

Pearson BTEC Level 7
Diploma and Extended Diploma
in Strategic Management & Leadership

MBA Progression

Prospectus 2021
Distance Learning and
Intensive Virtual Seminars



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Pearson BTEC Level 7 Strategic Management & Leadership

Stratford Business School has provided Distance Learning and Intensive Seminars for members of the Armed Forces since 2005. More than a thousand military students have completed our Level 7 programmes. The programme is primarily aimed at all Armed Forces Officers, Late Entry Officers, Warrant Officers and Reservists with appropriate supervisory/management experience. Contact our office to discuss your individual circumstances.

The awarding body is Pearson – the largest awarding body in Europe. These qualifications are fully accredited as part of the UK Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

Pearson BTEC Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management & Leadership (PgCert)	60 Masters Level Credits
Pearson BTEC Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management & Leadership (PgDip)	120 Masters Level Credits

Level 7 is postgraduate level study

Level 7	Pearson Level 7 Extended Diploma , Master's Degree – MA, MBA Pearson Level 7 Diploma
Level 6	Bachelor Degree BA, BSc
Level 5	HND, Foundation Degree
Level 4	Certificate of Higher Education HNC
Level 3	A Levels BTEC National Diploma
Level 2	GCSE

There is no need for mature students to progress sequentially through the levels; these Level 7 management qualifications are designed for mature, experienced managers. The qualifications at Level 5 and 6 are designed for younger students without management experience.

Accreditation

ICSC(L) Majors can be accredited with the Strategic Leadership & Management unit - this is based on military rank related training (post 2010).

Accreditation cannot be based on experience or number of years' service.

Civilian qualifications at postgraduate Level 7 can be taken into account for accreditation if units have included academic study and are essentially the same in content.

Please contact the SBS office for confirmation of any possible accreditation.

Subjects

The Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management & Leadership is a three Unit qualification (see shaded area below).

The Level 7 Extended Diploma comprises all six Units shown below:

Pearson BTEC Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management & Leadership

Strategic Leadership and Management	Strategic Change Management	Project Management – Strategic Perspective
Strategic Marketing Management	Research Methods	Financial Principles and Techniques for the Strategic Manager

Recognition and Further Opportunities

Pearson Level 7 Management qualifications are widely recognised, and managers in both the private and public sectors study for them at colleges and universities throughout the UK in order to enhance their career prospects.

These qualifications benchmark individuals at Level 7 and put their experience into context. They enable employers to understand an applicant's level of management and intellectual ability, whatever their technical background. This level of qualification indicates that the holder has a broad outlook, and possesses senior management skills that can be used in any organisation. See comments from previous Armed Forces students included later.

Stratford Business School staff can provide more details of progression routes. Northampton University, Staffordshire University and Plymouth University automatically accept SBS Extended Diploma holders on to the final stage of their MBA.

Progression

Fast Track MBA - a two stage programme

Stage 1

The Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management & Leadership (EDSML) is a substantial postgraduate qualification in its own right, and entitles holders to use the post nominals PGDip.

Stage 2

The EDSML represents the first two parts of the most widely recognised qualification for strategic managers –the MBA. For successful students who wish to take this route there is a continuous and guaranteed fast track ladder of progression from the EDSML to the final stage of the MBA at our three partner Universities.

Stage 1 L7 Extended Diploma	Stage 2 MBA top up
Stratford Business School	SBS partner University
Distance Learning and/or Intensive Seminar	Distance Learning Dissertation
120 Credit Points PgDip	180 Credit Points MBA

The points that are accumulated at each stage can be transferred to other programmes or institutions to enable you to plan your professional development in a way that suits your own career plans. Many Universities will negotiate MBA accreditation for the Level 7 Extended Diploma. However, many do not offer distance learning and may not be registered ELC Learning Providers.

Study Methods

Distance Learning

Stratford Business School has specialised in distance learning provision for over 20 years. You will be allocated a Tutor for each subject. All our Tutors are very experienced at providing distance learning support at postgraduate level. We recommend that you study one unit at a time – each subject has a supporting Study Pack and you will be given access to Subject Lecture videos and Presentations and also Assignment Guidelines. All Tutors encourage students to mail in rough drafts of assignments for checking before they are submitted for grading. Assignments can only Pass or be Referred for further work – there are no percentage grades.

Intensive Virtual Seminars (to replace our traditional Residential Seminars)

Most of the seminar Units can be achieved by attending a 5 day Virtual Seminar (usually Mon to Fri). These involve Tutor-led development of analytical management techniques and research methods using private sector case studies and exercises. The Tutors are MBA qualified with previous experience teaching at postgraduate level and in management consultancy. Students can choose to work at the Intensive seminar pace and complete one assignment each day – this will involve evening work. Or a less intensive pace can be chosen where assignments can be completed at any point during the following year, whilst maintaining contact with tutors. There is also an element of distance learning which can be completed before or after the Seminar.

Typically, mornings are allocated time to watch the Tutors' Lectures and Presentations on the subject of the day and the afternoons and evenings of each day are allocated time to work on the Assignments. Zoom meetings are scheduled to allow Questions/Answers and discussions between students and Tutors throughout the week.

Our Armed Forces Students' Experience in their Own Words 2019-20

“An excellent package. Professionally delivered by exceptionally capable individuals.”

“The tutors have been fantastic. The course has inspired me to continue on to an MBA. Genuinely one of the best courses I have done. Thank you.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed this course. I found the study materials both informative and easy to follow. The assignments clearly detailed what I had to do. My tutors were extremely helpful and always prompt with responses – that was the most powerful dynamic about this (distance learning) part of my studying. It was a reassuring feeling to know that the tutors were invested in me.”

“My tutor was very supportive and there for me when I had a query and provided the guidance I needed to set me back on the right path.”

“Very Good Course. Really appealing instruction! Faultless!”

“The wealth of knowledge and content was brilliant. Before the course I wasn’t sure about I would cope, but with great instruction and really good case studies, I am happy with my ability to apply the lessons learnt. I would highly recommend this course to anyone.”

“Enjoyable seminar week working at great pace. Return of feedbacks was quick and really useful. Preparation for the MBA top up has also been really well communicated. Many thanks for all your help.”

“Great course, very well delivered. I will be continuing on to my MBA. Thank you.”

“The tutors (Sue and Marc) were excellent. They have a breadth of knowledge second to none. Extremely helpful and professional. The course has been a real pleasure to be part of. Very many thanks.”

“Great package and instructors. Very knowledgeable and gave excellent insights through professional experience. Many thanks.”

“Excellent seminar and although the schedule was intensive it flowed effectively and enabled a great understanding of the subjects. It was a most efficient use of my time.”

“Fantastic course, delivered brilliantly”

“*Really inspirational course - will recommend to peers! Thank you.*”

“The standard of the entire package has been excellent. The tone, pace and standard of instruction has been first class. All teaching was pitched at the right level with additional levels of support provided when required and requested. A novel and mature method of learning.”

“*Great course with excellent instruction. Great support with detailed feedback. Very enjoyable and educational.*”

“Outstanding instructional techniques.”

“*Good quality course, thoroughly enjoyed and now have the confidence to push on for my MBA.*”

“An enjoyable week (seminar). Learnt so much which will help me with both the internal and external side of my current working career.”

“The (seminar) was without doubt the best week of training I have ever received. I am keen to continue through to the MBA top up.”

“The tools to achieve the objectives are delivered in a simplified and no nonsense manner. This reinforced my existing knowledge and has given me the confidence to take my studies further.”

“An excellent course, really well run. Thoroughly enjoyable and really useful.”

Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership

Course Fees

Study Mode	Course Fee
Distance Learning only	£2500.00
Intensive Virtual Seminar with Distance Learning element	£2500.00

Stratford Business School is registered as an Enhanced Learning Credits provider.

The SBS Course fees represent a considerable saving in both time and money when compared to typical University fees, to achieve the PgDip and gain the 120 Masters level credits.

MBA Top Up Options

Stratford Business School has had a partnership with three Universities for the last 20 years. These universities offer our students discounted Course Fees and will automatically accept our extended Diploma holders on to the final stage of their MBA's.

These Universities are Northampton, Staffordshire and Plymouth – their MBA final stage information follows, including points of contact for further questions or enrolment.

All three Universities are registered as Enhanced Learning Credit providers.



Master of Business Administration (top-up from EDSML)

by distance learning

Course content

The MBA is the leading internationally recognised qualification for practising managers. This is a distance learning programme designed as a top-up to the MBA for holders of the Pearson Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (EDSML).

The focus of the programme is in developing holistic strategic thinking within an organisation. The ability to recognise and exploit opportunities and the development of strategies and plans to cope with managing change are addressed. Course members will complete a Critical Issues in Business module that is designed to assist students in the choice of research topic, and to satisfactorily complete a Dissertation.

Special course features

- Designed to build on learning from the EDSML
- Extend the academic reach of candidates
- Specialised resources support distance learning

Top up Requirements 60 Points

- Critical issues in Business – Dissertation topic choice
- Dissertation

For Stratford Business School EDSML holders there is a fast track application procedure. Use the link below to apply online and Click on "Apply for a Course". Choose the year of study and type "MBA" in the Search box. You will then see the link to "Master of Business Administration Top Up". Click on this to then be given the option of choosing a Stratford Business School May, September or February Application. Complete the Application Form and, when asked to upload a personal statement, send a Word Document stating "Contact Marc Gisborne, Stratford Business School".

Go to www.northampton.ac.uk/applyonline

Contact Information

Admissions Co-ordinator: Gemma Butt distancelearning@northampton.ac.uk

Applicants also need to send a copy of their passport or driving license details to:
distancelearning@northampton.ac.uk

The Course Details can be accessed with the link below:

www.northampton.ac.uk/study/courses/courses-by-subject/business-and-management/master-of-business-administration-topup-distance-learning-mba

Northampton University Testimonials

"The opportunity to directly apply unclassified military doctrine to a business environment is of huge value to me as a MBA student. Stratford have been incredibly accommodating in both targeting my research and supporting me in developing a valid MBA thesis to investigate. Combining existing strengths of professional and operational experience provides me a great starting point not only for conducting academic research but also a platform to demonstrate my cross-over potential to business. I have been able to combine Counterinsurgency principles with Global Marketing strategies gaining a greater understanding of both in the process. The opportunities provided by Stratford will be of great value when the time comes for me to transition to civilian employment."

Major Simon Doyle, British Army

I have found the way that Northampton Uni run the course extremely helpful and was one of the reasons along with the cost effectiveness of it compared to other part time programmes, that persuaded me to choose Northampton Uni. Initially I applied and was expected to go to Henley Management School at Reading Uni but the course offered less freedom and was massively over-priced. I found the critical issues assignment most useful as it allowed me to apply newly learnt theory to what I had been doing at work and analyse and evaluate where things had gone wrong. It also set the precedence for my dissertation by highlighting the level of work, analysis and depth of work required. - Captain Jez, British Army.

The fact that I am able to combine my experience with my chosen dissertation title has been key to what I would describe as presenting an 'Applied Dissertation', I have been able to 'tailor' my dissertation to not only provide written proof of my intention to take the next step in my new career seriously but also been able to take the first step towards completing the first piece of 'real work' that may be applied by my employer (I hope!) On the softer side, I feel that having the freedom that the programme provides, gives me a lot of confidence that my previous experience is applicable in the business environment - learning that what I have been doing all of these years is business management - just different words and procedures. - Clint Barker, British Army (Ret.)

Northampton University Business School and in particular Dr Mils Hills have been instrumental in the success of my studies and the enjoyment of my educational journey. As a full time British Army officer in a busy operational unit my study time is at a premium so having the flexibility and freedom to select topic titles that are relevant to my current position and potential future second career has been invaluable. Dr Hills' wealth of knowledge, positive feedback and encouragement has allowed me to progress quickly and produce results far above my expectations. As a mature student having to fit my studies in around full time employment, having a tutor who responds so rapidly and professionally to requests for information and advice has been pivotal to my successful studies. – Captain Guy Batchelor, British Army.

The course has not only allowed me to research an idea I have always been very interested in but it has also enhanced my professional knowledge of the commercial sector. I'm currently looking at the recruiting process and the effects organisational culture may have on it. Because of the research I've had to conduct I've learned so much more than I ever thought I would. The leadership element of the critical issues essay was a fantastic tool for learning. The Military always talks about leadership but not many of them know the theory behind it. I've served two years in the Royal Military Academy and I'm certain I have learned more about leadership in the last 8 months than what I have learned in my 26yrs in the Army. This can only be a positive.
Major MW, British Army.

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

For personnel who have completed:

Pearson Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership

Why choose Staffordshire University to study for your MBA?

Staffordshire University Business School working in collaboration with Stratford Business School are able to offer military personnel who have successfully completed the Edexcel Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership a place on the dissertation stage of an MBA. This arrangement recognises the depth of learning you have undertaken as part of your military training and development; augmented by your study towards the Pearson qualification.

The dissertation stage of the MBA consists of:

- a taught research methods module
- an independent, but supported, masters dissertation.

When can I begin my studies?

Entry points are September and January each year. However, should there be sufficient registrations additional research methods modules will be scheduled.

From commencement of the taught research methods module till the submission of a completed dissertation, the usual timescale is 8 months.

How will I study?

You will receive, prior to attending the research methods study period at the University, a study pack which will help you to prepare for your studies and subsequent research.

The research methods module will be delivered at the University's Stafford Campus through a five day intensive programme, which is supported by the University's Virtual Learning Environment. You will have a module tutor who will support your independent study.

Your appointed dissertation supervisor will be a subject matter expert providing support for your dissertation research either face-to-face, by email or by telephone.

I want more information or I want to start the course; who do I contact now?

To discuss your study options please contact;

Lesley Allen
University Armed Forces Partnership Manager
01785 353572 or 07917 270083
HMForces@staffs.ac.uk

ENTERPRISE WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

MBA top up for Pearson Level 7 Extended Diploma holders:

Dissertation only by distance learning (15,000 words):

- Flexible delivery
- Study from any location worldwide
- Supported by online learning resources
- Access to Plymouth University e-library
- Choice of 3 start dates: September, January or March with corresponding completion dates in August, December and February

The programme provides on-line support but visits, if possible, to Plymouth during the year would be beneficial. Once you are enrolled you will be asked to produce a dissertation proposal and will be allocated a tutor.

Stratford Business School students have been offered discounted course fees.

Contact details for questions:

Dr Mohamed Yacine Haddoud

Email: mohamed.haddoud@plymouth.ac.uk

The link for information and application is:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/mba-business-administration>

<http://www1.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/3070/Pages/HowToApply.aspx> for how to apply for this programme.

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