

## Innovation, Enterprise and Circular Economy Postgraduate Certificate Programme Specification

[www.brad.ac.uk/courses/pg/innovation-enterprise-and-circular-economy-pgcert/](http://www.brad.ac.uk/courses/pg/innovation-enterprise-and-circular-economy-pgcert/)

<b>Academic Year:</b>	2023/24
<b>Degree Awarding Body:</b>	The University of Bradford
<b>Target Award:</b>	Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) Innovation, Enterprise and Circular Economy [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level 7]
<b>Further Study Available:</b>	Master of Business Administration (MBA) [FHEQ Level 7]
<b>Interim/exit awards:</b>	Certificate of Continuing Education (CCE) [FHEQ Level 7]
<b>Programme Admission:</b>	July
<b>Programme Mode of Study:</b>	12-18 months part-time distance learning

**This programme is delivered by the "triple crown" AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS accredited University of Bradford School of Management.**

**Please note:** This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

### Minor Modification Schedule

1. June 2018: OIM7018-B confirmed as core
2. January 2020: Fixed document errors
3. December 2020: Streamlined learning outcomes and confirmed COVID adaptations.
4. June 2021: Specification reformatted and made accessible. Annual changes for 2021/22.
5. November 2022: Annual changes for 2022/23 published.

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### Introduction

In accordance with the University's mission 'Making Knowledge Work', the School of Management aims to provide programmes that educate individuals as managers and business specialists, and thereby improve the quality of management as a profession.

Short- and long-term rising commodity prices, structural adjustments and declining quality of resources are presenting major strategic and operational challenges to companies, countries and geo-regions.

Shifts in economic geography, instability in financial markets and volatility in access to and security of supply, raise the risks of resource conflicts and social upheaval. Such issues will likely impact more widely on fundamental societal needs for food, water and affordable energy and fuel.

All these drivers and trends point to the need to re-think supply chain design, assessment of risk and security and business models. The Circular Economy Certificate has been developed to meet these challenges and to support our academic programme with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF).

According to EMF, a working definition of the circular economy is:

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A framework for re-thinking our industrial economy that is, by design or intention, restorative and in which materials flows are of two types: biological nutrients, designed to re-enter the biosphere safely, and technical nutrients, which are designed to circulate at high quality without entering the biosphere.

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Closed substance cycles, sometimes referred to as closed loop systems feature prominently in discussions around circular economy. The term 'closed loop' is then also often linked and associated with a further term – 'industrial ecology' – which features a number of characteristics that appear in the circular economy framework.

Closed loop principles are well founded in engineering under the idea of closed loop systems and ecology (operating with feedback systems). These principles involve a careful management of materials flows, which in the circular economy are of two types as described by McDonough and Braungart (Cradle to Cradle, Re-making the way we make things): biological nutrients, designed to re-enter the biosphere safely and build natural capital, and technical nutrients, which are designed to circulate at high quality without entering the biosphere. Earlier studies used terms such as economy in loops referring to product life extension, durability, remanufacture and product service substitution to reduce the material intensity of the economy as well as create virtuous material – economy cycles.

The term industrial ecology also has a number of features of closed loop and cascading principles and itself is often associated with a number of other terms such as clean technology, design for environment and industrial symbiosis. At its heart it refers to industrial eco-systems with inputs and outputs from different processes, and facilities and activities becoming connected or evolving over time to the benefit of all in the network. At the firm or facility level, methods and techniques such as Cleaner Production, Design for Environment, Life Cycle Assessment, Environmental Management Systems highlight significant resource savings that could be achieved from focussed and structured analysis of material and resource inputs and outputs. Industrial symbiosis takes this activity to another level, connecting groups of firms, processes and businesses who can benefit by using each other's wastes or outputs. Projects such as the famous Kalundborg eco-park in Denmark, have provided a blueprint for many such schemes in China.

Some of the practical implications of a circular economy are a shift from selling goods/products to selling performance, moving towards renewable energy, rethinking value cycles and supply chains and recognising the value of diversity and whole system design. Innovation and enterprise lies at the heart of the circular economy – harnessing

new ideas, modernising old ideas and shifting from a throughput model to circular models for value creation, retention and recovery.

## Study and Progression

The programme is designed to be fully on-line with all materials in downloadable format. Students will receive dedicated DL tutor support, online tutor discussions and online live tutorials. There are two intakes each year to this programme.

A student taking the PGC award can transfer to the MBA upon successful completion of the award or during the award, assuming satisfactory academic progression (decided by the Director of Studies). Note that entry requirements for the PGC are the same as for the MBA.

## Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- A1. Prepare students for the transition into business and an organisation in circular economy
- A2. Deepen students' understanding of key concepts, principles and business applications of a circular economy framework
- A3. Identify, test and evaluate ideas, innovation and enterprising solutions around the circular economy within mainstream business and management setting
- A4. Extend and develop students' networks to develop in-depth discussion and updating on complex issues associated with implementing the circular economy.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

**To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Postgraduate Certificate, students will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate a systemic and critical understanding of management knowledge and awareness of contemporary business issues, and current research and practice in business administration
2. Demonstrate a broad but rigorous understanding of the concepts, constructs and frameworks applicable to business administration and of the tools and techniques used to support decision making
3. Exercise personal initiative and responsibility in effecting solutions to complex strategic business problems surrounding by uncertain business intelligence and incomplete data
4. Evidence adaptability and originality in tackling and solving problems, and the ability to work cooperatively with others and provide ethical leadership in bringing about strategic transformational change

## **Learning and Teaching Strategy**

The programme aims to integrate applied and theoretical knowledge with assessment processes that test knowledge, application and analysis of the disciplines. Each module involves a balance between individual and collaborative learning, both of which requires the student to be highly motivated and willing to develop understanding through self-directed and peer to peer study. To facilitate this and ensure that maximum benefit is derived for this mode of study, a number of teaching methods will be used to support their studies:

- The provision of a detailed interactive study book made up of 8 learning units and 1 revision/overview unit introducing key areas and guiding the student through additional materials (e.g. relevant materials, information on the VLE)
- The provision of relevant set materials and additional practitioner based and academic literature
- Complete online lecture audio, selected lecture videos and presentation slides (selected modules)
- Module leader 'talking heads' introducing and concluding each module
- Test Yourself questions for each module learning unit
- Dedicated DL tutor support
- Online tutor discussion forums
- On line live tutorials with a dedicated module tutor using case studies to further develop understanding of key issues

In addition to the assessed components of the programme, there are a number of skills-based non-assessed programmes available to students. These are delivered by "attendance" in live online workshops. The programmes are supported by online materials.

## **Assessment Strategy**

The DL PGC in Innovation, Enterprise and the Circular Economy is assessed by assignment. Assessment is integrated with learning and teaching to support and demonstrate holistic achievement of the learning outcomes for the programme and individual modules.

In addition, there are formative assessments that allow the student to develop their ideas and confidence with the subject matter. Emphasis is placed on the feedback function of formative assessment as part of a cycle of teaching, learning and reflection.

All written assignments are submitted for evaluation through Turnitin which is a facility within the institutional VLE. Turnitin provides a means of checking that work meets the standards of scholarship expected of students of the University of Bradford and is the mechanism by which marks and feedback will be provided.

All assessment tariffs, evaluation criteria, pass marks and marking scales comply with the University of Bradford's guidance and policies governing assessment.

## Curriculum

The programme commences with the module Circular Economy Core Principles and Concepts. This contains the threshold concepts and essential frameworks that are required for students to study the four modules that build upon these ideas.

Over the course of study, students will study the following modules in a sequence:

**Table 1: Programme Modules (PGC)**

Code	Title	Credit	Level	Type
OIM7018-B	Circular Economy Core Principles and Concepts	20	FHEQ 7	Core
OIM7019-A	Materials, Resources, Energy and Competitiveness	10	FHEQ 7	Core
OIM7020-A	Business Models for a Circular Economy	10	FHEQ 7	Core
OIM7021-A	Diversity, Scale and Development	10	FHEQ 7	Core
EAE7005-A	Enterprise and Innovation	10	FHEQ 7	Core

The curriculum may change, subject to availability and the University's programme approval, monitoring and review processes. All modules will be studied by the Distance Learning (DL) mode of study.

Students will be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 award of Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation, Enterprise and Circular Economy if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

## Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Postgraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the link: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations/>

## Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

If you'd like a quick view on your suitability and eligibility for the Innovation, Enterprise and Circular Economy Certificate before you complete a full application, send us your CV and we'll get back to you as soon as possible. Please email it to: [mba@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:mba@bradford.ac.uk)

Applicants with a disability may also wish to contact the Disability Office before applying by visiting the website: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before/>

## Literacy and Numeracy

All applicants should display broad evidence of numeracy and literacy competences. This can be in the form of a satisfactory Graduate Management Test (GMAT) score, which is

valid for the year of entry, and/or in the form of a portfolio of professional works. A nominal GMAT score varies between countries and consequently all applications are individual assessed against national norms.

As the programme is delivered entirely in English, applicants must be able to demonstrate proficiency in the English language thus, UK educated students must have a GCSE grade 4 (C) or above. Applicants whose first language is not English must have a 6.5 score on IELTS test of English or the equivalent in another language test accepted by the University.

Holders of a degree from a native English-speaking country (as defined on the University central admissions database) awarded within 5 years prior to entry to the Bradford programme may be exempt from these English test requirements, subject to the provision of an employer's letter indicating the language used in the workplace is English.

## Academic Entry Profiles

An acceptable profile of an applicant with formal academic qualifications would be:

- At least 3 years postgraduate work experience including experience in a supervisory, managerial or business capacity;
- evidence of numeracy and literacy competences, e.g. a satisfactory GMAT, which is valid for the year of entry;
- a good first degree or equivalent overseas qualification from a recognised institution.

An acceptable profile of an applicant with recognised professional qualifications would be:

- At least 5 years work experience in a professional capacity, post qualification;
- evidence of numeracy and literacy competences, e.g. a satisfactory GMAT, which is valid for the year of entry.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 25 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

An acceptable profile of an applicant without formal academic or professional qualifications would be:

- Significant managerial or business leadership experience (normally 8 years); evidence of numeracy and literacy competences, e.g. a satisfactory GMAT, which is valid for the year of entry; and an academic recommendation based on a one-to-one Interview.

Applicants may be invited to take an online numeracy and literacy test and to discuss their application with a member of the Bradford admissions team. Test results, references, and

the overall quality of an applicant's profile will determine whether an offer of a place is made.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Visit [www.brad.ac.uk/teaching-quality/prior-learning](http://www.brad.ac.uk/teaching-quality/prior-learning) on our website for more details.

Please note: These admission requirements relate to the contemporary recruitment cycle, and may be different now to when this document was published. To see the current entry tariff, visit the course website at <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/innovation-enterprise-and-circular-economy-pgcert/>.