

Programme Specification for MSc Sport (International Sport Management)

This document applies to Academic Year 2019/20 onwards

1.	Awarding institution/body	University of Worcester
2.	Teaching institution	University of Worcester
3.	Programme accredited by	N/A
4.	Final award or awards	PG Cert, PG Dip, MSc.
5.	Programme title	MSc Sport (International Sport Management)
6.	Pathways available	N/A
7.	Mode and/or site of delivery	Flexible delivery which may include blended/distributed learning approaches through intensive teaching blocks and online delivery; University of Worcester.
8.	Mode of attendance and duration	Full Time: 1 year (September-September). Part Time: Typical time to complete the course part-time would be 2 years.
9.	UCAS Code	N/A
10.	Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement	QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement 2015
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision	April 2019 August 2019, AQU amendments to Section 19

12. Educational aims of the programme

This course is designed for students wishing to progress in their careers in International Sport Management, in either a practice or research role. The educational aims of the course are grounded in the University's mission to inspire our students to reach their full potential, through excellent, innovative teaching, scholarship and research. Ultimately, students will be motivated and empowered to make a first rate contribution to society.

The course aims will enable students to:

1. expand their current management and leadership capabilities and to develop their contribution to a global sports knowledge economy;
2. appreciate the integrated nature of management study in international sport, and to relate both hard and soft skills to problem solving;
3. undertake advanced studies of international sport organisations, their management and the changing external context in which they operate;
4. develop and enhance a career in sport management by developing skills at a professional or equivalent level;

5. develop the ability to apply knowledge and understanding of international sport management to complex issues, both systematically and creatively, to improve business and management practice;
6. enhance lifelong learning skills and personal development so as to be able to work with self-direction and originality and to contribute to the sport industry, and society at large;
7. add value to employment prospects.

13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

The degree focuses upon policy, planning, management and delivery of sporting opportunities through a social, political, economic and cultural lens to appreciate the global significance of sport. The degree will be a challenging learning experience and an integration between theory and practice. Students will reflect on their knowledge, experience and practice, using peer and tutor interaction. Further details of these benchmarks can also be obtained by accessing https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-events-hospitality-leisure-sport-tourism-16.pdf?sfvrsn=159df781_10

QAA guidance on writing Master's courses have informed the development of this course. Further details of these characteristics can be obtained by accessing https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10

Knowledge and Understanding

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s	Award <i>State if PG Cert, PG Dip or MA, MSc, etc.</i>
1.	Critically appraise and challenge the development of knowledge in international sport management.	MSPO4263 MSPO4066	PG Cert, PG Dip, MSc
2.	Apply and critically evaluate the effectiveness of both a multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary approach to the study of international sport management practices.	MSPO4263 MSPO4066	PG Cert, PG Dip MSc
3.	Demonstrate research and problem solving abilities with a critical understanding of methods of acquisition, interpretation and analysis of information appropriate to international sport management, and in a way which demonstrates capacity for creative and original thought.	MSPO4266 MSPO4276	PG Cert, PG Dip, MSc
4.	Critically appraise and challenge the moral, ethical and legal issues which underpin best practice in the sport industry.	MSPO4263	PG Cert, PG Dip

Cognitive and Intellectual skills

6.	Challenge subject specific facts, theories, paradigms, principles and concepts and be able to articulate alternatives based on recent research or intellectual insights.	MSPO4263 MSPO4265 MSPO4066	PG Cert, PG Dip, MSc
7.	Assess and critically evaluate evidence with detailed reference to methodology and data sources informed by a mature reflection of the students' own developing research and depth of reading.	MSPO4266 MSPO4276	PG Cert, PG Dip, MSc
8.	Analyse, synthesise and reinterpret data to indicate a capacity for creative and original insight into issues and debates within the global sport community.	MSPO4266 MSPO4276	PG Cert, PG Dip, MSc
9.	Sustain an informed, persuasive and logical argument that challenges basic and underlying assumptions of current practices employed by organization's engaged with international sport.	MSPO4263 MSPO4066	PG Cert, PG Dip, MSc
10.	Adopt an autonomous approach to learning and continuing professional development.	MSPO4265 MSPO4270 MSPO4276	PG Cert, PG Dip, MSc

Skills and capabilities related to employability

11.	Be flexible and responsive to the complex and changing nature of international sports organisations and their users.	MSPO4270	PG Dip MSc
12.	Develop critical self-reflection and an independent autonomous approach to learning required for continuing professional and personal development as a reflective practitioner.	MSPO4270	PG Dip MSc
13.	Demonstrate critical self-assessment of key and vocational skills pertinent to the global sport industry.	MSPO4270	PG Dip MSc
14.	Make informed, well-considered professional judgements based on evidence.	MSPO4270	PG Dip MSc

Transferable/key skills

15.	Execute and disseminate a sustained piece of independent work which provides evidence of critical engagement with, and original interpretation of, appropriate data.	MSPO4276	MSc
16.	Work effectively with others, building, maintaining and improving relationships, making positive contributions to teams.	MSPO4265 MSPO4270	PG Cert PG Dip MSc

17.	Demonstrate a critical appreciation of global diversity and its relevance and impact on working in a sport management context	MSPO4263 MSPO4066	PG Cert PG Dip MSc
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Learning, teaching and assessment

The course emphasises a learning experience that is meaningful, active, reflective, collaborative and creative. These principles are practised through working methods and outcomes reflected in the range of assessments and subject matter requiring critical analysis and reflective activities. Lectures, seminars and tutorials will be used extensively, but, in addition, a great deal of participants' time will be spent in small groups and workshops, involving, for example, discussion of case studies, simulation exercises, and preparation for assessments. Additionally, it is clear that the private study demands on this type of course are considerable.

The teaching and learning approach of the course combines pedagogic approaches, including using some of the latest approaches to learning using technology i.e. crowdfunding, action learning, and independent learning. Learners will acquire a toolkit of diverse and complex skills and knowledge necessary for their development as a creative organizational change agent. Student-centered self-support groups, both face-to-face and/or via virtual contact, will be used throughout the course. There are thus a variety of pedagogic approaches in which the focus of the learning is experiential to enable consideration of practice and evaluation during workshops and other face-to-face opportunities, and to use online technology and related facilities for knowledge acquisition and research.

The course is structured to allow students the flexibility to gain significant professional experience within the International Sport Management industry alongside their formal learning. This is considered by employers to be one of the primary differentiating factors between successful and unsuccessful applicants for jobs within applied sports science. In order to successfully complete the placement module, students will need to critically analyse the sport industry and reflect on their current status with regards to the requirements of employment in it. In addition, opportunities exist for students to undertake an interdisciplinary approach to their work and ensure a holistic analysis of the subject area being studied. Students are prepared to undertake this project from the outset of their studies. Throughout both pathway specific modules and in Leading People in Sport, they are encouraged to critically assess the quality of data and methodological considerations relating to its generation. Two full days in the January intensive week will be dedicated to specific preparation for the research project, and will cover the necessary processes relating to the writing of a proposal and key ethical considerations.

The course offers opportunities for collaborative learning both in face-to-face groups and online where there is increased use of collaborative learning tools such as discussion boards, blogs and wikis. Some may be facilitated by lecturers, other staff or even by our industry partners. Others may be initiated and run by students (peer-managed). These tools offer considerable opportunities to learn from others in the group and extend the learning experience beyond the boundaries of the formal session.

Teaching

The University places emphasis on enabling students to develop the learning capabilities that will equip them for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. The teaching strategy will be eclectic enabling the learner to gain the necessary underpinning theoretical knowledge and research that will enable active exploration, reflection and critical evaluation of own perceptions and knowledge. This approach develops the ability to become an autonomous and self-directed learner. This means the learner will be confident of their capabilities as an independent learner and researcher and able to manage their own learning in line with a busy work schedule. This skill-set will be used to develop a depth and breadth of subject-matter knowledge, reflecting and analysing the implications of this towards understanding of innovation and the changing global sport context, and applying this new understanding in practical situations accordingly.

Action learning involves the use of 'real-life' problems and scenarios; these will be integrated into the workshops and other face-to-face sessions. This flexible process allows action, improvement and change together with relevant research to be achieved at the same time. Guest speaker input, visits to sports organisations and an international field visit add depth and 'real' world insights to enable the contextual understanding and critical perspectives presented throughout the programme.

Each learner will gain knowledge and understanding which will allow change to be processed in an informed way, and similarly, understanding will be further informed by that change. This process of learning can be replicated in the workplace to help and enable transference of learning and is self-developmental and reflective in nature.

In addition, meetings with personal academic tutors (PATs) are scheduled on at least 2 occasions. The MSc Sport (International Sport Management) programme supports student PAT sessions with a personal academic journal which students receive within induction week and can access supportive and helpful resources throughout the year.

Contact time

For intensive study weeks students are expected to have 5 x 8 hours of contact time per intensive week (2 in total). In addition, students are expected to have approximately 4 hours of further contact time per module, per week.

In addition, students are able to access 8 hours of tutorial support during the course of their Sports Research Project study. Students will also receive two days of structured Research Project preparation.

Independent self-study

In addition to the contact time, students are expected to undertake around 25-28 hours of personal self-study per week. Typically, this will involve reading and preparation for classes and assessments, online activities etc.

Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities, including the Hive and library resources, the virtual learning environment, and extensive electronic learning resources.

Teaching staff

Students will be taught by a teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. The team includes senior academics with research and consultancy experience, postgraduate students and demonstrators. In addition, students can expect to receive sessions with guest lecturers who are currently engaged in Sport Business activities outside of the university.

Teaching is informed by research and consultancy, and the majority of lecturers on the course have a higher education teaching qualification or are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy. Students can learn more about the staff by visiting our staff profiles. <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/sport-meet-our-experts.html>.

Assessment

The course provides opportunities to test understanding and learning informally through the completion of practice or 'formative' assignments. Each module has one formal or 'summative' assessment which is graded and counts towards the overall module grade.

Assessment methods include:

- Formal Group, Paired or Individual Presentations
- Project work
- Student led seminar discussions
- Reports
- Research Proposals

14. Assessment strategy

The underpinning philosophy of all the assessments is developmental, enhancing current knowledge, expertise and capabilities towards each individual being an able and confident leader and manager. Each learner will receive regular and constructive feedback from the academic team, peers, and, where appropriate, industry professionals. There will be support in the use and integration of this feedback as part of professional and self-development, and this active guidance will help to plan the next stages of the learning journey. This opportunity for supported self-reflection will enable each student to take charge of their own learning through the development of critical evaluation, reflection and planning skills.

To facilitate and maximise learning, a range of assessment methods are used throughout the programme. They are all rooted in authentic and practical scenarios to enable learning to be transferred to the professional environment, and for each learner to demonstrate their developing skills and abilities. Assessments include individual written assignments, professional reports, oral presentations, creative design tasks, e-communication submissions, and a capstone research project. Each student will emerge a more informed, confident, communicative and engaging individual ready for the next life challenge within the global sports sector.

The learning and teaching environment includes interactive lectures, seminars, workshops and independent and group study tasks, with students gradually required to take control of their learning in a more independent manner as they progress throughout their course. A period of professional work-based learning is included within the course whereby students are required to apply their

knowledge and skills to an applied setting. The course culminates with a Master's level Research Project during the final semester of study.

Assessments test both students' theoretical knowledge and application of that knowledge to real-world situations. Students will be required to demonstrate competency in research methods prior to progressing to the Research Project.

Marking criteria are provided with all assignment briefs upon commencement of each module. In addition to summative assessment tasks, a range of formative tasks (which will include online group/individual tasks and tutorials) will provide the opportunity for students to receive feedback on their progress.

15. Programme structures and requirements

The course is available in full and part-time modes.

The MSc Sport (International Sport Management) programme requires students to successfully complete 180 credits at Level 7.

The course comprises five individual modules, all of which are mandatory. Completion of MSPO4263 Critical Issues in International Sport Management, MSPO4266 The Global Sports Business, MSPO4265 Leading People in Sport and MSPO4270 Professional Placement each result in the award of 30 credits. MSPO4267 Sports Research Project results in the award of 60 credits.

Students completing the course through part-time study may take a minimum of one module in each academic year. It is recommended that part-time students discuss their options with the course leader when deciding on the combination of modules studied in each year.

Module Code	Module Title	Status Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)			
		Credits (Number)	PG Cert	PG Dip	MSc
MSPO4263	Critical Issues in International Sport Management	30	M	M	M
MSPO4266	The Global Sports Business	30	M	M	M
MSPO4265	Leading People in Sport	30	-	M	M
MSPO4270	Professional Placement	30	-	M	M
MSPO4276	Sports Research Project	60	-	-	M
Total Credits		180			
PG Certificate To be awarded the PG Cert Sport (International Sport Management) students must successfully complete 60 credits at Level 7 (MSPO4263 Critical Issues in International Sport Management, MSPO4266 The Global Sports Business).					
PG Diploma To be awarded the PG Dip Sport (International Sport Management) students must successfully complete the PG Certificate plus MSPO4265 Leading People in Sport and MSPO4270 Professional Placement to a total of 120 credits at Level 7.					
Masters (MSc) To be awarded the Masters, students must complete a total of 180 credits at Level 7 including 60 credits from the Sports Research Project					

16. QAA and professional academic standards and quality

This award is located at level 7 of the FHEQ.

The Framework for HE Qualifications

The course has been developed with reference to the QAA FHEQ (Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, August 2014) ensuring that the qualification represents appropriately the level of achievement required for Masters courses. A full copy of the above document can be found by visiting the QAA website: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/>

The course takes into account the QAA *Master's Degree Characteristics Statement 2015* (https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10) and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (May 2018) (<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>) documents that specify the key characteristics in relation to purpose, content, structure and delivery, teaching, learning and assessment methods and relationship to further study employment for Master's Degree programmes. The MSc (Sport) International Sport Management "taught" Master's programme includes some learning undertaken in a structured environment alongside time spent in a professional practice scenario.

Professional Standards

Students enrolled on the course are also encouraged to apply for Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport & Physical Activity (CIMSPA) Accreditation. The course will help prepare students for the certification requirements of CIMSPA, and whilst this is not deemed mandatory it is highly recommended. The CIMSPA competencies, assessment guide and application documents can be found at the following address: <http://www.cimspa.co.uk/en/membership/personal-membership/index.cfm>

17. Support for students

The following guidance and support structure is in place for students participating in this course:

- International Sport Management students experience a wide variety of support for their learning e.g. seminar group work, practical activities, tutorials, Opportunities for Exploration, pre-module learning activities, Personal Academic Tutor support and the use of e-learning and access to computer and internet facilities e.g. Blackboard.
- Induction event
- Student Course Handbook (published on an annual basis).
- Online support and guidance from tutors where travel to the University is limited between module sessions.
- All students have a Personal Academic Tutor who offers general support regarding academic progress, academic support, pastoral support and guidance and can guide the process of Personal Development Planning (PDP). The Personal Academic Tutor is available to support students in a variety of ways including telephone or online contact if travel to the University is limited between study sessions.
- Library induction and information skills packages;

- The Information & Communication Technology Service provides training and can assist with all technology questions <http://www.worc.ac.uk/ict/>; study skills provided within the subject, and separately by Student Services. [The Disability and Dyslexia Service](#) within Student Services provides specialist support on a one-to-one basis. In addition, Student Services specifies appropriate arrangements that can be made for students with disabilities
- Opportunities to study/travel abroad (optional);
- Students supported by Library Services (Library, IT, Media and Print) <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/library>;
- The University's Careers Service provides training opportunities for career planning;
- Firstpoint (<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/firstpoint.html>) and Student Services (<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/student-services/index.htm>) to answer all queries related to student life;
- The University's International office offers support to overseas students via Firstpoint; The Language Centre provides English Language courses for International students.

18. Admissions

Admissions policy

The University aims to be accessible. It is committed to widening participation and encouraging diversity in the student population. The School of Sport and Exercise Science works closely with central student support services including the Admissions Office and the International Centre to support students from a variety of different backgrounds. We actively encourage and welcome people from the widest range of economic and cultural backgrounds and value the contribution of mature learners.

Our policy is to offer a place to any student that we deem to be capable of success and who is likely to substantially benefit from the programme. We support the University's mission statement of *increasing access, widening participation and assisting students to achieve their potential*.

Entry requirements

Students will normally have a 2:1 degree classification in either a sport or science (e.g. biology, physiology, psychology) discipline.

Students who hold a relevant degree classification of either 2:2 (or below), or, a non-related degree will be considered on a case by case basis and may be required to submit a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate experience of work within the field. Applicants should be able to demonstrate academic capability for study at this level and strong interest and commitment in the relevant disciplines.

In the event of students completing their period of Professional Placement in an environment where they may be working with children or vulnerable adults, they will be required to follow their home country procedures for Disclosure & Barring Service enhanced disclosure checks and they must provide this evidence to University of Worcester staff prior to acceptance.

Any applicants whose first language is not English or who has not been educated wholly or mainly in the medium of English must reach a minimum IELTS overall band score of 6.5 with a score of at least 5.5 in any individual component (or equivalent in an approved test in English) or otherwise demonstrate that they

have an adequate command of both written and spoken English before starting the course.

See [Admissions Policy](#) for other acceptable qualifications.

International students may apply for this course through University of Worcester International College (UWIC) pre-Masters course.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements

Enhanced disclosure may be required for the course, depending on the placement-related options the student chooses

Recognition of Prior Learning

Students with relevant previous study at postgraduate level or with extensive experience may be considered eligible for recognition of prior learning. Please contact the Registry Admissions Office for further information or guidance on 01905 855111.

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm>

Admissions procedures

Potential students should apply directly via the Registry at the University of Worcester. Given the potentially diverse backgrounds of applicants with a sport or related degree qualification, all will be interviewed in order to ascertain their suitability for the course. For overseas applicants a telephone/video interview will be required if they are unable to travel to the University of Worcester.

Admissions/selection criteria

Prospective students may contact the course leader for further information and guidance on suitability for the course. Some candidates may be required to complete a brief assignment to demonstrate suitable level of academic writing. In all circumstances, the following criteria will guide acceptance to the course:

- strong knowledge in the field of sport or related subject suitable for Masters level academic work;
- evidence of engagement with professional and academic literature/publications relevant to Continuing Professional Development;
- ability to manage self, learning and professional duties where applicable;
- a good communicator;
- evidence of ability to manage work independently;
- proven track record of dealing with complex and multi-disciplinary issues relevant to the chosen subject area.

Additional costs associated with the course:

Any other additional costs associated with the course will be notified to applicants prior to commencement of study.

Please contact the Registry Admissions Office for further information or guidance on +44 (0)1905 855111.

19. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University's Taught Courses Regulatory Framework

Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 7 days (one week) of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 7 days (one week) of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade.
- Reassessment items that are passed are capped at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module); the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student who fails 60 credits or more after exhausting all reassessment opportunities may be required to withdraw from the University.
- A student will be notified of the reassessment opportunities in the results notification issued via the secure student portal (SOLE). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and comply with any reassessments.

Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
PG Cert	Passed a minimum of 60 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map
PG Dip	Passed a minimum of 120 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map
Masters (MA / MSc)	Passed a minimum of 180 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map

PG Cert and PG Dip awards are unclassified. The awards of Masters may be made with Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Classification of Masters

The classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification.

Method 1

- a) Candidates will be awarded a Distinction where they have attained an average of A- (PD) or higher from the credit achieved with the University for the award.
- b) Candidates will be awarded a Merit where they have attained an average of C+ (PM) or higher from the credit achieved with the University for the award.

Method 2

- a) Candidates will be awarded a Distinction, irrespective of their other module results, where they have attained 90 credits at grade A- (PD) or higher
- b) Candidates will be awarded a Merit, irrespective of their other module results, where they have attained 90 credits at grade C+ (PM) or higher

Candidates will be awarded a Pass where they have not fulfilled the rules for Method 1 or Method 2, but are eligible for the award of a Masters.

For further information on Masters degree classification, see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

20. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

Graduate destinations

Upon successful completion of the MSc Sport (International Sport Management) programme, opportunities will emerge for students to gain first/additional employment, promotion within their own organisation, gain international employment or move to a senior management position in other organisations. The Masters also provides a platform to further research/higher degrees in sport and promotion in other professional organisations. The completion of the Masters will also provide students with the ability to enhance their current working practices. Guidance for suitable employment opportunities/vacancies is available throughout the programme and via social media platforms.

Student employability

The course prepares students for employment, through the development of employability skills and attributes throughout all elements of the modules and in particular the Professional Placement where their placement activity enables students to engage in application of advanced theory into practice. In this context students can apply skills, knowledge and understanding derived from their own professional practice as well as from specialist course modules into a professional setting, and explore the challenges of applying their learning into professional practice. The use of mentor support and a critical friend underpin this experience whilst academic guidance from tutors helps the student develop advanced critical reflective skills preparing them for lifelong learning and effective continuing personal and professional development; a necessity in the work environment.

Links with employers

Modules within the Masters Programme have been written by academics currently members of, and engaged with, an array of professional bodies and employers within their pathway disciplines including the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA), GB Basketball, England Badminton, England Netball, Worcester Wolves, Worcester Warriors, Youth Sport Trust, Women in Sport & Exercise (WISE) and others.

More specifically, the course has been informed through an on-going partnership with the *Future of Sport Conference* management team. A one day international conference was hosted by the University of Worcester in October 2016 and 2017 that enabled insight and guidance from national and international sport organisations e.g. PledgeSports, Final Third Sports Media, Slingshot Sponsorship, and others. In 2018, a one day workshop considered data analytics and the live sports experience with Winners (CRM and Business Intelligence) and the Fan Experience Company. Furthermore, the course has in-class touchpoints with over a dozen sports organisations with an international focus, for example West Bromwich Albion FC, Valencia FC, British Cycling and the International Paralympic Committee.

Through involvement of the School of Sport & Exercise Science Sports Employers Advice Panels (SEAP), the blend of academic qualification and professional engagement of staff within the programme team has ensured that career considerations are at the forefront of the programme content.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in associated course documentation e.g. course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications.