.8 Awards of transferred credit beyond the normally permitted maximum may exceptionally be made for certain approved combinations of study at another institution. Such awards must be agreed by the Awards Committee.

M-BA 5 PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DEGREE

M-BA 5.1 In order to actively continue your studies, you must satisfy the assignment and examination requirements, and make satisfactory progress as specified for the award. If you fail to satisfy the assignment and examination requirements for the course for which you are registered or to make satisfactory progress, you will cease to be registered for the award and will have no more right to continue your studies than a new applicant.

M-BA 5.2 The credit required from courses or any permitted credit transfer for the award of the MBA must be obtained during a period not exceeding ten years and you must progress at the minimum rate of a pass in one course in every two-year period. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the MBA Programme Committee and will be subject to the restrictions set out in regulations M-BA 5.2.1 to M-BA 5.2.3. Courses do not need to be studied consecutively.

M-BA 5.2.1 You will only be permitted to register twice for any particular course/module without having achieved a pass in it (i.e. if you fail the course or are awarded a resit result).

M-BA 5.2.2 The award of the qualification is subject to an overall maximum of two resits or retakes (e.g. one resit and one retake).

M-BA 5.2.3 Permission to retake a course or to continue to be registered after withdrawing from a course or after failing to register for any course in a particular year must be obtained from the Masters Programme Committee.

M-BA 5.3 Credit from particular courses may cease to be countable towards the MBA at a specified point in time after their final presentation.