

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2019/20 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

MODULE SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Module name	Virtual Organisations
Module code	MS3102
School	Cass Business School
Department or equivalent	UG Programme
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	6
Delivery location (partnership programmes only)	

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

The course aims to a) investigate a number of alternative definitions of 'a virtual organisation', b) take a series of case studies, and look at the strategies that they have followed by becoming virtual organisations, c) set virtual organisations in the context of a changing business environment, d) identify the key technologies that enable organisations to operate virtually and e) identify what characteristics are necessary for virtual work to be introduced successfully in various fields. At the end of this module, you will have some practical experience of virtual organisations and the technology that makes them possible.

Content outline

- Introduction: choice of topics to study

- Technologies for virtual organisations I

- Coursework briefing

- Technologies for virtual organisations including videoconferencing, synchronous conferencing (CassFocus) and voting systems

- Business process for virtual organisations I

- Business process for virtual organisations II

- Visit to virtual workplace

- Managing change

- Best practice for virtual work

- The bigger picture - new patterns of work and organisations

- Conclusions

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- Investigate a number of alternative definitions of 'a virtual organisation'

- Set virtual organisations in the context of a changing business environment

- Set virtual organisations in context

Skills:

- Take a series of case studies, and look at the strategies that they have followed by becoming virtual organisations
- Identify the key technologies that enable organisations to operate virtually
- Improve team working skills
- Undertake individual research into cases

Values and attitudes:

- Identify what characteristics are necessary for virtual work to be introduced successfully in various fields.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Discussion of practical examples.

Visit to a virtual workplace.

Formal, taught classes.

Selected speakers from within and outside the university.

Discussion of underlying technology as part of structured group exercises.

Team discussions including reflection and observation built into the process.

Teaching pattern:

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

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Coursework and exam.

Assessments

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Coursework	Written assignment, including essay	30	0	N/A
Examination – 2.25 hours	Written Exam	70	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.

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

Lipnak, J and J Stamps: Virtual Teams. Wiley. Second edition 2001 – book and up-to date supplementary material available to download from <http://www.virtualteams.com/>

Zuboff: The Support Economy, Penguin, 2004.

Version: 2.0

Version date: July 2013

For use from: 2013-14

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
27	Business and Management Studies	D

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