



Programme Specification



Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Business



Programme Title	HNC Business
Awarding Body	Edexcel/BTEC
Teaching Institution	Shrewsbury Colleges Group
Title of final Award	HNC Business
Intermediate Awards	N/A
Approval Date/Review Date	
Mode of Study	Full Time & Part Time
Course Length	One/Two years
Course Code	
UCAS Code BTEC Level 4 HNC	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarks	N/A
JACS Code	601/8364/0 HNC
Accrediting Professional/Statutory Body	Pearson
Accreditation Type	
Accreditation Details	
Criteria for Admission to the Programme	<p>Level 3 Business or equivalent. 48 UCAS points, relevant experience for mature applicants, GCSE or equivalent in Maths and English or willingness to work towards. International applicants require a current IELTS 5.5 score, with no single skill being below 5.</p> <p>Accreditation may be given for prior learning both academic and work based.</p>
Minimum/Maximum Numbers	<p>Minimum 6 Maximum 24</p> <p>Applicants will be advised in August if insufficient numbers have been recruited to make the course viable.</p>
Course Fee	£6500 full time £3250 per year part time
Additional Costs	Books, folders, memory stick etc. & possible trips.
Date of Production	January 2018.
Proposed Revision Date	
Date Revised	September 2021

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This Programme Specification contains an overview of the HNC in Business and how it will be taught and assessed at Shrewsbury Colleges Group. At the end of the document you will find some more general information on support and guidance available to you whilst studying with us. This document should be read in conjunction with the Edexcel/BTEC Higher National Specification for this award. .

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Higher-Nationals/Business/2016/Specification/Business-specification-Issue.pdf>

We hope you choose to come and study with us at Shrewsbury Colleges Group and take advantage of the opportunity to access Higher Education locally in Shropshire. Additional information on student learning support, finance and our policies and procedures can found on our website at:

www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/higher_education

Welcome from Curriculum Leader: Gill Cox

I would like to offer a warm welcome to you if you have or are about to enrol to the Higher National Certificate in Business.

The HNC qualification is an ideal opportunity to gain a higher level qualification that will develop practical skills and knowledge in a number of specialist areas. As well as gaining vital knowledge that can prepare you for a senior role in the workplace, including various levels of management, it offers the potential for you to continue your studies onto a HND Business at Level 5, subject to grade profile and course pathway.

The Business teaching team have a wealth of experience in both teaching and industry and this adds to what is already a stimulating and interesting course.

I do hope you have an enjoyable experience and achieve your goals whilst studying with us.

Gill Cox
Curriculum Leader

Staff Profiles



Curriculum Leader Higher Education : Michelle Dawes

Telephone: (01743) 342439

Email: michelled@shrewsbury.ac.uk

Michelle is the Head of Higher Education & Counselling in which she manages and oversees the quality of the higher education provision. She has over 19 years' experience in the Further and Higher Education sector and been involved in a range of teaching and management roles over the years. She has worked for Shrewsbury College for over 5 years. Her teaching background is teacher education and Human Resources



Curriculum Leader: Gill Cox

Telephone: (01743 342469)

Email: gillg@shrewsbury.ac.uk

Gill is Curriculum Leader for Access to Higher Education, Accounting, Business, Childcare, Computing & IT, English, Maths, Music Technology & Performing Arts. She has more than 20 years' experience in teaching and training and has worked at the College for 18 years teaching English, Maths, Business Administration, ICT, Computing and Interactive Media. Prior to this she worked with apprentices at the College and in Learning and Development for the NHS.

Gill is the College Lead for Equality and Diversity



Subject Teacher: Rubeena Mahay

Telephone: (01743) 342392

Email: Rubeenap@shrewsbury.ac.uk

Rubeena has 4 years' experience in teaching, training and further education as well as teaching on foundation degree programmes. Before teaching she worked in the NHS as a Health Centre Manager and has experience in industry.



Course Leader and Subject Teacher: Andy Holland

Telephone: (01743) 342524

Email: andrewh@shrewsbury.ac.uk

Andy is an experienced teacher of Business Studies and has taught across a range of Higher Education programmes including Degree and Post Graduate level. Prior to teaching Andy held a variety of management posts in Buying and Merchandising within the retail sector.

Subject Teacher: David Cox

Email: davidc@shrewsbury.ac.uk



David has over 20 years teaching experience in the FE and HE sector across computing, business, media, education and a coaching and mentoring role. He also has many years of industry experience which involved advertising, marketing and design practice to a range of blue-chip companies.

Subject Teacher – Dean Rowley

Email: deanr@shrewsbury.ac.uk

Dean is an experienced teacher and has taught on previous HND programmes at college. Prior to teaching he worked in the technology sector both in the UK and internationally.



HE Study Support Tutor: Victoria Thornton

Telephone: (01743) 342553

Email: victoriat@shrewsbury.ac.uk

Victoria provides support to HE students with their studies, such as assignment planning, presentation skills, reading and taking notes etc. as well as with applications for Disability Support Allowance.

Overview of the Diploma – What does the course involve?

A key progression path for Edexcel BTEC Higher National Certificate is the opportunity to progress onto the L5 HND Business, either on a PT or FT basis. Following the HND Business you can then in turn progress onto a one year Top Up Degree in Business and claim an overall BA Hons Degree in Business when your learning journey has finished.

The Edexcel BTEC HNC is a nationally recognised qualification that offers career progression and professional development for those already in part-time employment or with an ambition to progress further with their education.

Rationale

The Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Business (RQF) have been developed to focus on:

- Providing education and training for a range of careers in business such as management, administration, personnel, marketing, accounting and law
- Providing a general qualification which allows flexibility of study to meet local or specialist needs
- Providing specialist options which meet the needs of the major functions in business and allow specialisation with career progression and professional recognition in mind
- Providing opportunities for learners to focus on the development of higher-level skills in a business context
- Providing opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills and techniques and attributes essential for successful performance in working life
- Providing opportunities for learners to gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification to enter employment in business or progress to higher education vocational qualifications such as a full-time degree in business or a related area.

To ensure that this programme complies with the College internal monitoring processes an External Verifier ensures that we assess learner performance in accordance with national standards and evidence requirements. At the annual visit in 2019 and 2020 the External Verifier for this award identified the following areas of good practice:

- Outstanding quality of the students' work
- High levels of student satisfaction.
- Accuracy and high quality of feedback from assessors.

Programme Aims

The HNC in Business will provide learners with a solid foundation in Business and Management skills. The work-related programme of study covers the key knowledge, understanding and practical skills required in the business sector and also offers particular specialist emphasis through the selection of specialist units.

The qualification aims to meet the needs of the rationale by:

- Equipping learners with knowledge, understanding and skills for success in employment across a range of career pathways.
- enabling progression to an undergraduate degree or further professional/specialist qualifications in a related area
- developing learners' career progression through exploring major business functions to create a more diverse skills set and knowledge base
- Develop specialist knowledge to support a specific career aspiration.
- Transferable skills and knowledge, which will enable them to meet career challenges, whether within their current area of employment, or through career progression.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- To provide learners with an understanding of where and how to access sources of finance for a business, and the skills to use financial information for decision making.
- To gain an understanding of individual and group behaviour in organisations and to examine current theories and their application in managing behaviour in the workplace.
- To provide learners with understanding and skills relating to the fundamental concepts and principles that underpin the marketing process.
- To gain an understanding of different organisations, the influence of stakeholders and the relationship between businesses and the local, national and global environments

This programme is distinctive because:

The qualification is delivered at Shrewsbury Colleges Group to offer learners the opportunity to study Higher Education in a local college environment. Learners can share experiences and develop new skills using business based practice linked to theory. The course is tailored to meet the needs of learners and the needs of the local business community.

On successful completion students will be able to:

- Use a range of skills to identify and evaluate business issues, to include managing change, resourcing and problem solving.
- To understand the skills needed to manage communication, teams, projects and events in business environments.
- To transfer the business skills gained to the workplace for career progression.

Programme Structure, Modules and Credits

The Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC in Business is a qualification with a minimum of 120 credits. Part time study is one day per week over two years, FT study is two days per week for one year. All modules must be taken and an overall grade either Pass Merit or Distinction awarded dependent on total credit points gained. Each module contains a credit value.

Example units:

- Business & the Business Environment
- Marketing Essentials
- Human Resource Management
- Management & Operations
- Management Accounting
- Managing a Successful Business Project
- Business Law
- Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management

Units may be subject to change.

Teaching and Assessment

How will I be taught?

- Teaching through presentations, group work and research activities, learning through visits, guest speakers, college staff, research and peer experiences. Assessment through peer work, presentations, reports, case studies.
- The award has a Moodle site offering support with written work and links to relevant professional bodies and sites. Assignment briefs and supporting documentation are also on Moodle.

- The group have a closed face book group to communicate outside of college and to upload interesting learning information and links
- It is anticipated that the student will complete Home study of a minimum of 10 -12 hours per week.

How will I be assessed?

You will be required to complete an assessment for each module of your course.

The purpose of assessment is to ensure that effective learning has taken place of The content of each unit. Evidence of this learning, or the application of the learning, is required for each unit. The assessment of the evidence relates directly to the assessment criteria for each unit, supported by the generic grade Descriptors. The process of assessment can aid effective learning by seeking and interpreting evidence to decide the stage that learners have reached in their learning, what further learning needs to take place and how best to do this. Therefore, the process of assessment should be part of the effective planning of teaching and learning by providing opportunities for both the learner and assessor to obtain information about progress towards learning goals.

The assessor and learner must be actively engaged in promoting a common understanding of the assessment criteria and the grade descriptors (what it is they are trying to achieve and how well they achieve it) for further learning to take place. Therefore, learners will receive constructive feedback and guidance about how they may improve by capitalising on their strengths and clear and constructive comments about their weaknesses and how these might be addressed. Assessment will take place continually throughout sessions however the Summative assessment evidence will be in the form of assignment, written report, practical observation, witness testimony, presentations with written script and film. There are no formal timed examinations for this Award.

Information in this section applies to you as a HNC student considering applying to Shrewsbury College to study in September 2021.

Applying

Full time applications for this Award need to be made through UCAS at: www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/register

Part time applications for this Award need to be made directly to our Admissions Team via the online application form on our website.

For more information on our application process or to receive the application form in an alternative format, please access: www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/higher_education/how_to_apply or contact our admissions teams on (01743) 342346.

Induction

Students will be provided with a structured Induction Programme covering:

Enrolment Event – August/September

Induction Events – September/October

- College Induction
- Programme Induction
- Student Finance Support Session for those with outstanding queries

Student Charter

The College has a HE Student Charter which sets out the standards of conduct expected of tutors and students on programme with us. Follow this link for more information: http://www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/higher_education/he_policies

Assessment

Learners must achieve a minimum of 120 credits to be awarded a BTEC Level 4 HNC.

Learners will be awarded a pass, merit or distinction grade.

It is important that you attend sessions to ensure you are able to submit appropriate work for assessment. If you fail to submit by the published deadlines you will be withdrawn from the module and may fail the award.

The Colleges Group regards plagiarism in assessment as a serious matter. Cases will be investigated in line with the College HE Malpractice and Maladministration policy and potentially the Colleges Student Behavior Policy.

You should speak with your personal tutor if you are having problems attending or submitting assessment as the College has a policy for extenuating circumstances. The Course Leader will support you in making an application to make a late submission or defer assessment if your personal circumstances allow it. Follow this link for more information:

http://www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/higher_education/he_policies

What happens if I fail a unit?

All students are entitled to one re-submission opportunity if the work they initially submit is judged to have failed.

However, if the initial work is not covered by extenuating circumstances, and you submit work for the module for a second attempt (called a **referral**) the maximum mark that can be awarded for re-submission is the threshold pass mark; i.e. 40% grade point 4 for levels 4.

If the re-submitted failed work or non-submission is covered by a successful extenuating circumstances claim then the re-submitted work is considered 'as if for the first time' and can receive its full awarded mark.

Appeals

The College has formal procedures for appeals if you have grounds for believing that your work has not been assessed fairly. For further information, please speak to your course tutor or the curriculum area leader within seven days of your assessment being returned. Follow this link for more information: http://www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/higher_education/he_policies

HE Malpractice & Maladministration

This policy applies to the malpractice/maladministration of College staff and higher education students and details the procedure to be followed if an allegation of malpractice/maladministration is made. Malpractice refers to any deliberate act or practice which compromises or threatens to compromise the process and integrity of assessment, and as a result the validity of the result or certification awarded. Maladministration refers to any non-deliberate activity, neglect, default or other practice which compromises or threatens to compromise the process and integrity of assessment, and as a result the validity of the result or certification awarded.

https://www.scg.ac.uk/images/documents/he/HE_Malpractice_Maladministrati on_Policy_GVP_Quality_and_Curriculum_Management.pdf

Assessment and Award Boards

All summative assessment grades are agreed at formal Assessment and Award Boards held at regular intervals throughout the year at the College.

Support for students with additional needs

We aim to ensure that individual needs are met before starting a course and during the course of study. Our Student Support Tutor for HE runs a study skills support programme throughout the academic year. This covers academic skills such as:

- Assignment planning
- Presentation skills
- Critical thinking
- Reading and note-making
- Referencing
- Time Management & organisation

These will be advertised and accessible to all HE students. The HE tutor will also be available to work with and support learners with an identified additional learning need or disability. If you're a current HE student or prospective HE student with additional learning needs the sooner you inform us the earlier we can discuss and advise you on the support available for you while you study.

Learning support can also be provided by approved Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) providers for Higher Education Students studying at Shrewsbury College who have an identified **disability, mental-health condition, medical condition**, or a **specific learning difficulty** and who are in receipt of DSA. If you have an identified **disability, mental-health condition, medical condition**, or a **specific learning difficulty** an application to Student Finance for *Disabled Students Allowance* will need to be completed along with supporting evidence of your disability.

Follow this link for more information:

<http://www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/higher-education/disabled-students-allowance>

<https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview>

External Verifiers

External verifiers help the college to ensure that the standards of your course are comparable to those provided by other universities or colleges in the UK by visiting the College annually. External Verifiers are appointed by BTEC.

Student Services

You will have full access to the support facilities offered by the Student Services Department located in the Hub at Shrewsbury College, they can support you in accessing financial support, health services, counselling etc. Their opening hours are Monday to Thursday 8.30 – 7.00pm and Friday 8.30 – 5pm. To make an appointment please call (01743) 342323.

You will also have access to support through the 'Agency' at the College, this team provide advice and guidance on work experience opportunities, enrichment opportunities (including volunteering), careers advice, employability support and disability services.

Equal opportunities and harassment policies

Our staff are committed to facilitating equal opportunities for all students irrespective of race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, disability or creed. If you consider that any form of discrimination or prejudice is occurring either to yourself or to another student please raise this with your Course Leader or the Curriculum Leader for your course.

We have a strict anti-harassment and bullying policy. If you believe that you are being harassed either by a member of staff or by another student please raise this with your Course Leader or the Curriculum Leader for your course.

You can access the Colleges policies relating to equal opportunities and harassment by clicking this link:

www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/policy

Safeguarding and health and safety

All students and staff are required to comply with safeguarding and health and safety requirements at their various places of practice and learning. Follow this link for more information:

<http://www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/support/safeguarding>

The Safeguarding team can be contacted at safeguarding@shrewsbury.ac.uk or on 07792 147365.

Quality improvement: Listening to your views

We aim to make your experience both worthwhile and enjoyable and to continually improve the quality of our awards. Therefore, we value your feedback about the quality of our programmes. Student Consultatives will be held every term and a nominated representative from your group will attend these to provide feedback on your experience, please let your Course Tutor know if you would like to become a student representative. An end of course review will also be carried out to obtain your feedback.

Concerns

We really hope you never have any reason to be dissatisfied with the delivery of your course and/or the support we provide you with here at Shrewsbury College, however we are aware that sometimes things go wrong. If your concerns are

affecting the whole of your group please use the Student Consultative meetings to air your concerns and enable us to resolve your complaint, if able.

If your concern is of a more personal nature, in the first instance we would always encourage you to talk over your concerns with your Course Tutor or whoever it is that has been providing the service you are unhappy about, often things can be resolved quickly in these circumstances. The HE and Education Lead is also available to chat things over on a one-one basis.

If you wish to formalise your complaint you will need to access the guidance in our HE complaints policy:

http://www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/higher_education/he_policies

If following your complaint/appeal to the College you feel that our regulations have not been applied properly or procedures followed incorrectly The Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) can consider whether the decision made by ourselves was fair and reasonable. More information can be found here:

www.oiahe.org.uk

Term and Conditions/Policies and Procedures

Please ensure the Terms and Conditions you are issued with at offer stage are retained for your reference.

Policies and procedures to support you during your studies can be found at:

http://www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/higher_education/he_policies

During the year it may be necessary to make minor changes to our Terms and Conditions/Policies and Procedures. We will advise you of any such changes once you have accepted an offer with ourselves and update our website accordingly.

HE Regulatory Information

Regulatory information can be found at:

https://www.shrewsbury.ac.uk/images/downloads/Regulatory_Information.pdf