

The Royal Agricultural University

Programme Specification:

MSc Business Management

Postgraduate Diploma Business Management

Postgraduate Certificate Business Management

2026-27

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/27]

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each module can be found in the Module specifications.

When printed this programme specification becomes an uncontrolled document. Please visit the RAU's website for the most up to date version of the programme specification:
<https://www.rau.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses>

Section 1 – Material Programme Information

Criteria	Detail
Validating body	Royal Agricultural University
Teaching Institution	Royal Agricultural University
Subject Area	Land and Property Management (LPM)
Entry Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate in Business Management Postgraduate Diploma in Business Management MSc Business Management
Final Award and exit route(s)	Postgraduate Certificate in Business Management Postgraduate Diploma in Business Management MSc Business Management
Programme title	MSc Business Management
Location(s) of study	Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester
Full time study	1 year
Part-time study	2-6 years
Language of study	English
Programme start month	September and January
Period of validation	September 2020 to August 2026
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Chartered Management Institute (CMI) CMI L7 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice (7D30). Code: 603/4837/
Type of Accreditation	Programme level accreditation
Accreditation due for renewal	April each year
Interviews	Interviews may be required for non-standard applications
UCAS Code	N/A
Quercus Code	MSB, MSBC, MSBD
HECoS Code	100078 - Business Management
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and other reference points	Business and Management (including Masters) (March 2023)
Academic level on Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Level 7
Approval at AQSC	23 May 2022 v7 Academic Board: 30 July 2020 V6 – Jan 2022: removal of module 4416 V7 – May 2022: removal of Professional Placement Year, module 4748 and changed 4414 to 4413 V8 – Aug 2022: removal of 4262, replaced with 3317 and removal of 4002, replaced with 4038A V9 – Nov 2023: add 4015 as elective V10 – March 2024: move 4413 to sem1, move 4086 to sem2 V11 – Aug 2024: addition of PG Certificate and PG Diploma exit awards V12 – Oct 2024: addition of January intake V13 – Removal of 3317 and 4023 as optional modules

	V14 – Jul 2025: All module codes replaced with new FHEQ level codes
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Entry Requirements

Criteria	Detail
Entry requirements (this should be the standard University entry requirements unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board)	An Undergraduate Honours Degree (2:2 or above) from a UK university or overseas equivalent, or a professional qualification and/or experience considered to be equivalent to the above. For information on international qualifications, please, see our country specific pages. For countries not listed please contact admissions@rau.ac.uk
Non-standard application	We welcome applications from applicants with non-standard qualifications who are able to demonstrate knowledge, experience and skills developed in the workplace or elsewhere and which are relevant to the programme of study. Applicants will need to use their personal statement to provide further details supported by a CV. All non-standard applications will be considered by the Programme Leader on a case-by-case basis and applicants can expect that an interview may be required as part of the admissions process.
English language	If English is not your first language, you will need to reach the requirements outlined in our English language requirements for the level of study. For postgraduate taught programmes this is IELTS Academic min. overall 6.5 with no element below 5.5(or equivalent). English language tests usually have a validity of 2 years from the date the test is taken.

Section 2 - Programme Structure

The structure of all University awards complies with the University's [Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes](#) which includes information about the:

- Rules for progression between the stages of a programme;
- Consequences of failure for referrals, compensation and exist awards;
- Calculation and classification of awards.

MSc Business Management (180 credits) Full-time

The accumulation of 180 credits through the assessment of programme elements as detailed below:

Level 7

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7B006	Sustainable Business Strategy	7	15	Core	1
7B007	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	7	15	Core	1

7M001A	Research Skills	7	15	Core	1
7B014	Strategic Operations Management	7	15	Core	1
7B015	Global Marketing Strategy	7	15	Core	1
7B005	Leadership and Personal Development	7	15	Core	2
7B003	Financial Management	7	15	Core	2
7B001	Farm Business and Enterprise Management	7	15	Core	2
7M002A (Sep entry) or 7M002B (Jan entry)	Dissertation	7	45	Core	1 or 2
7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective*	2
7A002	Small Scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective*	2
	Total Credits: MSc Business Management		180		

Note: The programme offers two elective module options*. Both options embed student learning in the agricultural sector, but differ in terms of scale. Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture (7A015) adopts a macro perspective of food and agri-business at a global level, while Small Scale Farming and Local Food Supply (7A002) focuses on the impact of small-scale agriculture on local and regional food supply. When choosing, students are advised to seek advice from the programme leader.

The full-time MSc Business Management programme takes a full calendar year to complete. Most students join the programme in September, study their taught modules in semester 1 and 2, then work on a Dissertation independently with supervision until its submission at the end of August.

This programme also offers a January start date in which case students would commence with modules indicated above as Semester 2 before taking Semester 1 modules. The Dissertation would then be due the January following the year of entry.

Postgraduate Diploma Business Management (120 credits)

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7B006	Sustainable Business Strategy	7	15	Core	1
7B007	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	7	15	Core	1
7B014	Strategic Operations Management	7	15	Core	1
7B015	Global Marketing Strategy	7	15	Core	1
7B005	Leadership and Personal Development	7	15	Core	2
7B003	Financial Management	7	15	Core	2
7B001	Farm Business and Enterprise Management	7	15	Core	2

7A002	Small Scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective	2
7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective	2
	Total Credits: PG Diploma Business Management		120		

Postgraduate Certificate Business Management (60 credits)

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7B006	Sustainable Business Strategy	7	15	Core	1
7B007	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	7	15	Core	1
7B005	Leadership and Personal Development	7	15	Core	2
7B003	Financial Management	7	15	Core	2
	Total Credits: PG Certificate Business Management		60		

MSc Business Management (180 credits) – Part time

The accumulation of 180 credits through the assessment of programme elements as detailed below:

Year 1

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7B006	Sustainable Business Strategy	7	15	Core	1
7B007	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	7	15	Core	1
7B005	Leadership and Personal Development	7	15	Core	2
7B003	Financial Management	7	15	Core	2
7M001A	Research Skills*	7	15	Core	1

Year 2

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
7B014	Strategic Operations Management	7	15	Core	1
7B015	Global Marketing Strategy	7	15	Core	1
7M001B	Research Skills*	7	15	Core	2
7B001	Farm Business and Enterprise Management	7	15	Core	2
7A002	Small Scale Farming and Local Food Supply	7	15	Elective	2

7A015	Facing the Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture	7	15	Elective	2
7M002A or 7M002B	Dissertation	7	45	Core	1 or 2
	Total Credits: MSc Business Management		180		

*Please note the Research Skills module runs in both Semester 1 (7M001A) and Semester 2 (7M001B). Part-time students can opt to take the module in either semester, depending on what suits best in terms of their study pattern. Part-time students can also opt to take the module in year 2, Semester 1, if preferred. However, it is important that students take Research Skills early enough to be adequately prepared for their Dissertation/ Students should therefore consider this in selecting when to take the module and should seek advice from the Programme Leader if necessary. Full-time students should study Research Skills in their first semester.

Section 3 – Programme overview and Programme Aims

This programme provides students with an academically rigorous and professionally relevant education that will serve their career needs throughout their personal and professional development. The degree combines essential management knowledge with relevant practical and professional skills to prepare students for the challenging global business world. Our range of core business management modules ensures that students receive a solid grounding in the essentials of the business discipline, with the added benefit of studying at a specialist university. Uniquely for a UK business programme, we are able to draw upon the RAU's experience and expertise in the agricultural sector to offer students the opportunity to further build their expertise by applying their business skills to farming enterprises, to explore the contribution of small-scale farming and local food supply or alternatively to critically appraise the overarching policy environment in which the agri-food industry operates.

All RAU postgraduate programmes emphasise professionalism, resilience, innovation, global and environmental awareness, collaboration and business acumen and this is well demonstrated in the MSc Business Management programme.

The MSc Business Management programme aims to:

- Provide students with the skills and expertise required to embark upon and build a successful business career
- Equip students with the management and leadership skills to progress their business career further
- Build skills and knowledge in enterprise and entrepreneurship to support student employability across a range of diverse sectors
- Encourage students to develop critical perspectives on theories, to review and evaluate the appropriateness and potential value of concepts, models and techniques that underpin business management
- Emphasise sustainable business and responsible leadership in line with the principles of Responsible Management Education
(<https://unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/management-education>)

Our modules are designed to meet these programme aims, with the core business modules ensuring the skills and knowledge needed to enter a business profession or to advance further within a business. The elective module enables students to further explore either agricultural policy (7A015) or the challenge and contribution of small scale farming and local food supply (7A002)- both enabling students to embed their learning in the land based sector. Students complete the programme with a dissertation, which is a substantial piece of academic research.

Professional Accreditations

The MSc Business Management programme is accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). This means that in addition to achieving an academic qualification students are also awarded a recognised professional qualification which will further support their career development and promotion prospects. Students successfully completing the MSc programme will also be awarded the CMI Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice and therefore become a Member of the Chartered Management Institute (MCMI). Students who wish to do so may then apply to the CMI for full Chartered Manager status.

The CMI offers students a range of benefits including online resources, career development tools and opportunities for networking.

The CMI requires its members to abide by its code of practice:

1. Behave in an open, honest and trustworthy manner;
2. Act in the best interests of your organisation, customers, clients and / or partners;
3. Continually develop and maintain professional knowledge and competence;
4. Respect the people with whom you work;
5. Uphold the reputation of the profession and the Institute; and
6. Create a positive impact on society.

As future CMI members, students are expected to adhere to this code during their time on the programme.

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

The programme emphasises enterprise and entrepreneurship both within and beyond the taught modules. Within modules students work with established entrepreneurs to develop an understanding of the role of the entrepreneur in the creation of new ventures and to identify and assess entrepreneurship opportunities. Beyond the taught modules students are encouraged to become a member of the management team of our social enterprise, Cotswold Hills Wine, which provides a practical and highly interactive context for student learning: <http://www.cotswoldhills.org.uk/>.

Cotswold Hills is a social enterprise project providing support for students, helping them to develop employability skills and experience. Proceeds from wine sales are invested in the RAU

Enterprise Programme to help support RAU students wanting to start their own businesses. The Enterprise Programme provides an inspiring and supportive environment in which our students can share, develop and launch their ideas. All students have the opportunity to attend networking events, enterprise workshops, mentoring services and inspirational talks.

Future Directions

The MSc Business Management programme prepares students for a wide range of different careers within the broader scope of business management, from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to large global corporations.

Programme graduates demonstrate the ability to become responsible and ethical business leaders, with the flexibility and leadership skills required to adapt to the dynamic business environment, whether they are developing brands or managing financial resources or creating strategic options to lead change. The programme's emphasis on sustainable business and responsible management encourages graduates to make a positive contribution to business development and to society at large.

Programme graduates progress to general management roles or specialise in one of the areas studied in the degree. Some graduates choose to develop and launch a business, to return to an existing employer at a more senior level or to move on to study further at PhD level (see section 10 Progression)

Section 4 – Programme Sustainability

Our modules are mapped against the UN Sustainable Development Goals to ensure that at each stage of the programme we are identifying how these goals can be developed and managed as part of business strategy as leaders work to pursue their business objectives.

In particular our modules emphasise SDG8 by promoting sustained and sustainable economic growth, SDG9 in our emphasis of on entrepreneurship and enterprise and SDG12 through the focus on sustainable and efficient supply chains and responsible marketing practices. The programme's emphasis on responsible management education aligns the MSc Business Management with SDG4 which encourages inclusive quality education and lifelong learning opportunities.

The programme's focus on responsible management practices and leadership ensures that it is committed to furthering equality, diversity and inclusion in different ways: through the perspectives of a diverse faculty, through the choice of materials and readings and through the management of classroom activities and pedagogical practices which enable students to share experience without prejudice or judgement (QAA, 2023, pg. 10).

Section 5 – Programme intended learning outcomes

The MSc Business Management programme adopts the QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Master's Degrees in Business and Management (QAA 2023). The programme is a generalist degree for students with little or no business experience and can thus be categorised as a conversion degree designed to facilitate entry to or progression within a business career. The

programme aims to integrate knowledge of business and management with the skills to work efficiently and responsibly in the business environment (QAA 2023, pg. 13)

Knowledge and Understanding

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Demonstrate a detailed and holistic understanding of responsible business management across a range of business contexts.	All
2.	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of contemporary strategic management concepts, theories, models and analytical frameworks and their application to the development of sustainable business policies and strategies.	7B005, 7B006, 7B007, 7B015, 7B014
3.	Synthesise trends and opportunities in growth businesses and design ventures to capitalise on these through the application of a range of tools and techniques, developing innovative business concepts into new products, services or organisations.	7B001, 7B003, 7B006 7B007,
4.	Adopt ethical leadership practices and inclusive employee relations to responsibly manage and develop people and teams within organisations, understanding organisational theory and behaviour, leading and managing change, performance management and the development of leadership competencies	7B005, 7B007
5.	Systematically evaluate the financing of business operations: sources, uses, analysis and management of financial resources.	7B003, 7B007
6.	Evaluate global markets and economies and develop strategies for marketing, operations, managing consumers, and designing services and product innovation.	7B015, 7B014, 7B007, 7B001
7.	Manage operations and business resources, supply chains and quality systems, demonstrating efficient project management, analysis and decision making.	7B014, 7B001,
8.	Demonstrate a range of research competencies sufficient to design and undertake independent research in a business context or management setting.	7M001A 7M002A/B

Intellectual, Professional, Key skills

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Apply critical and innovative thinking to the analysis and evaluation of business and management issues, evaluating evidence, questioning underlying assumptions and implicit values, and appraising the logic of arguments.	7B001, 7B005 7B006, 7B007, 7B015, 7B014

2.	Synthesise, analyse and interpret information and data from a variety of sources, integrating theory with contemporary business and management practice and applying models and conceptual frameworks to address business situations and management problems.	7B001, 7B003, 7B006 7B007, 7M001A, 7B015
3.	Demonstrate proficiency in numeracy skills including the processing and analysis of financial and other numerical data, and an appreciation of the use and application of statistical concepts.	7B001, 7B003, 7B007, 7M001A,
4.	Assess the uses and limitations as well as strengths and weaknesses of different research methods and techniques (qualitative and quantitative) for conducting, analysing and evaluating business research.	7B006, 7B007 7M001A, 7M002A/B
5.	Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level	7B005, 7B007, 7B014 7M001A, 7M002
6.	Critically and competently employ a range of management skills including negotiation, advanced communication and influencing skills, delegation and coordination of work tasks, employing technological tools as appropriate for different applications.	7M002, 7B003, 7B005, 7B006 7B007, 7M002, 7B014
7.	Plan, conduct and report a programme of original research or project design. Understand techniques applicable to own research or advanced scholarship, communicate results/findings persuasively and critically reflect on relevance of the research to management practice.	7B007, 7M001A, 7M002, 7M001A, 7M002,.

Programme specific skills

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Critically and sensitively appraise the global industry, market and business climate to identify and evaluate the challenges to a responsible sustainable business and the opportunities for sustainable growth.	7B003, 7B006, 7B007, 7B015, 7B014.
2.	Apply knowledge and understanding to complex issues, both systemically and creatively, so that theory is converted into practice from a critical and informed perspective, thereby enhancing organisational effectiveness and competitiveness.	7B006, 7B007, 7B005, 7M001A, 7M002, 7B014
3.	Interpret financial and economic data using statistical and financial functions and procedures such as those which are routinely available in spreadsheets and other statistical/econometric software packages.	7B001, 7B003, 7B007, 7M001A, 7B014

4.	Apply problem solving and decision-making techniques, including establishing criteria, identifying, formulating and solving business problems, identifying and evaluating options and implementing and monitoring the effective impact and outcomes of solutions.	7B001, 7B006, 7B007, 7B003, 7B015, 7B014,
5.	Demonstrate professionalism, assurance, confidence and self-awareness in the ability to apply the skills and knowledge learned in the degree to real world problems.	7B001, 7B005, 7B006, 7B007, 7M002

Section 6 – Approach to Learning and Teaching delivery

The approach to learning and teaching on the MSc Business Management is based on our experience of how to support students in becoming responsible and efficient business professionals who are flexible and innovative in addressing the challenges and opportunities of industry. The development of professional business skills is at the forefront of the programme design, and both teaching and assessments prioritise skills acquisition relevant to business and management careers.

Teaching is research and theory informed, with the emphasis on how such research or theoretical concepts have industry application. Our teaching encourages students to critically evaluate business and management theory for its contemporary relevance, interrogating how western business models apply in non- western cultures, how frameworks developed at an earlier stage in the development of the discipline might still be useful in supporting business decision making and strategy development. Our teaching approach recognises that theory and practice inform each other, and that reflection on how we use management theory in professional practice can subsequently work to re-develop this theory. Thus, we recognise the dynamic nature of business and management theory, and the role of research and practice in ensuring that the business models and frameworks continue to be fit for purpose.

Each module is delivered over 12 weeks, with a weekly 3 hour session for each module, during which we blend lecture input, discussion, analysis and application using real-life examples and case studies. Essential materials and module reading lists are provided beforehand via the RAU Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and these may include topic introductions, PowerPoint slides to support lectures, readings from journals, book chapters, articles, webpages etc. designed to ensure that students are well prepared for classroom sessions. Learning materials may be presented through multiple modes; text-based, visual or aural. The MSc Business Management adopts a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) approach, recognising the diversity of various learners' abilities and experiences through the provision of multiple ways for students to engage with their module, courses and programme materials. The MSc Business Management UDL strategies include:

- Providing multiple means of representation and supporting materials (diagrams, illustrations, glossary of terms, etc.) using a variety of modalities and formats.
- Offering a wide range of assessments for students to demonstrate learning and frequent opportunities for feedback on progress.
- Encouraging learners' autonomy with choice of topics within the varied assignment formats.

As a career entry programme, classroom sessions draw on activities that promote skills acquisition through practice in a safe and supportive environment. This is further enabled by small group sizes which promotes interaction and discussion. Students build confidence in their analytic, decision-making and communication ability through the use of case studies, simulations and/or experiential learning, discussions, team-based activities, problem solving and presentations. This learning is reinforced with guest speakers who are able to illustrate how skills can be used and how theory can be adopted in a variety of business sectors.

The assessment strategy reflects the practical emphasis of the programme and aligns with the sector expectations. These include professional practice reports, role play tasks, case studies and personal reflections as a key element of postgraduate study.

We recognise that a number of our students will be working or have caring responsibilities alongside studying which can sometimes make it difficult to attend every teaching session in person. As such we offer students an opportunity to join classes online on occasion , subject to prior discussion with the programme leader. Please note that this option is not available for international students on a student visa, who are expected to attend class in person. Remote delivery is not a UKVI authorised mode of attendance for the taught element of the course and therefore non-attendance could impact the student visa.

Section 7 – Approach to Assessment

Assessments are designed to appraise individual capabilities fairly and consistently. We use clear, descriptive assessment guidelines to grade coursework and include marking rubrics to accompany qualitative feedback. Individual feedback is usually provided online and will include recommendations on improving future work. Module leaders will also provide a summary of feedback to the group, identifying common issues. Examinations are not a common form of assessment on the programme although these may be appropriate on certain elective modules. All examinations and coursework assessments that contribute to degree classifications are subject to scrutiny by the External Examiners.

Assessments are designed to test analytical and other cognitive capabilities in relation to the specific module aims and content. Coursework assignments such as individual essays, reports, case study analyses, individual and group-based reports, presentations, and various technique- oriented assessments are used to test these skills. Assessment are designed to reflect industry practices in content and format. The Dissertation is the capstone demonstration of postgraduate skills, requiring students to conceive, justify, design in detail and execute a substantial piece of academic or applied business research.

Overall, the programme is taught and assessed through*:

Year	Learning and Teaching			Assessment		
	Directed	Independent	Placement	Exam	Coursework	Practical
Year 1	18.0%	82.0%	0.0%	0.0%	84.4%	15.6%

**Calculated based on selection of 7M002A and 7A015.*

Section 8 – Course work grading and feedback

Assessment is an integral part of the learning experience of students. All University programmes are assessed by a range of assessment activities, each developed to provide the most appropriate means of demonstrating the student's achievement of a specified learning outcome. An assessment may assess more than one learning outcome.

The University operates standard pass criteria which can be found in the [RAU Academic Regulations \(paragraphs 116 – 129\)](#).

The normal basis for awards will be the overall average score in the final assessment, graded as follows:

Grade	Equivalent Mark
Distinction weighted average of	70% and above
Merit weighted average of	60% - 69%
Pass weighted average of	40% - 59%
Fail weighted average of	0% - 39%

In addition to assigning a percentage mark to the work, tutors provide written feedback for all assessments which normally includes the strengths and weaknesses of the piece as well as advice about improving the work. Individual feedback is provided within 20-working days of the deadline for submission. All assessment decisions are subject to internal moderation and external scrutiny by the programme's External Examiners. Students must ensure they retain all coursework in case the External Examiner(s) wishes to see it.

Section 9 – RAU Graduate Framework

At the RAU we have chosen five values to underpin our learning community. These are the values which we will all work by and for which we want the RAU to be known for. We aim for our graduates to be:

Collaborative

We believe in the power of working together. We are stronger as a community of practice - inspiring each other, identifying shared goals, and providing reciprocal support leads to greater success.

Open-minded

We are receptive to new ideas and we value the diversity of experiences and skills. We are committed to listening to everyone across the RAU community.

Resourceful

We adopt creative approaches to achieve our goals while setting higher standards, promoting professionalism and sustainability.

Responsible

Individually and collectively we take accountability for our actions working with integrity to achieve the highest ethical standards.

Inclusive

We acknowledge the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and are committed to maintaining an environment that seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination and respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.



Section 10 – Progression

The Royal Agricultural University has a strong reputation for developing highly skilled, sought-after, employable graduates from within the rural economy and also from a diverse range of backgrounds. The University is committed to developing employable graduates and the curriculum has been designed to enhance employability at all levels of study. Employability is seen as an intrinsic aspect of all degree programmes and the development of essential postgraduate attributes is embedded in all core modules.

The MSc Business Management core modules emphasise themes of financial competency, organisational change, dealing with opportunities and business planning. We pride ourselves on being able to help our students acquire the skills they need to foster their initiative and creativity as responsible global citizens.

Our graduates have gone on to pursue careers within companies worldwide and within the following roles:

- International Development Manager
- Business Owner
- Investment Analyst
- Project Manager
- Marketing Manager

The University has links with a wide range of businesses, through our local Growth Hub, Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise partnership and 180 years of successful Alumni.

The MSc Business Management also prepares students for further study, such as a PhD in a business management field.

Section 11 – Student support, wellbeing and counselling

The [University](#) is offering a wide range of support to all RAU students, including practical advice and guidance as well as emotional support.

Disability and Neurodivergent support

We support disabled and neurodivergent students and students with long-term health conditions. These disabilities include dyslexia, mental health diagnoses, ADHD, autism, mobility challenges, sensory impairments and many more. Students are encouraged to make contact with Student Services as early as possible by emailing: studentservices@rau.ac.uk. When you tell us about a disability, you will be offered support based on your specific needs, which can include:

- **Alternative exam arrangements** such as extra time, rest breaks, or a smaller room.
- **Access to support workers** such as study skills tutors, specialist mentors, readers and scribes.
- **Access to assistive technology (AT)**, which helps remove barriers to learning, communication and participation. The AT can help students who face difficulties with taking notes, organisation and time management.

Mental Health Support

Student Services has a dedicated team who are here to support you with the emotional challenges that can crop up during university life. They take a wide-ranging approach to mental health support, and the team ensure they are available for informal chats as well as providing in-depth support for students with emerging or existing mental health conditions.

The team also offer mental health support in the form of daily drop-in sessions, weekly group Time to Talk sessions, mental health workshops, awareness and campaign days and 1:1 confidential meetings for when students face challenges to their wellbeing.

Student Services can also refer students for counselling sessions with an external agency if they are required. They can also signpost you to our Student Assistance Programme, providing 24/7 care, support and advice.

Academic Support Tutor Programme

All students are allocated an Academic Support Tutor (AST) which in the case of MSc students is usually the programme leader.. ASTs provide timetabled group tutorials and individual support for students Group tutorials focus on providing high-quality academic support at the appropriate academic level; advice and guidance in relation to the course; and advice about making study choices on the course (in line with the AST Handbook). Individual support focuses on continuation and may be in person or online

Section 12 – Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching

The programme is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 6 years. This process ensures that the programme engages with the applicable national Subject Benchmarks and references the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

All programmes are monitored on an annual basis where consideration is given to:

- External Examiner Reports
- Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
- Results of the Student Satisfaction Surveys
- Feedback from Student Delegates from programme committees
- Feedback from Student-Staff Liaison committees
- Annual Programme Monitoring