



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION**

### ***Professional Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA)***

**Quality Assurance, Academic Standards and Quality and Partnerships**

**Department of Student and Academic Admini**

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Professional Doctorate in Business Administration</b>
Final Award	<i>DBA</i>
Exit Awards	<i>PGCert Professional Research Methods (PGCert cannot be based on the 60 credits of prior learning required for admission)</i> <i>PGDip Professional Research Methods</i> <i>MSc Professional Research Method</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C2231P and C2510P</i>
Mode of study	<i>Part time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>5 Years</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>From September 2022 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Business and Law Faculty</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>BMGB: Business and Management Generalist</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-business-and-law">https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-business-and-law</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/dba-professional-doctorate-in-business-administration">https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/dba-professional-doctorate-in-business-administration</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>None</i>
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	<i>Level 8</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Module Web Search](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

The [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) include advice on what to include in this section.

The DBA Programme aims to:

- provide a vehicle for a high level of personal, professional and academic development for participants to achieve maximum levels of effectiveness as a professional practitioner or executive and contribute to the development of professional practice.
- enable practitioners involved in all aspects of business, an opportunity to explore their professional roles and implement research investigations in order to improve their contribution in a managerial, service, or educational, delivery setting;
- provide a research and professional development learning opportunity so that graduates can make practical decisions relevant to their profession and generate new knowledge through professional practice;
- provide an award of the highest academic level that is equivalent to, but distinct from, the PhD, and that is clearly relevant to the needs of the individual's professional working situation;
- enable graduates to enhance their practice through systematic enquiry and development and demonstrate the relevance of their learning to their own professional context;
- provide graduates with the cognitive, practical, professional and transferable skills to enable them to assume leadership roles within their professional field;
- enable graduates to disseminate their research and professional findings to a variety of audiences and via a range of media;
- enhance partnership between doctoral candidates, their employers and the University and in so doing, develop consultancy work and joint research,
- provide a model scheme for DBA upon which the University can build and in so doing extend its reputation for providing work-based opportunities to the highest level.

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

### A. Knowledge and understanding:

**Graduates will be creators of new knowledge at the forefront of their discipline or area of practice.**

In order to show this, they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Design and implement a thesis project for the generation of new knowledge	<i>Lectures, seminars, workshops, training, independent learning and supervision</i>	<i>Thesis and Viva</i>
A2	Produce a thesis that creates or interprets new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline or which contributes to professional practice and which satisfies peer review.	<i>Lectures, seminars, workshops, training, independent learning and supervision</i>	<i>Thesis and Viva</i>

*Add additional rows as required.*

**B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills:**

Graduates will have the high level thinking skills required for advanced academic study.

In order to show this, they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Critically appraise the validity and reliability of data gathered.	<i>Lectures, seminars, workshops, training, independent learning and supervision</i>	<i>Essays, portfolios, presentations, thesis and viva</i>
B2	Synthesize and evaluate information and evidence so as to transfer new theoretical, research and professional understanding into areas of practice and beyond.	<i>Lectures, seminars, workshops, training, independent learning and supervision</i>	<i>Essays, portfolios, presentations, thesis and viva</i>

Add additional rows as required.

**C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills:**

Graduates will have a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for advanced level academic enquiry.

In order to show this, they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	As part of their thesis project, select appropriate methodological techniques and approaches to address their research questions.  LGC1-2	<i>Lectures, seminars, workshops, training, independent learning and supervision</i>	<i>Essays, portfolios, presentations, thesis and viva</i>
C2	Make informed judgements on complex issues in their specialist fields, if necessary in the absence of complete data.	<i>Lectures, seminars, workshops, training, independent learning and supervision</i>	<i>Essays, portfolios, presentations, thesis and viva</i>

Add additional rows as required.

**D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills:**

D1. Graduates will be skilled communicators.

D2. Graduates will have a critical awareness of ethical issues.

In order to show this, they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1-1	Produce a thesis that communicates their research ideas, process and conclusions clearly and effectively.	<i>Training, independent learning and supervision</i>	<i>Thesis</i>
D1-2	Defend their thesis successfully in a viva.	<i>Training, independent learning and supervision</i>	<i>Viva</i>
D2-1	Demonstrate a thorough understanding of “good practice” in research and its link with research ethics issues in their proposal.	<i>Lectures, seminars, workshops, training, independent learning and supervision</i>	<i>Essays, portfolios, presentations, thesis and viva</i>
D2-2	Situate the work in their thesis appropriately in its ethical context.	<i>Lectures, seminars, workshops, training, independent learning and supervision</i>	<i>Thesis and viva</i>

*Add additional rows as required.*

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

*or*

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations for Collaborative Partners](#) will apply to this course.

*Please delete as applicable.*

## Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

**In addition to these University support services this course also provides...**

*Please add additional distinctive items where relevant or delete the sentence above.*

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

### Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

*Insert additional reference points or delete as required*

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies.
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

### Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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### Document details

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