Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2017/18 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

MODULE SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Module name	Applied Systems Thinking
Module code	MS3109
School	Cass Business School
Department or equivalent	UG Programme
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	6
Delivery location (partnership programmes only)	

Module outline and aims

In order for systems thinking skills to be truly useful, they need to be practised and applied. This should be done in a realistic environment where human behaviour is unpredictable and perspectives vary. This module attempts to do that by giving you the chance to work in groups of up to 5, providing a consultancy service to clients outside the university.

This module covers consulting skills, some advanced systems thinking and develops your practical skills by working with a real client on a management consulting project. The clients vary each year so every project is a uniquely applied exercise with open ended findings. The module attempts to replicate reality as closely as possible with your tutor acting as a senior partner in a consulting practice who has secured the client and you and your team working as project investigators and analysts.

To maintain the air of reality, the final coursework outcomes are a presentation and report to the client in which you will be expected to apply systems thinking concepts in your consultancy work

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2017/18 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

The presentation is primarily assessed by the client for usefulness and novelty but the report will also be marked by your tutor for style, accuracy and content.

Professional development aspects of reflection, team working, knowledge of consulting practice and further systems approaches are tested in the examination. Although the focus is on management consulting, the skills developed and used in this module are applicable to any research, project or **client-facing work** where consultation with stakeholders and documentation are an essential part.

Content outline

- Introduction to consulting issues and practice

- Project planning

- Further systems approaches

- Facilitation of client meetings

- Facilitation of presentations and report preparation.

Pre-requisite Modules:

MS1102 Systems Thinking & Action Research AND

MS2202 Systems Thinking

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2017/18 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Know a range of systems theories, approaches and models

- Understand when and how to use systems approaches

- Understand the issues surrounding consulting and commissioned projects

- Express the value and limitations of systems approaches in consulting

Skills:

- Work effectively as a team

- Apply systems approaches to a real problem

- Gather comprehensive information to support a consultancy project in an unbiased and objective fashion

- Conceptualise and analyse complex situations

- Present findings of a systems analysis to clients clearly in a non-technical format and in a range of audio/visual media.

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2017/18 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

Values and attitudes:

- Take a holistic approach to problem solving by drawing on a range of sources before analysing new situations

- Be aware of the importance of matching presentation skills to audience

- Reflect on personal practice in a balanced and personally responsible way

- Promote an ethical and professional approach whatever the project, by being positive and proactive

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The learning will be delivered by lectures (to everyone), tutorials (in groups of around 25), discussion, project work, primary and secondary research and first-hand experience.

Teaching pattern:

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours	Self-directed study hours	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lectures	Lecture	10	130	0	140
	Tutorials	10	0	0	10
Totals		20	130	0	150

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2017/18 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

You will be assessed by an examination and by team based coursework. The coursework consists of planning and executing a consulting project with a real client culminating in a presentation and full consultancy style report.

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting %	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Coursework	Set exercise	40%	0	N/A
Examination – 2.25 hours	Written exam	60%	0	N/A

Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes students need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes students need to demonstrate to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available to students prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the Module Leader.

Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, students will be given their marks and feedback in line with the Assessment Regulations and Policy. More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each assessment will be available from the module leader.

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2017/18 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

Verbal and written feedback is given throughout via discussion about the progress and practicalities of each group consulting project.

Written feedback is provided for the end of module report and presentation to the client. This feedback is a combination of the client's and tutor's views.

Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 40%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Checkland, P. & Poulter, J. (2010) Learning for Action, Wiley.

Czerniakwska, F & May, P. (2006) Management Consulting in Practice, Kogan Page.

Daellenbach, H.G. & McNickle, D.C. (2012) Management Science, Decision Making Through Systems Thinking, 2nd Ed., Palgrave.

Fortune, J. & Peters, G. (2005) Information Systems, Achieving Success by Avoiding Failure, Wiley.

Hoverstadt, P. (2008) The Fractal Organization, Wiley.

Jackson, M. (2011) Systems Thinking, Creative Holism For Managers, Wiley.

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2017/18 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

O'Mahoney, J. and Markham, C. (2013) Management Consultancy, Oxford University Press

In addition relevant articles and notes will be distributed during the delivery of the module.

Version: 3.0

Version date: April 14

For use from: 2014-15

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2017/18 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

Appendix: *see http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/1805/296/ for the full list of JACS codes and descriptions*

CODES

HESA Code	Description	Price Group
133	Business and Management Studies	D

JACS Code	Description	Percentage (%)
N200	The study of managing organisations.	100