



## Two Stage Process

### **STAGE 1 PGDip:**

The Pearson BTEC Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (120 Masters level credits) is delivered by Stratford Business School using intensive virtual seminars and distance learning. SBS have delivered this programme to Armed Forces personnel for over 20 years.

### **STAGE 2 MBA:**

On successful completion of the Extended Diploma with SBS our PG Dip holders will be eligible for an unconditional offer for a final stage "top up" to achieve an MBA by distance learning with one of our partners: Northampton University, Staffordshire University or Plymouth University.

### ELC FUNDING CAN BE USED FOR BOTH STAGES

The PGDip provides an opportunity for service personnel to build on their strategic level leadership and management training and provides direct entry on to the final stage of an MBA.

This programme is primarily aimed at all Armed Forces Officers, Late Entry Officers, Warrant Officers and Reservists with appropriate supervisory/management experience.

Contact David at our SBS office for more details: [study@stratbiz.co.uk](mailto:study@stratbiz.co.uk).



## Stage 1 PGDip

Pearson BTEC 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.

There are six units on the programme:

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

### Study Methods for the Extended Diploma

#### Distance Learning

All units can be completed by distance learning. Stratford Business School's experienced, MBA qualified staff will guide you through the Units at your own pace and provide feedback on your assignments. We recommend that you study one unit at a time – each subject has a supporting Study Pack and Assignment Guidelines. You will also be given access to Subject Lecture Videos and Presentations to support your studies. Tutors encourage students to email in rough drafts of assignments for checking before they are submitted for grading. Assignments are mainly case study based and can only Pass or be referred for further work – there are no percentage grades.

#### Intensive 5-day Virtual Seminars

Four units can be achieved by attending an intensive five day Virtual Seminar (usually Mon to Fri). These units include Strategic Marketing Management, Research Methods, Financial Principles and Techniques and Strategic Change Management. The seminar involves 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.

The five day delivery of subjects takes place with a series of videos and presentations using the same seminar Tutors and the same Study Packs, exercises and Assignments as our previous traditional face to face seminars which we held at Armed Forces bases throughout the UK. These subject videos will be used in conjunction with "live" Zoom based group meetings with Tutors and students to further replicate the usual SBS "seminar" experience.

## **Seminar Tutor Support - Rapid Feedback**

Tutors are available to help students, answer questions and check the progress of assignment work by email or individual Zoom tutorials. Tutors will provide rapid feedback during the seminar. Where possible Tutors will support the idea of "study buddies" where students can "virtually" work together in groups of two.

## **Choose your Pace of Study**

You can choose to work at the "intensive seminar" pace and complete an assignment each day – emailing the draft in by the next morning – this is likely to involve evening work. Or you could opt to work at a less intensive pace and submit your assignment drafts anytime in the weeks after the seminar.

## **Seminar Student Requirement**

The five day seminar is intensive and requires uninterrupted concentration. You will obviously benefit from having a quiet room either at work or at home as your Seminar Study Area to use each day and also for evening work.

## **Completion of Remaining Assignments**

It has always been a requirement to complete some assignment work outside of seminar time. Two units will need to be completed by most students – but these can be finished before or after the seminar week. The Strategic Leadership and Management unit and the Project Management unit will be sent out to you as soon as your deposit is received. If using ELC funding - we can only send out Study Packs to you as indicated by the "Course Start Date" on your Claim Authorisation Note. You will need to choose a course start date to suit when you wish to begin your studies.

## **Accreditation**

ICSC(L) Majors can be accredited with the Strategic Leadership and Management Unit – this is based on military rank related training.

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

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

## **Extended Diploma: 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.

This level of qualification benchmarks individuals at postgraduate level 7 and puts their experience into context. This PGDip qualification enables employers to understand an applicant's level of management and intellectual ability, whatever their technical background. The qualification indicates that the holder has a strategic outlook and possesses senior management skills that can be used in any organisation.

The Masters credit points gained from the PGDip 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 a registered ELC Learning Provider.

SBS Extended Diploma holders can automatically move to Stage 2 and be offered a final stage MBA place at a partner university if they wish.

## **Stage 2 MBA**

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

Stratford Business School's partner Universities include: Northampton University, Staffordshire University and Plymouth University - all automatically accept SBS Extended Diploma holders on to the final stage of their MBA's by distance learning. The main requirement is a 15,000 word tutor guided Dissertation. Our students have a streamlined application process and benefit from discounted course fees.



### **The value of the MBA: The Master of Business Administration**

The MBA is a globally recognised management qualification that benchmarks individuals at postgraduate Level 7 and puts their experience into context. It enables employers worldwide to understand an applicant's level of management and intellectual ability, whatever their technical background.

### **How to Enrol**

Contact David Dayitch at Stratford Business School for an Application Form and confirmation of the course fees. Please also get in touch if you have any questions and to find out future Virtual Seminar dates

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