For more information or to arrange a meeting to discuss your requirements, please contact us at:

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Organisational and professional development

The Business School has a national profile in the development of work-based learning and the process of reflective practice. Reflective practice and continuous personal and professional development fundamentally underpin our approach to working with part-time students and engaging with employers. The delivery of corporate programmes is highly interactive, with workshops and practical exercises linked to reflection and feedback.

The Business School is an accredited centre for the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and the Chartered Management Institute.

Programmes can be specifically tailored to deliver the skills, behavioural competencies and values that matter to organisations. Our approach is to undertake a joint evaluation of an organisation’s requirements and identify appropriate training programmes that will contribute to both corporate and individual employee needs. Programmes are developed in collaboration with external partners, who are encouraged to play an active part in the delivery of courses, providing organisational context and support.

Applied Research and Consultancy

The Business School has a long and proud tradition of research in collaboration with, or supported by, businesses and professional bodies. Our academics are skilled and experienced professionals with hands-on experience of the working environment in private, public and voluntary sectors. We can offer access to knowledge and expertise in a wide range of topic areas covered by our four specialist departments.

The Business School’s research is underpinned by principles that are rooted in diversity, enterprise, ethics and governance. We have significant expertise in areas such as corporate social responsibility, organisation development, human resource management and financial and business ethics and staff are actively involved as trustees and non-executive directors within a number of organisations. We can also provide in-house advice and support in developing marketing strategies and building international links.

We can offer access to government-funded initiatives that can provide expertise for specific projects, ranging from short-term project schemes such as Innovation Vouchers to longer term Knowledge Transfer Partnerships.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are partnerships formed between businesses and universities to manage specific strategic projects. These three-way partnerships bring together a company with a strategic problem to solve, an academic with the research knowledge to find a solution; and a recently qualified graduate who takes that knowledge and works within the company to resolve the problem. KTPs, which typically last from 18 months to 3 years, are designed to help businesses improve their performance and gain competitive advantage through innovation by applying the expertise of the University to real business problems.

The KTP scheme is sponsored by the Technology Strategy Board and was set up over 30 years ago to encourage collaboration between business and universities. The Business School has successfully engaged with a range of businesses through formalised KTPs and is currently building its portfolio of short KTPs, a new initiative which provides funding for projects lasting 10 to 40 weeks.

Student Placements and Projects

The University is one of the UK’s top ten providers of “sandwich” courses which allow students to undertake a twelve-month work placement in the third year of their degree programme. Work placements are an important element of our courses as they enable students to apply their learning and acquire practical experience in the workplace. Employers benefit from an injection of new talent and up-to-date professional skills and many placement students move on to full-time careers with their placement organisation.

The majority of our undergraduate courses offer a year’s placement including Accountancy and Finance, Business and Management, Human Resources, Marketing and related areas. The Business School has a dedicated Placement Unit that offers a professional placement service to employers to provide assistance with the recruitment process and guidance throughout the placement period.

We are also keen to offer students the opportunity to work on “live” projects and invite organisations to put forward small projects which can be built into our courses and allow students to work on real business issues. A number of supervised student market research and consultancy projects have been very well received by local businesses.