

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 name	Corporate Governance
Module code	BS3215
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

Corporate governance is one of the most important issues to face organisations of all kinds and their management and other stakeholders. It combines management, ethics, laws and regulation, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and stakeholder theory and addresses the fundamental questions of how enterprises manage themselves and their place in society. Without a clear and effective understanding of this subject you will be unprepared for the challenges and opportunities that modern enterprises face in their need to ensure effective management of their role and place in society.

The aim of this module is to introduce you to corporate governance, and its practical relevance to national and multinational organisations in all sectors. Key issues will include: the role and function of boards of directors; the role of external and internal auditors; audit committees; stakeholder and agency theory; CSR; the impact of corporate governance failure, and business ethics.

Content outline

This module will introduce you to the key issues in corporate governance using both historical and contemporary cases based on actual events. You will be encouraged to carry out your own

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research into the issues and assessment will be linked to your own observations and analysis of your chosen cases. Lectures will be based on the following themes, although the precise content may change should a relevant topical issue arise.

1. Definitions, History and Development Pt 1
2. Definitions, History and Development Pt 2
3. Board Structures and Committees Pt 1
4. Board Structures and Committees Pt 2
5. Risk management
6. The Role of Internal and External Auditors
7. Corporate Governance guidance and regulation, including international codes and emerging issues
8. Shareholder activism
9. Ethical and cultural issues: including Islamic finance and responsible lending and investment
10. Corporate Governance Failures.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- Explain the historical roots of Corporate Governance

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- Evaluate the current issues in corporate governance at both national and international levels
- Explain agency, stakeholder and stewardship theories
- Evaluate the structures and policies necessary for effective corporate governance
- Assess the roles of management, investors and other stakeholders

Skills:

- Predict the effectiveness of an organisations corporate governance systems using knowledge of board structures and committees
- Interpret international codes and guidance to evaluate how far organisations comply with accepted good practice
- Communicate the evaluation of corporate governance and its place in society to senior management

Values and attitudes:

- Perceive that enterprises have the ability to carry out their activities in a socially responsible and transparent manner
- Perceive that Corporate Governance is global and multicultural, and while it is applied differently that the values and standards are equally relevant to all types of enterprise
- Support the existence of direct links between high governance standards and successful management

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HOW WILL I LEARN?

A variety of learning and teaching methods will be used in this course.

Lectures are used to introduce context, concepts and techniques illustrated with practical and current examples. You will also have the opportunity to participate in class discussions and work through examples and exercises with the support of the lecturer. It is strongly recommended that you attend ALL lectures.

Key learning and teaching resources will be put on the module website on Moodle.

In the independent study time you are encouraged to read widely and in depth around particular topics in preparation for lectures and tutorials. You may also spend time working through sample exercises and questions. In addition you will be preparing and undertaking your coursework assignments and preparing for your final examination.

Teaching pattern:

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

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

Coursework (Group assignment) weighted 30%.

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Groups will be asked to select a single or multiple case based on a real world organisation or sector and provide a report on:

- Your opinion of the effectiveness or otherwise of the cases corporate governance systems.
- How the case demonstrates its positive and/or negative characteristics.
- The lessons that can be learned from the case.

The outline for the group assignment will be presented in Lecture 2. All groups will be encouraged (though not required) to present informally their initial findings to the whole class in lectures 3 -10. Progress can be discussed face to face or via Moodle.

Examination weighted 70%.

Assessment pattern:

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

Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you 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 you prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available in the UG Assessment Handbook and from the module leader.

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Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, you will be given your marks and feedback in line with the University's 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

R.G. Monks, N. Minow. (2011) *Corporate Governance*. Blackwell. 4th/5th Edn. (essential).

C. Mallin. (2009) *Corporate Governance and Accountability*. OUP. 2nd Edn,

J. Solomon. (2007) *Corporate Governance and Accountability*. Wiley. 2nd Edn.

Corporate Governance an International Review.

The Journal of Management and Governance.

Other readings such as links to international codes and guidance to be provided during lectures.