

**University of London: External System
Online Event 10 April 2008
MBA / MSc International Management / Business
Transcript**

Facilitator	Welcome to the University of London External System Online Event on Thursday 10 April 2008 taking place at 12 pm in the UK (BST) We will be starting soon so please start sending through your Questions by typing them in the box below and clicking submit. Remember to write each Question out in full before sending them. Your Questions will enter a queue and will be answered as soon as possible.
	Chris Howorth, Director of External and Executive Programmes at Royal Holloway, and Paul Granger, Postgraduate Admissions Manager, from the University of London are here to answer your Questions about their distance learning MBA and MSc in International Management. Carly Norris and Will Eames from the University of London Information Centre are also here to give you some 1-to-1 assistance if you require it – so please watch out for private chats from them.
Facilitator	We really hope you enjoy today's event!
Question	How often may I repeat an exam and is there a limit for taking a break (e .g. due to high work load) in between the studies?
Answer	Hi, you have a total of two attempts for each exam. There is no limit for the break but the maximum registration period is 5 yrs. You can re-register after the end of 5 yrs, but the programme rules enforced at this point will apply.
Question	What kind of procedure do you use for your exams? May I write them online and in case yes, what is the average time span given for an exam in general?
Answer	You will have to sit the exam at a recognised local exam centre, usually British Council or Local Authority. You can not do the exams online.
Question	What is the main difference between MSc in International Management and MSc in International Business from qualification point of view? Is one more suitable for a particular career type such as lecturing or managing an actual business?
Answer	The MBA in International Business is not AMBA accredited and therefore don't require the 120 hours face-to-face session. They are both aimed at the same career path, but the face-2-face element allows students to practice more group work and leadership skills, enhances social interaction and maximizes peer-network creation. The International Business programme maximizes time flexibility and is a more economical option and the minimum study period is only one year.
Question	Could you tell me if distance learning is difficult or easy?

Answer	Distance learning is not an easier option, however with the study support available it is possible to be very successful in your studies. Support includes: • A dedicated Programme Team • An assigned tutor for academic queries • Online tutor-assisted seminars • Assessed essays • Face-to-face plenary sessions (for programmes in International Management) • Careers guidance throughout your studies • Study skills support • Extensive print and web-based study materials which have been developed especially for distance learners.
Question	What would be a typical schedule of subjects if one would like to get the MBA awarded in 3 years?
Answer	We would suggest that you do a maximum of 3 modules per term over a total study time of 3 years. If you have a busy schedule, rather start with 2 modules. If you do 3 modules each over 4 terms and the dissertation at the end over one term you will complete in 2.5 - 3 years. Please note that all modules are designed to take the same length of time to study, meaning that you can choose from the entire range of elective courses.
Question	Can you please tell me what is the fee of the entire course?
Answer	The course fees vary depending on which particular course you choose to follow. For example, the Postgraduate Certificate will cost a total of 2655 GBP whilst the MBA will cost a total 9615 GBP. Further information on the costs of individual programmes is available via the Course Information button.
Question	I graduated 10 years ago with a BEng (Hons) and I have decided to start by applying for the PG Cert to make sure I am still capable to study for exams. Is the GMAT still required in this particular case?
Answer	The GMAT requirement may be set for applicants whose main academic qualification does not meet our automatic entrance requirements. A final decision on this would be made once we have received your full application with all supporting documentation.
Question	I would like to know the structure of the MBA program and if the student is given the opportunity to choose the major specialization, like MBA in Marketing & Strategy or MBA in international business, etc.
Answer	The MBA consists of 9 core modules + 4 electives + 120 hrs plenary session (2 weeks) as well as a research course and a dissertation. On campus we already offered those named pathways in Marketing in Finance, the same models exists on distance learning and we expect to offer these in the next 2 years. Currently you can study the same models, but will receive the general certificate.
Question	I come from a country that has English as a 2nd language but I am not a native speaker of English. I lived and worked in Ireland for 2 years and my BENG(HONS) degree was in English and I am currently living in Belgium and of course have to use English on a daily basis. I also have an English exam pass equivalent to a GCE 'O' level. In such case do I still need to sit for an English exam such as TOEFL?
Answer	No, you don't need to take an English exam.
Question	When can I commence studying for a module? If I wish to start next month, subject to

	conditions being met, is this possible?
Answer	You can apply, register and start studying at any time during the year. However, there are application and registration deadlines for the May and October exams.
Question	What is the cost of the MSc International Management?
Answer	The total cost of the MSc is £7,705. There is no financial assistance available but you can contact your local British Council Offices (www.britishcouncil.org) for advice on local sources. We are looking at funding arrangements. Currently there is assistance available for students in the UK and South Africa but this will be expanded over time
Question	Do I have to decide now if I wish to take a MBA/MSc or MSc Int Bus route or can I wait until I have finished the certificate course?
Answer	The Postgraduate Certificate in International Management forms a common core for progression to the different International Management and International Business Awards. If you are still unsure whether you should follow the International Management or the International Business route at this stage, the Postgraduate Certificate in International Management would be the ideal starting point for your studies. PLEASE NOTE that you have to meet the 3 yrs work experience requirement if you want to proceed to the MBA.
Question	Who needs a GMAT and who doesn't?
Answer	The GMAT requirement is applicable to any applicant whose academic or professional background does not automatically meet our entrance requirements. It is best to submit your complete application and then any GMAT decision can be based upon the full information that you have provided.
Question	Would you please explain the difference in quality between a Centre for Financial and Management Studies qualification e.g. MSc in International Management (China) and an MSc in International Management from Royal Holloway
Answer	They are both University of London programmes with no difference in quality. The one programme focuses on the China area whilst the Int Management programme focuses on global business.
Question	How many modules do you recommend taking per 6 months?
Answer	We would recommend a maximum of 3.
Question	What is the minimum time period one can spend if everything went successfully?
Answer	The MBA, MSc and Diploma in Int Management can be completed in a minimum of two years and a maximum of five. The Certificate can be completed in a minimum of six months and a maximum of five. The MSc in Int Business can be completed in a minimum of one year.
Question	My qualification are just at O'Level standard
Answer	Unfortunately, with an Ordinary Level of education you are not likely to be eligible to study for these postgraduate level courses. Unless you have a strong professional

	qualification or at least 10 years of relevant managerial work experience, we would not be in a position to consider your application. Without this level of experience/qualification you would need to consider an undergraduate course first of all.
Question	How relevant is accreditation in deciding which MBA to enroll on and which accreditations should I look out for?
Answer	Many employers expect students to have studied on an accredited programme (especially if they are being asked to contribute to fees). AMBA is the main UK accrediting body, EQUIS is the main European body and AACSB is the North-American body. AMBA is the only one which focuses on MBAs. The other two accredit all business school activity (undergraduate teaching, research and corporate training as well as MBAs). From the MBA point of view there is little to choose between them.
Question	If you decide to change course mid way, do you get credit for the courses already completed if it is there are similar courses in the new degree?
Answer	If you wish to transfer between programmes within this suite of programmes, then credits could be transferred, although where the programme modules are different between separate courses (e.g. combined vs. separate courses on the MSc and MBA) you might have to re-do a course/ part of a course. We do provide transcripts at the end of your study period with the University and credits will be at the discretion of the new Institution you will be applying to.
Question	Can I proceed to the MSc in International Business with a BSc and 25 years of business experience, or would I need to do a transition year?
Facilitator	It is fine to apply for the MBA or MSc with 25 years exp and a BSc. You can start an online application for the MBA or MSc today by clicking on the 'Apply Online' button below the main chat.
Question	Do you provide scholarships?
Answer	There are no scholarships available for these programmes. There is some funding available for students based in the UK or South Africa and we plan to extend this in the future.
Question	Can you provide more details pertinent to the workings of the plenary sessions?
Answer	We offer plenary sessions at Royal Holloway (RHUL) and Hong Kong. At RHUL: 2 x 1 week sessions. Week 1: Series of master classes which you can attend at any time during your studies. Week 2: Case study, personal development, group project and group presentations. Students are responsible for travel and accommodation costs. Accommodation is available on campus and local B&Bs/guesthouses: Approximately £45 - £65 per person per night. In Hong Kong we offer Master classes throughout the year as well as a weekend group project plenary session.
Question	I have a non-business related 1 st degree - do I still have to sit for the GMAT?

Answer	If your degree is equivalent to a 2 nd class Honours degree you do not have to sit GMAT.
Question	Have you already received some students from Sub-Saharan Africa in general, and from Cameroon in particular?
Answer	We do not have exact figures to hand but I can tell you that we have many students in Nigeria, several in Ghana and some in Cameroon.
Question	What would be the equivalent to "class discussions" or "group projects" in the distance learning system?
Answer	Class discussions would be equivalent to the online seminars on the VLE. Group projects are done during the plenary sessions. In addition we offer one to one tutorials with academics and these take place via the VLE's online forums.
Question	I am from India. Can I do an MBA through distance education from the University of London?
Answer	You can yes. Please consult our Course Information button for further information on how to apply.
Question	What is the future of these programmes in my home country, Pakistan? I am interested in a job in the bank sector; would these programmes help me in finding a suitable job?
Answer	As a global programme we will take students from all programmes including Pakistan. On campus there are currently approximately 5 students from Pakistan and this number has been growing annually. MBA degrees are traditionally well-regarded within the banking sector.
Question	What is the potential of acquiring entrepreneurial skills in this particular programme?
Answer	The MBA will prepare you for a broad range of business and management disciplines. For students particularly interested in Entrepreneurship, we offer an elective in Entrepreneurship to complement the core business skills (strategy, marketing, accounting and finance, HRM etc.) that you will have learned on the core courses.
Question	Are there any additional costs that would be incurred when sitting for an exam at local exam centre, e.g. British Council? If so, then what would be the additional costs for each exam?
Answer	Local examination centres do charge their own fees to allow students to use their facilities. These fees vary from centre to centre and we do not hold details on all of them. I would recommend you get in touch with your local British Council. Their website address is www.britishcouncil.org
Question	What is the cost of the Distance MBA ?
Answer	I would recommend the Course Information button for all fee costs for our programmes. The current 2008 fees are readily available on the International Management pages on our main website at www.londonexternal.ac.uk

Question	Can units/credits be transferred from other UK postgraduate distance learning programs?
Answer	Unfortunately there is no credit transfer available for these programmes.
Question	In terms of qualifications, is there any difference between the distance learning MBA and a full-time taught MBA?
Answer	All the degrees offered through the University of London are of the same standard, there are a few countries, mainly in the Gulf and China where distance learning degrees are less well respected than campus-based degrees in the PUBLIC SECTOR. However, employers in other countries such as the UK, N-America and Europe often regard students who have studied by distance learning as more dedicated.
Question	Is the MBA in International Management by 'External System' capable of developing leadership skills, considering the fact that the social element is missing?
Answer	Yes, this is the reason why AMBA requires 120 hours face-to-face sessions and we focus on group work, leadership skills development and face-to-face interaction, including social events within the plenary setup.
Question	What kind of study materials are included in the MBA courses? Do I have to buy books separately for every module?
Answer	You will receive extensive print and web-based study materials which have been developed especially for distance learners as well as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated Programme Team • An assigned tutor for academic queries • Online tutor-assisted seminars • Assessed essays • Face-to-face plenary sessions (for programmes in International Management) • Careers guidance throughout your studies • Study skills support. The cost of all the materials and textbooks is included in the total fee.
Question	Are the costs of the courses' print based materials included in the course fees?
Answer	Yes, the cost of the study materials and textbooks is included in the total fee.
Question	As far as fees goes there is a big difference between a short course at Royal Holloway at GBP560 and one from CeFiMS for GBP1040. Are you able to explain the difference?
Answer	Although both institutions are part of the University of London, different institutions do not necessarily charge the same fees for Short Courses. I am afraid that I can't comment on the difference in price and I am not fully aware of the cost structure that CeFiMS employ for that course. You would need to contact CeFiMS directly on this matter.
Question	Is the distance learning MBA programme accredited and by which accreditation bodies? What kind of diploma does a student receive upon the finalization of the programme?
Answer	The distance learning students are studying exactly the same AMBA accredited courses as offered on-campus and you will receive the same diploma at the end of your studies. The MBA and MSc in International Management (certificate, diploma and masters) are accredited by AMBA (the Association of MBAs).

Question	Do you have exam centers in Uganda and Ruanda?
Facilitator	Yes. They are located at the British Council centres in both countries.
Question	What are typical themes for the thesis in these programmes?
Answer	The range is potentially so broad that it is difficult to offer a typical example. You may wish to refer to the Royal Holloway Management School website for a better guide.
Question	Why is this MBA not EQUIS accredited?
Answer	EQUIS accredits business schools across the full range of activities, whereas AMBA accredits MBA and pre-experience general Masters programmes. The School of Management at Royal Holloway chose to focus on the AMBA accreditation. We have now taken membership of EFMD (the umbrella organisation administrating the EQUIS process) and accreditation by EQUIS and AACSB may be considered in the future.
Facilitator	You can find a full list of examination centres overseas here: http://www.londonexternal.ac.uk/current_students/general_resources/exams/exam_centres_os/index.shtml
Question	If I have an MBA from a local university in Sudan and would like to enroll myself into your MBA programme, will the university assess and evaluate my MBA degree and enroll me into the programme ?
Answer	Any supporting documentation that you submit along with your application is taken under full consideration. If we require additional information, we will be able to request this upon receipt of your initial application. This will allow us to be best placed to comment on your eligibility for any of our courses.
Question	It is possible after a while to switch from distance learning to evening course?
Answer	Royal Holloway do not offer evening classes, only full and part-time. It may be possible to transfer but it is subject to discussions with the programme team on campus.
Question	I live and currently work in the UK. If anything, I may decide to work in Africa or the US at a later time. Is the AMBA accredited MBA sufficient then? Also, can the two references for my application be work related?
Answer	Yes, the AMBA accreditation will be sufficient in those countries and your two references can both be work related.
Question	With the flexible support, how easy would it be to fix an appointment with my tutor during the programme since I won't know the number of students that will register for the MBA
Answer	It is very easy to fix an online discussion (a-synchronous discussion) with your tutor. It is also possible to make arrangements to see tutors face-to-face if you are able to travel to the Egham (Surrey, UK) campus.
Question	What is the GPA equivalent of a 2 nd class Honours degree?

Answer	It is difficult to give a concrete answer to this as it can actually vary depending on the awarding body. We would recommend that you apply submitting a full transcript so that the Admissions Office can look into your case.
Question	I will graduate from a 3-year German BSc programme (major corporate banking) in August 2009 and would like to start the MSc International Management right after in the fall. I am not going to receive all transcripts necessary for a complete application before the deadline. However, by the deadline I will have a grade record showing at least 75 % of my results. Is it possible to apply and be admitted under conditions?
Answer	It is highly likely that the award of your qualification will be a necessary requirement. You are welcome to submit an application before the 31 January 2009 application deadline but the final confirmation of the award can still be received ahead of the registration deadline on 15 March 2009.
Question	How many exams are recommended to take in one month? is there any recommended order of subjects or is it up to me what order of subject I choose?
Answer	We would recommend that you complete the core courses first and we suggest that you don't do more than 3 modules at a time.
Question	I've just submitted my application. How long do you think it will take to know whether I have been accepted to the program?
Answer	Thank you for submitting your application. The Postgraduate Admissions Office aim to deal with all applications within four weeks, however, this can depend on the complexity of the application.
Question	Admission rules for MBA require 3 years relevant work experience. I have 4 years sales experience in an international IT company (part time) plus a year in my current position (fulltime) in sales & accounting at the same company. Could I apply?
Answer	It is possible. Please submit a full resume or CV with your application to allow us to judge it fully on its own individual merits.
Question	How about our daily study questions, who answers them and at what average response rate?
Answer	All students are assigned a dedicated online tutor who will answer your questions via the VLE. All queries will be answered within 48 hours.
Question	What is the break down of the installment payment of the tuition fee?
Facilitator	Please consult our website for detailed information on the course fees (www.londonexternal.ac.uk/mba). You would need to pay an initial registration fee and then a fee per course of study.
Question	What is the minimum GMAT score needed for acceptance?
Answer	If we request a GMAT score (and it may not always be necessary) we seek a minimum score of 550. The decision on GMAT requirement cannot be made until we have received your full application and all supporting documents.

Question	Thanks for this, its been a very successful forum!
Facilitator	We are glad you enjoyed the event and good luck with your application!
Question	When applying, what are the necessary documents that you need from me?
Answer	The Postgraduate Admissions Office will need to see photocopied evidence of your full name and date of birth (e.g. birth certificate or passport); Original or a British Council photocopied certificates; original transcripts from the institution the award came from, evidence of your English language proficiency, and two references - one academic and one work related.
Question	I am interested in the MBA. How often may I repeat an exam?
Answer	You may sit the exam for a maximum of two times. Grades between 40 - 49% may be condoned. For details see the regulations on the website.
Question	From your experience; how do employers view the degree awarded by the 'external system', is it considered lower in quality since the social interaction is missing? I live and work in Belgium at present, but the question is aimed generally for the EU countries. What about the UK, would I be at a disadvantage compared to someone that has a 'traditional' MBA?
Answer	This is, unfortunately, a highly subjective area and you would need to probably make contact with a representative of the profession or country you are interested in for their informed opinion. There is no particular objective reason why the External System qualification should be seen any differently from another University of London qualification.
Question	I'm based in Cameroon and am afraid the employers have some stereotypes about distance learning.
Answer	We suggest you discuss this with your potential employers. These programmes are offered via distance learning as well as on campus at Royal Holloway. In terms of distance learning the University has many notable alumni, including 5 Nobel winners, heads of business and states etc. For more information you could have a look at the following: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/150
Question	I am from Iran, is it possible to take exam in UK consul in Tehran?
Answer	It is possible to take examinations in Iran, please contact IELTS Australia, at the following address: IELTS Australia Office 3, #11, 21st Street Khalid Eslamboli Avenue Tehran 15139 Website: www.ieltstehran.com
Question	I like to know if the Certificate to be awarded at the end of the programme indicates University of London or Royal Holloway
Facilitator	Both will appear on the certificate.
Question	What kind of study materials is being used? Books, online-scripts, etc? Do I have to buy them separately or are they included in the course fees?
Answer	ALL required materials are included in your study fees and include: Comprehensive

	study guides, prescribed textbooks and access to the VLE.
Question	I'm interested in the Certificate in international management. I have a BSc in Pharmacy from an accredited university in Canada + work experience, Do I need a GMAT?
Answer	Unfortunately we can only make this decision upon receipt of your full application as we take all supporting information into account first of all.
Question	If an applicant has met the published admission requirements, is admission to a postgraduate business program more or less guaranteed?
Answer	As long as you do meet the entrance requirements as listed in our literature then there should be no problem with eligibility.
Question	I am interested in typical theses titles; can I have a few examples? Is the dissertation usually 'theoretical' or a 'practical' example such as a business plan etc?
Answer	The dissertation covers a very broad range of titles. A good dissertation must contain both theoretical and practical elements.
Question	I am in the Bahamas. Can I take exams at the Ministry of Education Testing and Evaluation Centre here, and will there be any charges from University of London, apart from any charges that the Testing Centre may bill?
Answer	Yes, the examinations in the Bahamas are conducted by the Ministry of Education. You can obtain details at the following address: Acting Assistant Director of Education (E&A) Ministry of Education Examination and Assessment Division Tonique Williams-Darling Highway Nassau N.P. Website: www.bahamaseducation.com
Question	As a student, could I have interactions with other students taking the same programme ?
Answer	You will have ongoing online access to fellow students via the World Wide Learning Community (VLE) through a range of different social and academic online forums.
Question	I have a BSc degree in pure and applied chemistry and 6 years of working experience with teaching qualification like PTTL AND CTTL (Teaching in the lifelong learning sector).Presently I am a science Lecturer at the College. How would I know if I qualify to enroll for the MBA?
Answer	You will need to send evidence of all of this information to us along with your application as any eligibility issues are only taken once we have received all of the information relevant to the application.
Question	I don't have a BSc, but I have 9 other certificates in telecom and management, and also GMAT and IELTS and 5 years work experience, is it necessarily to have BSc for MBA?
Answer	Not necessarily. Any decision on your particular situation will only be made once we have received your complete application and supporting documents.

Question	Please tell me the exact entry requirements for the MBA?
Answer	I would recommend that you consult the website for detailed information at www.londonexternal.ac.uk/mba . The entrance requirements are clearly outlined there.
Question	Will I be assigned a 'tutor' for the dissertation? Can I meet with the tutor 1:1 to discuss the development of the dissertation and other elements?
Answer	Yes. You can meet with the tutor by appointment; communication is also carried out via email and the VLE. If you are able to travel to campus, tutors are happy to meet face-to-face. Many staff also travel for conferences etc. and it is often possible to meet locally, although this does depend on the availability of your particular tutor.
Question	I completed my BCom in Pakistan and want to study the MBA. Please tell me what score is required to get admission in your university?
Answer	Eligibility decisions are based upon all aspects of the application submitted and not solely on the individual classification or score of a particular degree. We will be better able to answer your query once we have received your full application and supporting documents.
Question	Can dissertation be started before all other subjects are completed (core and electives)?
Answer	You must complete all core modules before commencement of your dissertation. It is expected that you will have completed electives before final submission of your dissertation.
Question	Can I sit for exams in Brussels?
Answer	Yes you can sit examinations in Brussels.
Question	How will the final degree be classified? Pass, Distinction etc?
Answer	Pass, Merit or Distinction.
Question	I would like to know if I need GMAT to join for the course.
Answer	This would depend on the information that you submit along with your application as this would influence any decision on the GMAT requirement.
Question	Can the plenary sessions be taken as a two week course (in one sitting lasting two weeks), or must the sessions be broken up into two separate meetings with each session lasting one week?
Answer	It will have to be taken at two separate weeks. The first week consisting of the master classes can be done at any time during your studies (preferably before your first exams), but the second week (case study and group presentations) can only be done once you've attempted all the core modules.
Question	How many people usually attend the plenary sessions in Hong Kong?
Answer	If varies, but on average between 15 and 40. Please note that the plenary sessions in

	Hong Kong consist of master classes throughout the year and a weekend session once students have attempted all core modules.
Question	Does the study support include online lectures for each subject?
Answer	The study guides are the equivalent of the lectures. In addition there are tutor-led asynchronous seminars online.
Question	Is it possible to obtain a postgraduate diploma and then return at a later date to complete the plenary sessions and thesis for the award of an MSc?
Answer	Yes, it is possible to do that.
Question	I have a BSc in Electrical Engineering that was taught in English in Ethiopia, but I don't have TOEFEL certificate. Do you think that I am qualified to apply?
Answer	It is likely that your English would be acceptable if your degree was taught in the medium of English. We wouldn't be able to confirm this however until we are in receipt of your full application.
Question	You mentioned that the Master classes (plenary sessions) can be attended at any time during studies. Does that mean that I would not have to complete all of the core courses before attending that plenary session? Is it just the group project plenary session that must wait for completion of core courses?
Answer	Correct. There are no pre-requisites for the first week of the plenary session (Master classes)
Question	Can the core and elective subjects be studied in any order?
Answer	You have to complete 5 core courses before you can start with the electives.
Question	When can I commence studying?
Answer	Immediately. However, there are application and registration deadlines for the two exam periods: you must register by 15 October for the May exams and by 15 March for the October exams.
Question	How can I pay for the course and what documents would you need from me?
Answer	You can pay fees by credit card, sterling banker's draft or sterling cheque. The documents we require are photocopied evidence of full name and date of birth, original or British council photocopied certificates, original transcripts from the awarding body, evidence of English language proficiency, and two references - one academic and one work related
Question	Are TOEFL and G-MAT required? I have graduated from university in Japan with BA in Business in 1990. I have joined IBM where command of English is prerequisite for surviving day-to-day operations. I have official TOEIC score of 900 whose evidence shows that I am ranked at top 2.2%.
Answer	All GMAT or English requirements decisions are made based upon the information that you submit with the application. We would recommend that you include a cover

	letter if you feel that you meet these requirements and outline the reasons.
Question	Is the MSc International Management by distance learning a good preparation for later Phd studies?
Answer	The MSc Int Management is an adequate preparation for a PhD, however you may find that a specialist Masters with a research pathway is better (more comprehensive preparation).
Question	Would it necessarily be correct to say that a student based in the United States would have to make at least two trips to London to complete the plenary sessions for the MBA degree?
Answer	Yes, unfortunately that would be necessary.
Question	I read in the University's literature that an applicant has a maximum of 5 years to complete the postgraduate certificate in international business. I believe that the literature also stated that the maximum time limit for the MBA itself is 5 years. If one progressed on to the MBA after completing the postgraduate certificate, would this then permit a maximum of 10 years to complete the MBA programme following this scheme?
Answer	There is no actual upper limit to the amount of time that a student can take to complete their studies. However you are only initially registered for a period of 5 years. If your studies go beyond this period then you may need to pay an additional registration fee. It is unusual for studies to go beyond 5 years.
Question	What are the qualifications of the tutors?
Answer	Almost all tutors (95%) in the School of Management have PhD's. They are all fulltime academic staff of the University of London and all academic staff are research active. On the plenary sessions some corporate interaction may be led by company executives together with academic staff. These company executives will be qualified by reason of their corporate expertise rather than academic expertise.
Question	I would like to avoid sending my original degree by post. Do you know if the British Council in Brussels will offer a verification service? If not; what other alternatives do I have?
Answer	If you are unable to send your original certificate you can send an official transcript of your results. This must come from the awarding body or still be in its original sealed envelope. You may also wish to check with the British Council in Brussels for information on their verification service - www.britishcouncil.org/belgium
Question	I am taking two short courses in international management; can I progress to my MBA after the short course?
Answer	You are able to progress to the MBA from the Postgraduate Certificate (after satisfactorily completing 5 core courses). You can then progress from the PG Cert to the MBA. However, if you intend to progress to the MBA in due course you would have needed

	to have the 3 years of relevant experience prior to registering on the Short Courses.
Question	Is there an exam for each module, or are the exams comprehensive at the end of program?
Answer	There is an examination for each course and a written assignment. This is weighted 80:20. You can sit examinations in May and October
Question	I would like to know about the MBA programme cost
Answer	The MBA currently costs 9615 GBP and further information on fees in general for our courses may be located on the relevant subject pages at www.londonexternal.ac.uk/mba
Question	Are there any face-to-face plenary sessions held in South Africa
Answer	Not currently, however, as soon as we have a large enough cohort of students in South Africa, we might consider doing this.
Question	It is possible for a Mexican student of MBA going to London only one time for 2 weeks plenary sessions
Answer	Unfortunately, you will have to attend the two separate sessions in London.
Question	Are the plenary sessions held on-site at the Royal Holloway campus or are they scheduled to meet elsewhere in London?
Answer	They are held at Royal Holloway.
Question	Which testing centre or centres would the University of London typically make use of in order to hold examinations for students resident in the United States?
Answer	There are over 150 centres that we use in the US. You will be able to find one fairly locally to you.
Question	From your experience would the MBA in International Management be a good foundation for a DBA? And would other EU universities accept it as an entry qualification for a DBA?
Answer	Since the DBA is a higher degree in the same vein as the MBA, we would expect that the MBA would be a good foundation and indeed students have gone on from our own MBA programme to our PhD programme. However, we do not offer a DBA and have no current experience of students progressing from the MBA to a DBA and cannot therefore give a categorical response to your question.
Question	Do you accept students with a diploma and 8 years working for your MBA?
Answer	I am afraid that we can only make a decision on eligibility once we receive your complete application as our decision will be based upon the information provided in support of your individual situation.
Question	What are the format and time constraints of the examinations, e.g. essay-based, etc,

Answer	Most examinations take a short essay format wherein three or four short essays are completed over a three-hour period. Some, for instance Accounting, consists of a mix of short answers (one or two sentences), numerical exercises and an essay, also over a period of 3 hours.
Question	How long will it take me to finish the degree?
Answer	Minimum 2 years for the MBA and MSc in International Management and minimum 1 year for the MSc in International Business. Maximum period of 5 years for all. However, if you run out of registration time, you may re-register and transfer your existing credits.
Question	How do I submit my credentials if I am applying online?
Answer	Your application form will have been transmitted to us directly. All supporting documentation must then be posted to our office. Upon receipt of these documents we can activate the online application and the processing will commence.
Question	If one registers for the diploma, and then desire to continue to MSc, is there an additional registration cost?
Answer	There is no additional fee to progress from the Diploma to the MSc. You would end up paying more or less the same fee as if you had registered for the MSc in the first instance.
Question	How many test centres do you have in Nigeria
Answer	There are four centres in Nigeria: Abuja The British Council Plot 2935, IBB Way Maitama, Abuja Website: www.britishcouncil.org/nigeria Kano Examinations Services Manager The British Council 10 Emir's Palace Road PMB 3003, Kano Website: www.britishcouncil.org/nigeria Lagos Examinations Services Coordinator The British Council 20 Thompson Avenue Ikoyi, Lagos Website: www.britishcouncil.org/nigeria Port Harcourt Examinations Officer The British Council Plot 300, No. 127, Olusegun Obasanjo Road GRA Phase 2, Port Harcourt Website: www.britishcouncil.org/nigeria
Question	What is a main benefit of AMBA accreditation? Is AMBA accredited course "better" than the one that is not?
Answer	Accreditation is the seal of a quality programme. The accreditation is a sign that an independent body has audited the content, management, and delivery of a programme and found it to be of a high standard. It is of course possible that a high quality programme may be offered by an institution that has chosen not to apply for accreditation. (It is also the case that most accrediting bodies require 3-years of activity before accreditation can be awarded.) As you can see from the above this indicates that one could expect that an accredited programme may be better than a non-accredited programme.

Question	When should I start attending plenary sessions?
Answer	There is no set timetable for your attendance on the first plenary session. You can select which session you would like to attend. These are usually held in June or July. Applications for these sessions are available online from the VLE.
Question	How many modules do you recommend to study in a six month period, especially if you are working full time?
Answer	Maximum of 3 modules. It might be better to start with only 2 modules and assess the time required.
Question	Can You send the address of the exam centres in Spain?
Answer	<p>We have examination centres in Spain at the following addresses:</p> <p>Barcelona Examinations Secretary The British Council Calle Amigo 83 Barcelona 08021 Website: www.britishcouncil.org/spain</p> <p>Bilbao Examinations Administrator The British Council Avenida Lehendakari Aguirre 29 - 2º 48014 Bilbao Website: www.britishcouncil.org/spain</p> <p>Madrid Exams Assistant The British Council Exams Unit Paseo del General Martinez Campos 31, 28010 Madrid Website: www.britishcouncil.org/spain</p> <p>Palma De Mallorca Teaching and Examinations Centre Manager The British Council Edifici Arxiduc Lluís Salvador Univ. de les Illes Balears Crta. De Valldemosa Km 7.5 Palma De Mallorca 07071 Website: www.britishcouncil.org/spain</p> <p>Valencia Director of Examinations The British Council Avinguda de Catalunya, 9 46020 Valencia Website: www.britishcouncil.org/spain</p>
Question	I'm looking for distance learning which has also online lectures for each subject on regular basis to support my study. Is this the case for this programme?
Answer	We don't offer online lectures for each subject, but we do offer regular online seminars (via the discussion forum in the VLE). You will be assigned a dedicated tutor for each course who will be available to answer academic queries and facilitate the online seminars.
Question	Which months /dates do you have the plenaries?
Answer	At the moment the plenary sessions are offered during June/July at RHUL. In future, we might consider offering these in April and September, but as it stands you will be looking at June/July.
Question	Do you have exam centres in Cameroon ? If so which are they ?
Answer	Examinations in Cameroon can be sat at the British Council - www.britishcouncil.org/cameroon

Question	I have graduated 4 years ago and will not be able to get academic reference. Will it be ok if I submit 2 reference letters from my work places?
Answer	Yes, that would be fine.
Question	If I apply to UOL, how do I effect payment from outside of UK?
Answer	We have a specific Fees Office (externalfees@london.ac.uk) that can answer any queries on payments from around the world. I suggest that you email them directly.
Question	I registered for the MSc in International Management, can I switch to the MSc in International Business?
Answer	Yes, you can switch from the MSc Int Management to the MSc International Business programme.
Question	What is the college calendar year? 12 months?
Answer	The college calendar year is September to September for Postgraduate programmes and September to June for Undergraduate programmes. The External programme calendar (MBA and MSc) is January to December with exams in May and October every year.
Question	Where are the examination centres in Kenya?
Answer	Exam centres in Kenya: Kisumu Information Officer The British Council Opposite Alpha House, Oginga Odinga Street PO Box 454, Kisumu Website: www.britishcouncil.org/kenya Mombasa Centre Manager The British Council Jubilee Insurance Building Moi Avenue, Mombasa Website: www.britishcouncil.org/kenya Nairobi Professional Development Centre Officer The British Council Upper Hill Road, PO Box 40751 Nairobi 00100 Website: www.britishcouncil.org/kenya
Question	How many MBA students or potential students do you currently have from South Africa
Answer	We are currently talking to a potential partner institution in South Africa who will act as a local 'Marketing and Finance' arm in South Africa. We hope to enroll a large number of students in South Africa once we have finalised these discussions.
Question	What is the Hong Kong schedule for plenary session?
Answer	In Hong Kong we offer Master classes throughout the year (normally Friday - Sunday). Once you have attempted all core courses you must attend the weekend group project plenary session in Hong Kong (usually Saturday - Sunday).
Question	Is it possible for a polytechnic graduate to apply directly for the MSc or MBA programs or do I have to apply for the Post Graduate Diploma instead? I'm asking because here in Nigeria, it's not possible for a polytechnic graduate to go straight into doing an MSc

	or MBA without obtaining a PG Diploma first.
Answer	I am afraid that I cannot comment on your eligibility without first receiving a full application from you. This is because we require full details of your background in order to make a fully informed decision. If you are not eligible initially for an MSc or MBA you may be able to start at a different entry point in the first instance and then progress to these qualifications.
Question	If I do apply this will be my 1st time studying long distance online. Is the programme friendly?
Answer	Absolutely. Since distance learning students requires more support, we offer the following support to students: A dedicated Programme Team, an assigned tutor for academic queries, Online tutor-assisted seminars, assessed essays, Face-to-face plenary sessions (for programmes in International Management), Careers guidance throughout your studies Study skills support, Extensive print and web-based study materials which have been developed especially for distance learners.
Question	Is there any system to selecting the elective courses? Are they matched?
Answer	You are free to choose any 4 electives from the list of available elective modules.
Question	How much study time will the programme require?
Answer	The amount the time each student takes varies depending on experience, background and interests as well as their other commitments. The full number of notional hours (regulatory expectation) is 1800 hours for the programme. Between 20-25% of this is the allocation to the dissertation. Another 120 hours is for the plenary session. Therefore the time requirement per module may be seen as approximately 100 hrs per module.
Facilitator	The University of London was the first university to offer opportunities to study for its degrees worldwide to those who were not able to study on campus in London. University of London degrees have been available through its External System since 1858, so we have a track record in delivering courses to you wherever you live and whatever your circumstances.
Question	What do you value most as a leader of London University, officially or personally, from candidates who wish to get accepted for MBA course in relation to your competition with other prestigious business schools?
Answer	As a distance learning provider, we are not in direct competition with the other prominent business schools in the UK. We offer the qualification to those individuals who may not be in a position to formally attend a business school due to family or work commitments or even due to the associated costs of living in London. As long as you possess the necessary entrance requirements then you would be eligible for consideration.
Question	Assuming registration next week and that the necessary steps are expedited as soon as possible, when is the earliest start date for actual study of a subject?
Answer	The next application deadline date is 31st July. However if you apply now your

	application will be processed within about four weeks. You can then register and you will be sent your study materials. Your first opportunity to sit examinations will be May 2009.
Question	Do I have to go on with short courses for three years before I proceed to MBA and then attend a plenary session?
Answer	No. The MBA has a specific requirement of its students in that all students must have the 3 years of relevant experience BEFORE they register for the course. This requirement extends to other entry routes to the MBA (e.g. Postgraduate Certificate or Short Course).
Question	I know that the U of L has been offering postgraduate business programmes to external students for a number of years now, with academic direction being provided by Royal Holloway. What has the trend been through the years in terms of enrollment by students in these programmes, i.e., have they been experiencing a surge in growth or popularity over time, or does this tend to vary year to year?
Answer	Numbers vary year on year. The main reason for this variance is cyclical market issues. For example the highest enrolments were in the year 1999 - 2000 with numbers falling off a little in 2001 and more steeply after 2001. The launch of the new format MBA/MSc suite (which marks a significant increase in quality but also in the level of challenge presented to students) resulted in an initial dip in registrations followed by a return to historic numbers. We are, currently, seeing a growth in interest in the programme.
Question	I have a "Maîtrise"(Masters in the francophone system, obtained after 4 years of univ studies) in Economics and Management and 1 year of job experience. Can I follow the MBA with that ?
Answer	The academic entrance requirement is the same for the MBA or MSc courses with the MBA requiring 3 years of relevant experience in addition. Unfortunately I cannot comment accurately on your Maitrise as we reserve any decision until we have received your complete application. In this way we are in possession of all the relevant information attached to your particular application. A full transcript of your studies will be extremely helpful to us.
Question	If I apply for the Msc and do it through short courses, will I receive the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma along the way?
Answer	As you progress through the MSc route and complete the necessary aspects of the PG Cert and PG Dip, you are entitled to gain these awards in addition to the final MSc.
Question	I see there is a GRE requirement for the MBA - I have 20 plus years of business experience and a Ph.D. Do I need to take the exam?
Answer	Any GMAT requirement will be decided once we receive your full application and supporting documentation. Based upon the information that you have provided, I would be surprised if it was necessary but I cannot confirm this for definite until your application is with us.
Question	I know you can do up to three short courses. Does that mean after the 3 that I have to

	pay the full fees that are required to complete the rest of the course?
Answer	Since you have already pay your initial registration fee when you register for the short courses you would simply pay the course fees associated with the other core courses and electives etc that you take along the MSc route. It is likely that successful completion of the short course will permit progression to the other levels of the course.
Greeting	Dear All, Many thanks for participating in our webinar today. If you have any further queries, please send us an email at the following address: wwlc@rhul.ac.uk Kind regards, Chris Howorth