

How is the course assessed?

You will complete several short written assignments throughout the two years, based on applying course learning in your own organizational setting and other contexts. You will also conduct a more sustained action project during the second year of the degree.

The Centre for Action Research in Professional Practice (CARPP)

Formed in 1993 to develop the theory and practice of action research, CARPP is a core research centre within the University of Bath School of Management. It is recognised internationally for its contributions to the development of self-reflective and collaborative forms of action research and has links with other universities and management education establishments around the globe.

The University of Bath School of Management: One of the top UK Business Schools

One of the oldest established business schools in Britain, the University of Bath School of Management has a track record of excellence in teaching and research as well as an international reputation for the quality of its programmes. The School is rated 5A by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and is ranked in the top 5 UK Business Schools (*The Times Good University Guide 2006*).

Academic expertise

The programme is taught by world-class academics from CARPP and Visiting Teaching Fellows. Substantial contributions to the course content are made by leading international authorities, by managers from organizations who are working with innovative corporate practices, and by people offering alternative views on the purposes and practices of business.

Globally recognised academics within the School of Management include Judi Marshall, Director of Studies for the programme and Professor of Organizational Behaviour, and Peter Reason, Director of CARPP and Professor of Action Research. CARPP Visiting Fellows include: Dr Gill Coleman, Chris Seeley, David Ballard and Tim Malnick.

How much does it cost?

£5,750 per annum (March 2006 and 2007 intakes) not including accommodation and subsistence required during the residential workshops.

"I would recommend the course to anyone who needs a challenge to 'think outside the box', not only in business terms, but also in personal terms."

Paul Wielgus, Senior Manager, Allied Domecq (MSc 1)

"This course forms a totally different basis for learning and transforming, both at a personal and organizational level. It is an excellent platform for inquiring and developing an understanding of sustainable development and how it could be implemented in organizations."

Lise Kingo, Director of Corporate Environmental Affairs, Novo Nordisk A/S, Denmark (MSc 2)

"The course is aptly-named: I have spent much time investigating, choosing and practising my responsibilities. But not just in my 'business' life; this course has helped me look at my relationships with the natural world, with my work, with the organizations within which I work, and with my family and friends."

James Barlow, Member of Environmental Steering Group, PepsiCo UK and Ireland, and Member of Sustainable Wallingford (MSc 8)

"I was hungry to understand why and how we'd collectively driven the world into a cul de sac, and if there was anything I could do through my work to be part of the solution, rather than collude with the problem. ... the course met that need, in abundance, helping me to see for the first time the clear connections between the economic, environmental, political, and social dilemmas of our generation. But the experience went much deeper. It taught me what real learning is and how to learn, by combining the world of ideas with the process of intentional action and reflection."

Paula Downey, Partner, Downey Youell Associates, Eire (MSc 5)

Contact information

If you would like further information or a copy of our brochure please contact:

Course Administrator (MSc in R&BP)
Centre for Action Research in Professional Practice (CARPP)
School of Management, University of Bath, Bath, BA2 7AY, UK

Tel: +44 1225 383861

Fax: +44 1225 386473

Email: mscrpb@management.bath.ac.uk

Website: www.bath.ac.uk/carpp/msc

The information in this leaflet is correct at time of going to press. Courses are monitored and reviewed regularly, as a result of which changes may be made as part of the School's policy of continuous improvement. There may be amendments to the programme described in this leaflet both before and after a candidate's admission. This leaflet does not form any part of any contract between any person and the University. 11/05
Printed on recycled paper.

responsibility
globalisation
business
community
sustainability
ethics
environment
corporate
responsibility
ethics
sustainability
globalisation
business
responsibility
community
business
comm
sustain
MSc in
Responsibility & Business Practice

Challenging the way you think and act



A two-year part-time course starting in March each year

An innovative management degree

As environmental, social, and ethical issues have moved up the public agenda globally, the question of 'responsibility' in the context of business practice is now a major topic for debate. Climate change, world poverty and energy futures are now identified as significant concerns and challenges, their causes and possible solutions are much discussed and contested. What roles might business corporations, non-governmental organizations, governments and citizens be expected to play, locally and internationally, in this complex context?

The launch of the MSc in Responsibility & Business Practice in 1997 signified one of the first attempts in management education to address these issues directly.

In order to do this robustly, the course is innovative in educational approach. It uses the principles and practices of action research to enable participants to engage, intellectually and experientially, with challenging and contentious issues. It encourages question-posing, inquiry, experiential learning and self-reflection in order to develop participants as change agents and provide a forum for them to become explorers and pioneers in responsibility and business practice. The programme is unique in using an educational approach that mirrors its content, especially offering forms of inquiry that can be adopted in order for these issues to be explored.

Aims

The programme reviews a wide range of alternative perspectives on business, all of which challenge ideas about where 'responsibility' begins and ends. Many people are concerned about the impact business has on communities and environments, both local and global, but do not know how to bridge the gaps between their beliefs and hopes and the reality of their working lives. This course addresses these challenges. It aims to equip you with the skills, knowledge and awareness both to review your own practice and to play an active part in helping organizations and communities understand more about the issues and take practical steps to start addressing them.

Background

The MSc in Responsibility and Business Practice was developed in an educational partnership between the University of Bath School of Management and the New Academy of Business (established by Anita Roddick, Founder of The Body Shop International). In 2005, the New Academy of Business was re-organised as the Association of Sustainability Practitioners, with which the course has strong links.

Benefits

By studying the MSc in Responsibility & Business Practice you will:

- gain knowledge of current thinking on corporate responsibility, globalisation, ecology and sustainable business, new economic approaches, human needs in the workplace, diversity, and corporate citizenship;
- hear from managers in leading-edge organizations, who are developing values-aware business practices;
- carry out action-experiments in your own workplace or community, and develop skills in disciplined action research;
- develop your capacities as an informed and self-aware individual and as a contributor to organizational and social change;
- participate in the growing world-wide debate on the purposes and responsibilities of businesses;
- benefit from strong peer support and mutual education.

What is action research?

Action Research incorporates a rich array of ideas and approaches. As practised on the MSc, it invites you to engage in a continuous process of learning, reflection and disciplined inquiry into your perspectives and behaviour, and how these influence working life and other activities. Action research is often conducted in collaboration with others. This participative active learning style helps you engage reflectively with challenging, controversial and potentially disturbing aspects of responsibility, business and working life, enabling you to think and act in new ways. Action research has fundamentally influenced the MSc's course design and learning processes.

Who is the course for?

This course is appropriate for a wide range of people, including managers, consultants and others in commercial, non-profit, public and intergovernmental organizations who want to engage in the growing international debate about corporate responsibility and to develop their management practices to reflect these concerns. It is especially suitable for people working in organizations already thinking about issues of corporate responsibility, those who are seeking to

take the role of change agents in organizations or communities, or those who wish to undertake postgraduate education as a form of personal and professional development.

For this postgraduate level course, you will need to have the work experience, commitment and ability to tackle a demanding programme whilst continuing with your working life. **This course is not for recent graduates who have no work experience.** The course is international in scope, and is designed to be accessible to people living outside the United Kingdom. Attendance at workshops in the UK is a course requirement.

Course structure

The course is studied part-time over two years and is based on a series of eight intensive residential workshops, each of five days' duration. It is designed as a process of action research, drawing on the expertise in this form of adult learning established at the Centre for Action Research in Professional Practice at Bath.

Each workshop involves focused presentations and informal discussions with leading international authorities, presentations from practitioners in organizations currently developing innovative practices in relevant areas, and facilitated debate within the course community. The development of relevant action inquiry skills – to enable you to conduct action experiments in your own organization and other contexts – will be a core feature of the programme.

What topics are covered?

- Workshop 1:** Globalisation and the new context of business
- Workshop 2:** New economics
- Workshop 3:** Ecology and sustainable development
- Workshop 4:** Sustainable corporate management
- Workshop 5:** Humanity and enterprise
- Workshop 6:** Corporate citizenship
- Workshop 7:** Diversity and difference: globalisation revisited
- Workshop 8:** Self and world futures

In addition, cross-woven threads are considered throughout, including systematic thinking, inquiry practices, power, gender, diversity, leadership, change, the processes of learning in a community of peers and the skills of being a change agent. These provide a vital 'toolkit' for addressing the course issues and contribute to the process orientation that is a core feature of the programme's educational approach.

MSc in Responsibility & Business Practice