**Course Information Sheet**

**BSc (Hons) Business and Law**

**Modules**

Year 1: Sustainable Business in the Contemporary Environment

This module is designed to introduce students to Business as an academic discipline in the context of climate breakdown. The course models the world of business as a series of concentric circles, beginning with the outermost external domain, which incorporates analyses of the political, economic, socio-cultural, ethical and legal environments within which firms must operate. Next, students are introduced to the internal activities of the company, ranging from finance, accounting, marketing, innovation and human resource management. Having developed foundational understandings of both the wider environment and core business functions, the latter phase of the module seeks to bridge the internal/external analytical divide by examining the organisational and strategic settings of firm management. Unlike many introductory business modules, which often present sustainability as an isolated topic under the rubric of CSR or ESG, this course consistently integrates sustainability as a central theme. Case studies are typically used to highlight and reflect upon the urgent challenges facing society on a warming planet, with a particular focus on the major role that business necessarily plays as both a spoiler and a potential problem-solver. Several introductory business models and theories are presented across the module, while also adopting a multi-disciplinary approach to analysis throughout. Students are assessed via a mid-term practical assessment and a final written coursework.

Year 1: Academic and Professional Skills

Academic and Professional Skills (APS) is a highly participative module that focuses on the development of the skills students need to succeed academically and professionally. On this module, students gain the skills they need to succeed and thrive in a higher education environment, and simultaneously make themselves more employable by building on a range of professional skills. Skills covered on APS include critical thinking, reading efficiently, using sources, referencing, making presentations and structuring written work, as well as many other skills. The module uses a wide range of engaging activities and tasks to boost academic and professional development. Receiving and engaging with feedback is a core component of the module, and students are given regular opportunities for self-reflection, as well as receiving personalised formative feedback from their lecturer. This module is typically assessed via a written report and a presentation, and the module content is designed to support students throughout the assessment process.

Year 1: Business Finance

This module introduces students to the fundamentals of business finance and accounting. The module has been developed to help prepare students for a successful career in business. The emphasis is on developing understanding of concepts such as financial reporting and management for non-financial managers, rather than only quantitative skills. The module develops an understanding of financial concepts, accounting principles, and financial management. The module is corporate-oriented with emphasis on practical applications and problem-solving techniques. Students will be expected to work on practical examples and case studies for discussion and clarification in tutorials. The key issues addressed will be financial reporting principles (context, purposes, and regulatory framework), understanding and evaluating financial statements, management accounting, cost data analysis, budgeting, decision making, financing a business and capital investment decisions. The application of the topics to international markets will be made whenever possible. This module is assessed with a midterm written assignment and a final examination. Multiculturalism has also been considered during the design of this module.

Year 1: Economics for Business

Economics is the study of the use of scarce resources to satisfy unlimited human wants. In Microeconomics, we study how these scarce resources are allocated within the market (or price) system. Within this system, we consider the actions and the interactions of three economic agents: 1) the consumers, 2) the firms and 3) the government. In this course, students will be introduced to simple, abstract models of behaviour of the three economics agents. Using these models, we will analyse the outcomes when these agents interact in the marketplace. In addition, we will also examine the performance of aggregate economic indicators such as changes in economic output, inflation, interest and foreign exchange rates, and the balance of payments. This area of economics is known as Macroeconomics. We will find that what works for individual markets may not necessarily translate to similar outcomes in the overall economy. By familiarising themselves with both the microeconomic and the macroeconomic concepts taught in this class, students will be able to understand the complex economic issues and problems that our modern society faces. This module will be assessed by a midterm assignment and a final presentation.

Year 2: Managing Human Resources

Human Resources Management (HRM) is both a critical specialist organisational function, often with its own department, and a responsibility of line managers in the day-to-day management of people. Students preparing for graduate employment in the world of international business should have a strong understanding of HRM. This module provides students with a strong foundation in both the operation of Human Resources functions and the role of line managers. It also introduces theories which shape Human Resources strategies for organisations ranging from Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to Multinational Enterprises (MNEs). Assessment is by written assignment and a practical presentation. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion has also been considered as both a subject for HRM and during the design of this module.

Year 2: Law of Obligations

The Law of Obligations is an area of the English civil law and relates to whether or not a person is bound under law to act in a particular way. There are many different types of obligations that the law recognises, and on this module, the focus will be on the obligations that arise from contracts and tort law. In this area of law, one person may be entitled to the performance of an obligation, while the other may be bound to perform a particular obligation. In many of the situations we look at, there is a dispute about whether or not the obligation is enforceable in law, i.e. whether or not the person has to do it or whether they failed to do something they should have done. The first part of this module provides an overview of the fundamental aspects of contract. As such, the rules governing the formation of contracts, factors that may vitiate contracts, and the legal remedies available will be considered. The latter part of this module focuses on providing an overview of the law of tort, with a particular focus on the negligence, the general defences available to this, and the issue of occupiers' liability. This module aims to introduce you to the key principles of the law of obligation and help you understand the basics of contract formation and tort law claims in negligence. Assessment is by way of a midterm assignment and an end of term presentation.

Year 2: Law of Business Organisations

This module is designed to provide an in-depth understanding of company, partnership and insolvency law within the context of business organisations. It explores the legal framework around the constitution and forms of business entities, such as incorporation and the separate entity rule. Topics of corporate governance, contractual capacity, directors' duties and minority shareholder protection will also be covered in the module. Additional areas explored in the module include insolvency, business financing and criminal liability of corporate organisations. Overall, the module will help students develop an understanding of the relevant provisions of the Companies Act (2006) and the principles of law governing the operation of business organisations, in order to identify and analyse relevant legal issues, apply appropriate legal principles to such issues, and make appropriate decisions.

Year 2: Fundamentals of Law

Students will be introduced to the major concepts in English law and this module will be the cornerstone of students’ legal knowledge throughout their 'Business and Law’ studies. The central theme running throughout the module is that law is a dynamic body that is open to interpretation. Students will learn through topical discussions designed to aid systematic understanding of broad areas of English law to engage them in discussion and debate. Key cases affecting the development of the law will be described and analysed as part of this process. The module covers areas including, but not limited to, statute law and statutory interpretation, case law and precedent, the civil and criminal legal systems, the role of lawyers, judges, magistrates and juries and the relationship between law, morals, and justice. In addition to developing an understanding of the legal system of England and Wales on this module, students will also gain some transferable skills in oral and written communication and skills in group working.

Year 2: Sustainability in Career Development  
This module helps student prepare for the transition from higher education to the world of work. This is a really important step and we are here to help find a career that is great for you. Throughout the module, we will explore what your personal motivators are, developing an in-depth understanding of what you are seeking from your future career (by considering your values, occupational interests, strengths and personality). This will help you achieve both career satisfaction and success. We will explore the labour market and the changing nature of different industries and sectors (including the impact of automation, artificial intelligence and globalisation). Given the large number of roles available within the economy, we help students understand what their options are and what they need to do to enter these careers. In addition to this, we equip students with the tools they need to successfully navigate the recruitment cycle (including CVs and applications, interview techniques, assessment centres and psychometric tests). Some of our graduates would prefer to work for themselves and we provide support and guidance for those wishing to start their own enterprise. By the end of the module, you will have a comprehensive career plan and know what steps you need to take to secure your dream job.

Year 3: Commercial Law

The course examines commercial law and the social and political context in which it develops. The subject is addressed within a clear and linear structure. Recommendations for academic reading point students to important sources for advanced study, while revision questions and tutorial activities encourage understanding. The course provides a detailed analytical overview of the vast array of areas of commercial law and the policies that lie behind these areas of law. Early weeks of the course deal with one of the most traditional aspects of commercial law, the law of agency. The middle weeks of the course will focus on another central tenant of the commercial law syllabus, the sale of goods. Particular attention is devoted to international trade and sales law, including discussions INCOTERMS, payment in international sales and carriage of goods by sea. The latter part of the course will cover topics on consumer protection law. The course then considers tortious liability for defective products, dealing initially with the law of negligence and the development of product liability and thereafter discussing the content of the Consumer Protection Act 1987. The course then moves to analyse the provisions of the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and looks at unfair commercial practices in relation to goods and services. Finally, the course considers aspects of banking and finance law and consumer credit law. Assessment in this module is by way of a midterm written assignment and a final written exam.

Year 3: Executing Business Strategy

This module focuses on the process of strategic management in organisations. This involves the evaluation of the organisation's situation, analysis and selection of strategic alternatives, and implementation and evaluation of the strategic plan. The module develops the student's ability to work within a team (comprised of various business majors), as well as oral, written, and analytical skills. The course presents conceptual information through readings, lectures, a business game simulation, team presentations, and other class activities. The analysis of case studies of actual business situations including international, non-profit, manufacturing, and service industries will serve as a means of applying the course concepts and develop the students' ability to integrate business concepts. The module requires the students to utilise information from a variety of business areas covered in the Business Core including Accounting, Information Systems, Finance, Marketing, and Management. Assessment in this module will be by way of a group strategy simulation exercise completed throughout the term, and an individual project exploring the experience.

Year 3: Law of International Trade

The goal of this module is to provide an overview of the world trading system, and UK trade law in the context of this global system. This module will examine the international legal regime for international trade with a primary focus on the WTO, including the WTO agreements and case law. The module will include the rationale for trade policy, UK free trade agreements and other bilateral and regional agreements, and recent developments and controversies in international trade law. Special attention will be paid to general treaties of international law, such as the GATT, WTO, and related agreements relevant to trade and investment; specific trade laws; case histories; and dispute settlement procedures. It will familiarise students with the nature and structure of international rights and obligations in the field of international trade and investment, the relationship between domestic (municipal) law and international rules and obligations, the nature of international trade agreements, and the main contours of substantive obligations in the trade and investment field. As a result, students should be able to identify how such rules and obligations can or cannot help to resolve specific problems relating to international trade and investment, how to structure new rules to address new problems, and advise superiors or clients whether specific measures or actions are consistent with UK or other rights and obligations. Assessment in this module is by way of a midterm written assignment and a final written assignment.

Year 3: Undergraduate Major Project Leadership

The Undergraduate Major Project (Leadership in Practice) module will introduce students to theoretical models and frameworks specific to leadership. The module programme will allow and encourage students to engage with and perform practical leadership-oriented activities in the classroom. The students will acquire knowledge and skills through researching areas affiliated with leadership. The module is designed and delivered on the premise that leadership does not exist in isolation, thus students will actively connect leadership to associated areas such as communication, motivation and employee engagement. Students will be required to deliver an oral piece of work where they will focus on a short literature review on two leadership topics. They will be required to draw on theories, frameworks, sector specific examples as well as development strategies pertinent to leadership. At all times students will be highly encouraged, to heighten their industry awareness. They will be supported with this through having access to the many resources on the Virtual Learning Environment. It is expected that students are strategic in their allocation of self-managed time, throughout their course of study. Key employability and graduate skills such as reflective practice, communication and critical thinking remain a core part of the module.