BIC6012-A module descriptor	
Module Title	Issues and Innovations
Credit Level	10 credits (FHEQ Level 6)
Session	2026/7 academic year
BDA occurrence	Semester 1 available at University of Bradford
BDA occurrence	Semester 2 available at University of Bradford
BDB occurrence	Semester 2 available at University of Bradford
BDA occurrence	Semester 3 available at University of Bradford

Transparency notice

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BIC6012-A module aims

This research-engaged, cross-disciplinary module will introduce you to a range of contemporary issues, technological advancements and other 'disruptive' innovations with the potential to impact multiple fields of study, sections of society and areas of industry.

You will be supported to research a current issue or innovation from different viewpoints and to critically examine its real or potential impact on practice in your intended field of postgraduate study (or a related field).

The module also aims to foster original and entrepreneurial thinking by encouraging you to consider how practice in your intended field of study could be enhanced through the innovations discussed and/or how the impact of a particular issue could be minimised.

BIC6012-A module learning outcomes

No.	Students completing the module will be able to:
01	Discuss how an issue and/or innovation has disrupted theory or practice in a particular field of study, sector or employment.
02	Critically reflect on the potential impact of solutions and/or opportunities presented by technological advancements in a chosen sector.

BIC6012-A module outline syllabus

The contemporary nature of this module means that topics may be chosen to reflect current affairs and/or particular areas of study/research interest across the University.

The list below gives a flavour of the topics around which the module will be framed:

Internationalisation and globalisation
International alliances and national or regional independence/autonomy
Financial/economic issues: poverty, unemployment, inequality...
Education and training
Work and the changing nature of the employment 'contract': zero-hours contracts, the 'gig economy', remote working...
Corporate social responsibility and business ethics
Health and healthcare: the mental health crisis, ageing populations, obesity...
Environmental issues: climate change, food production and rewilding...
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)
Technological advancements: artificial intelligence, digital currencies, anti-ageing drugs, differential privacy...
The digital space: censorship, intellectual property, privacy, anonymity, 'fake news', data protection, cyberbullying/trolling...

In addition to the issues/innovations studied, the following academic/transferable skills will also be developed:

Looking at topics from different disciplinary perspectives
Synthesising information from multiple sources
Finding appropriate academic sources

As international students will bring diverse perspectives and experiences to this module and to the topics covered and they will be encouraged to reflect these in both classroom discussions and their end of course assignment.

For more information, visit the VLE (**Canvas**) page, go to our **Reading Lists webpage for this module** or search **https://bradford.rl.talis.com** for this module.

BIC6012-A module notional learning hours

- 50 hours Lectures
- 50 hours Directed Study

The overall expected hours may include contact time, scheduled learning activity, directed and independent study and any minimum expectations for placement learning. Most learning at the University of Bradford has some online content and sessions which are delivered fully by virtual means are labelled as "online".

BIC6012-A module learning, teaching and assessment

Groups are small and classes are student-centred and interactive.

The classroom approach is explicitly designed to help international students acquire new knowledge and skills, to build their confidence and enable them to become more independent learners. By doing this consistently and across all modules, the programme provides them with a strong foundation for further study in their chosen subject area.

The approach is inclusive and recognises that students come from different backgrounds with a range of previous learning experiences and associated expectations, beliefs and behaviours. Teaching and learning methods are clearly explained so students understand why (where appropriate) they need to engage in new ways of learning and why those they have used or relied on up to this point may be less suited to supporting their ongoing development and their chances of success in UK Higher Education.

Formative work is an integral part of the approach. In class, students are set tasks that require them to apply their knowledge and skills, to think critically and to solve problems. The level of challenge is gradually increased as the students grow in confidence and Tutors help them to see that experimentation, trial and error are central to the learning process, providing constructive feedback on both what has been achieved and how.

Formative work specific to this module that would help to prepare the students for their summative end-of term essay might, for example, involve students working in small groups to research a particular issue and then writing a concise (150-200 words) 'executive summary' of the issue and its impact with feedback provided either by peers or by the Tutor. Students are developing and practising their writing skills in parallel in their English for Master's Preparation module, but they will be getting additional practise focused on essay writing skills: planning, organising, drafting, editing and reviewing and research skills (identifying appropriate source material)

Students are also expected to engage in independent study, to reflect on their own performance and to discuss this with their module tutor or personal academic tutor, who will provide support and advice and, when necessary, draw the attention of Module and Programme Leads to a struggling student using the 'Students of concern' process.

The summative assessment requires students to work individually to produce an essay exploring the impact of a particular issue or innovation in either academia or industry.

BIC6012-A mode of assessment

Type	Mode	Assessment description	Weight
Summative	Coursework - Written	Essay examining an issue or innovation and its impact in a chosen sector (LO1, LO2) (1500 words)	100%

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