



Master of Arts in Luxury Brand Management

Programme Specification

2026-2027

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Introduction

This document describes the **Master of Arts in Luxury Brand Management** awarded by Richmond American University London, using the protocols required by *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland* (QAA, 2008).

The degree is delivered at a US Liberal Arts university with a degree structure in line with comparable Masters degrees in the UK. Successful students complete 8 courses amounting to 36 US / 180 UK credits, comprised of coursework (24 US/ 120 UK credits), and either an internship (4 US/ 20 UK credits) and a Professional project (6 US/ 30 UK credits) component or an Extended Professional project (10 US/50 UK credits). Normally, each course carries 4 US/20 UK credits.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course specification documents and syllabi.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

1. OVERVIEW

Programme/award title(s)	Master of Arts in Luxury Brand Management
Teaching Institution	Richmond American University in London
Awarding Institution	Richmond American University in London
Date of latest validation	20 April 2023 (for 5 years)
Next revalidation	2027/28
Credit points for the award	36 US credits 180 UK credits (FHEQ Level 7)
Programme start date	Fall 2023 (as new structure)
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	<u>There is no specific benchmark for the MA Luxury Brand Management applicable</u> QAA <i>Masters Degree Characteristics</i> (February 2020)
Professional/statutory recognition	n/a
Language of Study	English
Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)	FT (one year), PT (two years)
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	Middle States Commission on Higher last renewed 2017 QAA – Higher Education Review (AP) 2017
Date of production/revision this specification	July 2025

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The programme aims to provide graduates with high quality, specialised, and sector specific skills knowledge in the brand management of luxury goods, services, and experiences. The specific aim is to guide students on the programme towards developing the necessary technical knowledge, critical thinking and problem-solving skills geared towards the luxury sector. The added value of this specialised qualification signals both sector expertise and interest in Luxury Brand theory and practice.

Today, luxury involves offering a proliferation of premium mass-market branded offerings globally - to a wider cross section of individuals than ever before. These goods, services, and experiences act as vehicles for consumers looking to raise their status, social currency, and emotional fulfilment.

In response to these trends, the programme takes a holistic approach to this growing field and market interest. Students will be exposed to concepts from business and management theory, alongside behavioural psychology, psychoanalysis, culture theory, anthropology and design.

For this purpose, innovative courses on contemporary issues are taught (Strategic Brand Management, Marketing Communications, Digital and Social Media Marketing, Marketing and Ethics, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management), alongside research skills courses, providing an opportunity for practical application with seminars conducted by invited guest speakers. Students who complete an internship will gain the practical skills to apply their knowledge in the workplace, preparing them for rewarding senior management roles in industry, or as business owners.

The MA in Luxury Brand Management programme offers a comprehensive and critical study of current consumption patterns, branding, and management issues within the global business environment. There is also a strong emphasis on understanding different global and local consumption practices - linked to various cultures, sub-cultures, ethnicities, and nationalities.

As part of the student's personal development, this programme provides the ability to demonstrate effective skills of teamwork and analytical reasoning skills which will be fostered throughout the core courses of this course. The School's student-centred, high-contact teaching approach provides a stimulating, interactive and supportive learning environment where students can develop skills to further their research and enable to apply their own theories within the context of existing recorded material.

Aspiring entrepreneurs will also be encouraged to use their time with us as an incubator for new business ideas and a platform for growing their network

Students' acquired knowledge, through studying luxury and brands from several social sciences perspectives and disciplines, will also provide them with a solid base to apply to new complex and unpredictable situations and communicate them effectively. Furthermore, the MA Luxury Brand Management will equip students with the critical analytical skills and application of academic knowledge for further research within this area and supporting fields. Students will be able to act with initiative within the provided guidelines and accept full accountability of the reached outcomes.

The optional courses such as Marketing in the Digital World and Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management, echo the most dynamic business segments internationally providing students with the opportunity to gain further expertise in an area of their interest. The Consultancy Project and Dissertation further hone these skills.

Aims

- Develop students' ability to strategically operate in complex and unpredictable international business situation where they require to select and apply specialised branding knowledge from a wide range of information sources.
- Provide students with the resources needed to appreciate critically the branding implications of decisions taken within the international business environment.
- Provide students with the required branding tools for shaping and creating persuasive communications.
- Act with initiative in decision-making when furthering students' research on pertinent branding areas within the international business environment.
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Mission

The Luxury Brand Management MA programme is a career development, specialist programme, for UK, European and international students. The main emphasis of this programme is on deepening their knowledge of the relevance of branding a key consideration to inform business or strategic management decisions. While the academic level is that of Masters level, there is a strong practical emphasis to the curriculum. This programme will also provide a high-quality educational experience for graduates from any subject discipline, practitioners, entrepreneurs, and business specialists, and thus improve the quality of business professionals by complementing it with their current knowledge.

The MA on Luxury Brand Management will equip students with an understanding of the necessary brand-centric tools to enable businesses to achieve their growth targets and strategic development decisions. These tools need to be understood from a practical viewpoint within a rapidly changing international business environment fostered by changes in global technology, communications, and culture. Students will build on their existing understanding of business and consumerism, and be provided with an international perspective, where culture, luxury consumption, business, and branding are mutually interwoven in an inextricable manner - adding a very practical and current approach to a solid theoretical base. This is achieved through critical thinking, teamwork, creativity, and personal development in a highly interactive and stimulating environment that encourages rigorous, relevant, and innovative learning and research.

Students will have acted with their own initiative to implement agreed solutions within the given guidelines effectively and efficiently. They should therefore have developed strong

interpersonal skills to be able to interact with a range of culturally diverse students, lecturers, and business specialists.

2. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Master of Arts in Luxury Brand Management Degree

The programme is a discrete and self-contained programme of 36 US/180 UK credits. As such, the structure does not follow the progressive UK PGDip ► MA structure of some other programmes although a UK PGDip is awarded as an exit award in recognition of students who complete the required 24 US / 120 UK credits of taught course work. It is not possible for students to register for the PGDip.

The programme is delivered over one academic year full-time or two-years part-time from the start of September or January. Full-time students take six mandatory taught courses of 4 US/20 UK credits each, spread equally over the autumn and spring semesters. Then in the final semester, students may take the internship course of 4 US/20 UK credits and write a 7,000-word maximum research project which is submitted at the end of the summer and is weighted at 8 US/40 UK credits. Students must complete the six mandatory taught courses before progressing to the internship/research project. Part-time students take one or two courses in the autumn and spring semesters, completing the required course work over two years and complete the internship and research project in the final semester of year two. Full-time or part-time students unable to take the internship complete an extended professional research project of 12,000 words maximum for 12 US/60 UK credits.

Part-time students take one or two courses in the fall and spring semesters, completing the required course work over two years, and complete the internship in the summer of year one and the Market Strategy Report in the summer of year two, and like September start full-time students not taking the internship, part-time students not taking the internships complete the extended professional research project for 12 US/60 UK CATS credits.

Details of the University's degree programmes, including approved Programme Specifications and Course Specification Descriptions (CSDs) are held in an official archive by academic year, available at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

All students on Masters programmes are expected to be in London for thesis/dissertation supervision and seminars. During this, students wishing to complete an internship outside of the UK must first consult with Student Affairs to discuss any visa implications before accepting an international internship

Master of Luxury Brand Management Degree

Successful students complete 36 US /180 credits at *FHEQ* Level 7

		US Credits	UK Credits
FHEQ Level 7 (Total)		36	180
FALL SEMESTER	Course Title		
LBM 7106	Contemporary Perspectives in Luxury Business	4	20
LBM 7102	Strategic Brand Management	4	20
LBM 7108	Luxury Consumer Theory	4	20
SPRING SEMESTER			
LBM 7107	Integrated Marketing Communications	4	20
MKT 7160	Market Research Skills	2	10
MGT 7160	Business Research	2	10
plus one of the following:		4	20
MKT 7120	Marketing & Ethics		
ENT 7110	Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management		
MKT 7110	Marketing in a Digital World		
APR 7120	Celebrities, Marketing and the Media		
SUMMER SEMESTER			
plus either both of the following:		12	60
LBM 7902	Internship	4	20
LBM 7505	Consultancy Project	8	40
OR:			
LBM 7500	Dissertation	12	60

US Postgraduate Certificate

The US Postgraduate Certificate is an exit award available to students registered on a Masters Degree who have successfully completed the following requirements:

- 24 US / 120 UK Level 7 credits from the required taught components;
 - 12 US/60 UK Level 7 credits of the total number of credits required for the US Postgraduate Certificate must be completed;
 - a minimum GPA of 2.0 in the courses being used for the exit award is required;
- but who have NOT successfully completed the thesis for any of the following reasons:
- they have not submitted the thesis (either by choice, or they have failed to submit it without extenuating circumstances eligible for resubmission); or
 - they have received a failing grade on the thesis (and so are not eligible to apply for resubmission); or
 - the grade following thesis resubmission remains insufficient for the award of the Masters Degree (it has not achieved a minimum grade of C).

Students eligible under a-g above may choose to transfer onto and be considered for the award of the US Postgraduate Certificate/UK Postgraduate Diploma

UK Postgraduate Diploma (UK PGDip)

The requirements of the UK Postgraduate Diploma are aligned with those of the US Postgraduate Certificate (as outlined above). Postgraduates who have completed the requirements for the US Postgraduate Certificate will also be awarded the UK Postgraduate Diploma.

UK Postgraduate Certificate (UK PGCert)

The UK Postgraduate Certificate may be awarded as an exit award for those students registered on a Master's degree who have successfully completed the following minimum requirements:

- a) 12 US / 60 UK Level 7 credits from taught requirements;
- b) 6 US/30 UK Level 7 credits of the total number of credits required for the UK PGCert must be completed;
- c) a minimum GPA of 2.0 in the courses being used for the exit award is required.

There is no US equivalent for the UK PGCert.

3. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Programme-level learning outcomes are identified below, based on *SEEC* categories linked to level 7 of the *FHEQ*.

Refer to Appendix I – Curriculum Map for details of how outcomes are deployed across the programme of study.

Graduates of the **MA Luxury Brand Management** programme will have:

The programme has been designed to prepare candidates for specialist branding and senior management positions. For this purpose, innovative courses on contemporary issues are taught, opportunity for practical application is fostered, and seminars are conducted by leading guest speakers. These complementing and supporting elements combine to create a learning opportunity that is profoundly challenging and awakening. Our faculty benefits from international branding and business experience and will provide candidates with a solid theoretical foundation to take or support business decisions within the context of branding constraints in both a rigorous and creative manner. Students' own initiative is fostered so that full responsibility for the outcome of their research and work is taken always within the guidelines provided and objectives set from the outset. Students who complete an internship will gain the practical skills to apply their knowledge in the workplace, preparing them for rewarding management or specialist branding roles.

The programme creates an opportunity for students to develop their skills within the space of international business branding subjects. The courses taken to assist in this process include: Strategic Brand Management, Luxury Consumer Theory, Contemporary Perspectives in Luxury Business, Integrated marketing communications, Market Research Skills and Business Research Methods.,. Choices of four optional courses are offered: Marketing and Ethics, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management, Marketing in a Digital World, and Celebrities, Marketing and the Media. In addition, this programme offers a choice of an Internship with a

Professional Project or an Extended Professional Project instead.

MA Luxury Brand Management graduates will be able to demonstrate a wide range of abilities and skills. These may be divided into the following categories: Subject Specific Knowledge and Understanding; Critical Thinking and Cognitive Skills; Subject Specific Skills and Attributes, to include practical and professional skills; and Transferable and Key Skills and Attributes.

Furthermore, MA Luxury Brand Management students will also acquire transferable skills essential to understanding and succeeding in the world of international business.

Upon Completion of the **Luxury Brand Management Programme**, students should be able to:

A. Subject Knowledge and Understanding

Upon successful completion of the MA Luxury Brand Management students will be able to demonstrate a systematic in-depth understanding of the the branding issues arising in the international business environment and demonstrate a high level of theoretical and applied knowledge of the branding constraints and solutions related to business and management issues.

B. Critical Thinking and Cognitive Abilities

Students will develop critical and where appropriate innovative responses to the branding issues arising within the context of business and management within the international arena. Equally, they will be able to anticipate branding responses to complex or unfamiliar situations in the international contexts where it might be relevant to interpret and extend existing knowledge. Additionally, this programme recognises and argues alternative approaches when faced with new developments in the business reality where the existing branding applicable background might not be adequate or obsolete.

C. Subject Specific Skills and Attributes

The MA Luxury Brand Management identifies modifications to existing knowledge structures to the relevant context of circumstances by means of autonomous evaluations in accordance with the best branding practice within the international business environment. In doing so, students will be able to work effectively within a group dynamic anticipating and resolving any challenges that might arise. In the same way, students will be able to propose new areas for investigation, new problems, new or alternative applications or methodological approaches.

Successful candidates will be able to conduct research and produce a high-quality Market Strategy Report: this includes the ability to select, define and focus upon an issue at an appropriate level; to develop and apply relevant and sound methodologies; to analyse the issue; to develop recommendations and logical conclusions; to be aware of the limitations of the research work.

D. Transferable Skills and Attributes

Demonstrate a range of skills which are relevant to the needs of existing and future managers, in-house branding experts and other branding or business executives and professionals irrespective of their sector of operation. These are particularly relevant in the areas of analysis and synthesis, communication and presentation skills, computing skills, critical reasoning, data analysis, organisation and planning, report and essay writing skills, interactive and group skills and research skills. Evaluate the ethical dilemmas likely to arise in research and professional practice and

formulate solutions in dialogue with peers, clients, mentors and others.

Upon successful completion of the **MA in Luxury Brand Management degree** successful students will be able to:

Programme Learning Outcomes.			
A. Subject Knowledge and Understanding	B. Cognitive skills	C. Subject specific, practical and professional skill	D. General\transferable skills
1. Develop students' ability to identify and deal with international business and management branding issues. 2. To provide students with the required branding tools for business	1. The ability to master a complex and specialised area of knowledge and skills. 2. The ability to critically use theories and	1. The ability to suggest variations in the applicable branding tools as response to changes to the business environment.	1. The ability to analyse, present and communicate information effectively. 2. The ability to manage time effectively. 3. Develop the capacity to work effectively and efficiently as a group

<p>decision-taking, understanding the implications of such with reference to current branding issues arising within the international business context.</p> <p>3. Develop the ability to apply branding in-depth knowledge in the areas of marketing and consumer behaviour.</p> <p>4. To develop and enhance students' strategic vision on the development of international businesses within the constraints that different branding systems might impose.</p> <p>5. Develop the branding skills needed to foster a robust business proposition, with accruing brand equity.</p>	<p>concepts to address branding issues within the current international business environment.</p> <p>3. The ability to reflect on practical branding problems arising in the context of international business and offer innovative solutions to those specific problems.</p> <p>4. The ability to engage in arguments over what constitutes 'best practice' in solving branding issues businesses acting across several sectors.</p> <p>5. The ability to develop critical reasoning, and creative thinking in a multicultural context.</p>	<p>2. Be able to analyse and present information and opinion using modern communication methods.</p> <p>3. Have a systematic understanding of the practical branding problems faced by managers within the context of international business environment.</p> <p>4. Be familiar with the branding documentation and procedures required to conduct businesses and carry out corporate development in the international arena.</p> <p>5. Be able to resolve branding related conflicts in the least disruptive way to business.</p>	<p>member or leader towards the achievement of SMART objectives.</p> <p>4. Develop a reflexive approach to learning including self-evaluation of personal strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>5. Personal and social skills gained from studying in a multicultural environment.</p>
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4. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy for the MA in the Luxury Brand Management degree is based on the understanding that all students are active learners and researchers and are embarking on advanced professional practice with a view to their future career development. This is designed to maximise student engagement in the programme and ensure full participation throughout. The precise approach will vary from course to course, but the learning outcomes relating to each class are designed to ensure that students immerse themselves fully in the subject and take full responsibility for their progress through the programme. The concept of progression through the distinct aspects of the degree (class-based learning focusing on theory and practice, guided independent study and practical work, internship and professional research project including a critical reflection) is integral to the intellectual journey that the students will make during their time on the programme.

A variety of approaches will be used in teaching, including:

- Formal seminars and debates
- Formal lectures, supplemented with audio-visual materials
- Informal lectures and discussions with guest speakers or on visits
- Individual and group projects, culminating in oral presentations and written work
- Group and individual tutorials
- Self-directed and directed reading

Student knowledge will be acquired through:

- Structured seminars and debates (including the sharing of other students' learning and experience), lectures, guest lectures, visits to agencies – including supporting materials
- Directed reading and use of electronic sources
- Independent research and work experience

Student thinking skills are developed through:

- Undertaking practical exercises and making presentations
- Learning alongside others, including group work, seminars, debates and discussions
- Conducting research
- Preparing assessed work

Student practical skills are developed through:

- Applying theory to practice in practical exercises and assessed work
- Specific training related to PR and journalism and related fields, including the use of different media
- Team and individual project work and reflection thereon
- Vocational experience gained through internships

The University welcomes applications from students with disabilities. These disabilities might include a physical or sensory impairment, a medical or psychiatric condition or a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia and may require additional support or adaptations to our facilities. The University endeavours to make all practical and reasonable adjustments to ensure students are able to fully participate in the University community.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment is by examination, essays, dissertations, and other forms of written work; oral presentations and group work; as well as projects and this assessment strategy meets the University

Assessment Norms at level 7.

As seen above, the University places considerable emphasis on developing its students' learning and skills. Creating independent thinkers is a part of the University's mission statement and MBA academic staff deliver on this promise in a number of different ways at the postgraduate level. A key aspect of their work involves devising methodologies, consistent with best-practice approaches within the field, with which to adequately assess students' performance. These approaches include the setting of learning outcomes encompassing each course as well as regular discussion and interaction amongst academic staff in order to set common goals for the entire degree and each of its courses.

In terms of following up with the assessment of student learning and consistent with US Liberal Arts traditions, MBA classes rely on the system of continuous assessment on a course-by-course basis and throughout any given semester. This approach often involves the use of short essays, research papers, learning journals, annotated bibliographies, gallery reviews, book reviews, student presentations, research proposals and general class discussion. Not every component applies to every course, but most do relate to many of the classes that are offered. There is an emphasis on writing essays, particularly research papers, at postgraduate level, and reflective work including learning journals.

The variety of instruments used permits academic staff to assess each student's developing and evolving knowledge and skills base as outlined in the previous section. For example, the research paper tests for, amongst other things, a student's ability to engage with primary and/or secondary sources of information and his or her ability to evaluate and analyse this. Site visits encourage students to engage with objects, applying theory and method taught in classes. In addition, the University sets specific guidelines on the weighting of coursework to effect balance in the process of assessment. As the coursework load for each course set out in the course descriptor shows, a variety of assessment strategies with weighting spread facilitates this across the courses, with the typical course settling for around 50% for the final research paper.

A component part of the programme's efforts to ascertain an appropriate approach to the assessment of student learning involves the use of grade descriptors (made available in the Course Specification Documents and Syllabi). This information allows the student to see the expected level of performance that co-relates with a particular letter grade summarizing his or her overall achievement level. The programme also has a formalised system of exit questionnaires and feedback meetings punctuated at key moments throughout the year (mid-semester break, end of semester and end of year) for its students as a framework through which the views and opinions of those who have experienced the programme, as students, can be captured and responded to. Evidence of this approach in action is demonstrated in minutes of meetings with students and academic staff and response to comments from the External Examiner.

Academic Standing

A	4.000	Excellent
A-	3.666	Excellent
B+	3.333	Good
B	3.000	Good
B-	2.666	Good
C+	2.333	Satisfactory
C	2.000	Satisfactory
C-	1.666	Below average (may only be awarded at graded activity level)
F	0.000	Fail (may be awarded at graded activity level, and awarded at course level for any course grade calculated to be lower than C)
FA	0.000	Fail (Attendance)
FS	0.000	Fail (Non-Submission)
FX	0.000	Fail (Academic Misconduct)

A graduate student is in good academic standing if maintaining a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 (C).

Graduate students with a cumulative (GPA) of less than 2.0 (C) risk dismissal from the university (see below under “Grade Point Average” and “Academic Probation”).

Grade Point Average

A grade point average (GPA) is calculated each semester and summer session and is recorded on the student’s transcript. A cumulative GPA, including all graduate courses taken at Richmond, is also calculated. The numerical equivalent for the grade (see above) of each course is multiplied by the number of credits for that course to give the number of quality points for the course.

The GPA is then the sum of quality points for all courses divided by the total number of credits of all courses attempted.

- Students achieving a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.333 will be awarded the degree with Distinction.
- Students achieving a cumulative GPA within the range of 2.667 to 3.332 will be awarded the degree with Merit.
- Students achieving a minimum cumulative GPA within the range of 2.0 to 2.666 will be awarded a Pass degree.
- Students achieving a cumulative GPA of less than 2.0 will fail the degree.

5. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Details of the entry requirements, including English language requirements, may be found at the appropriate page of the University website listed below, where a comprehensive Admissions Policy and Summary of Practice document is also published.

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate-admissions/>

6. STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

There is a range of student support and guidance, for both academic and general wellbeing, available to students. This is accomplished through a range of programmes and services that positively impact learning as well as the total student life experience.

All students have an allocated full-time faculty member who acts as their Programme Director. Programme Directors have on-going responsibility for students' academic progress, meeting with each student at least once per semester. Programme Directors assist students with registration, enabling smooth progression through the degree. They also advise on career opportunities and provide pastoral support in many cases.

A range of Maths, English, Technology and Writing workshops have been established to support students with needs in these areas. Librarians are on hand to assist with library use, which includes instruction in web-based resources.

The University endeavours to make all practical and reasonable adjustments to ensure students are able to fully participate in the University community. Students who declare a physical disability or a special educational need are supported to ensure the quality of their educational experience meets their individual requirements. SEN students, for instance, receive extra time for examinations, and have the option of writing exams on university-provided computers, and/or of taking exams in a separate room.

The University operates a well-staffed Student Affairs department that provides services intended to support and encourage student welfare, safety and development. This department oversees the medical registration of students and provides counselling services. It also organizes a range of extracurricular activities and travel designed to further enhance students' educational experiences. Disciplinary and social grievance procedures are also overseen by this department.

7. INTERNSHIPS

The Careers & Internship Office of the University offers a formal mechanism through which students may receive work-placement opportunities. These placements are supervised, career-related work experiences combined with reflective, academic study that help students apply theoretical knowledge in the workplace. Participation in the internship programme is optional but highly encouraged because the Masters Programmes have been designed to offer students the option to graduate with both a qualification as well as experience of the workplace.

The internship has been established to act as a conduit between the classroom and a career, enabling students to meet and work with potential future employers. The internship programme demands that students interact with professionals in their field, allowing them to learn by seeing as well as by doing. Key to the success of this initiative is the relationship that has been developed with organisations and governmental agencies.

Expectations with regard to careers education, information, advice and guidance (as outlined in The UK Quality Code for Higher Education) are handled by the university's Student Affairs department. This department conducts a variety of career services for students, ranging from resource provision to a CV service, and in particular through the professional development seminar series. For full details of career services offered to students at Richmond may be obtained from the Student Affairs Department.

In addition to these services, the alumni office offers networking opportunities where students may contact alumni working in a variety of fields. The alumni office also offers these services via social media such as LinkedIn and Facebook.

8. POSTGRADUATE ACADEMIC POLICIES

Please see the Policies page on the University website listed below for the relevant academic policies of this programme. (<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>)

9. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The MA Luxury Brand Management Degree is operated under the policy and regulatory frameworks of Richmond American University in London, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications, and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Also key to the background for this description are the following documents:

- QAA (2018). The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education (www.qaa.ac.uk)
- QAA (2008). Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in Higher Education in England.
- SEEC (2016). Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education. Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (www.seec.org.uk).
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation. 2014: Thirteenth Edition; Rev. Ed. 2015. (<http://www.msche.org/publications/RevisedStandardsFINAL.pdf>)

Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme

The MA in Luxury Brand Management features detailed published educational objectives that are consistent with the mission of the institution. All course outlines contain course specific objectives that are regularly monitored by the individual instructors and by the faculty as a group.

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External Examiners
- Internal Moderation
- Student representation
- Curricular change approval process
- Annual Programme Monitoring and Assessment
- Formal Programme Review, every 5 years
- Course evaluation
- Student satisfaction surveys and the NSS
- Feedback from employers

The **MA in Luxury Brand Management** is provided through a system of ongoing evaluations that demonstrate achievement of the programme's objectives, and uses the results to improve the effectiveness of the programme. Ongoing evaluation is carried out for both US (the Middle States Commission on Higher Education) and UK (QAA) reviews. The University is a voluntary subscriber member of the QAA, and underwent its first full Institutional Review in May 2013 and a Higher Education Review (AP) in 2017.

Credit Equivalences

The ratio for credit translation at the Masters level (Level 7) is as follows:

	US credit	ECTS credit	UK credit
UK Level 7	1	2.5	5
Required minimum number of credits for MA	36	90	180 (120 of which must be at Level 7)
Richmond MA Luxury Brand Management	36	90	180 (at Level 7)

Levels

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in the UK defines the MA degree in higher education in terms of a series of numbered levels, as follows:

Level 4-6 (previously HE1-3) – years 1 to 3 of a UK undergraduate degree

Level 7 (previously M) – UK Masters degrees and postgraduate diplomas and certificates

Level 8 (previously D) – UK Doctoral degrees

Each level is illustrated by, and each award determined by, reference to a qualification descriptor. The level 7 descriptors can be found in the *FHEQ* (QAA, August 2008).

References

QAA. *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland*. November 2014.

QAA. *The Higher Education Credit Framework for England: Advice on Academic Credit Arrangements*. May 2021, 2nd Ed

QAA. *Making Use of Credit: A Companion to the Higher Education Credit Framework for England*. May 2021

European Communities. *ECTS Users' Guide*. February 2009; *ECTS Users' Guide* 2015.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Books

Faculty and Students are encouraged to help in the purchase of library resources and submit requests for new purchases relating to and supporting their subject areas and research. Details of selected new acquisitions are publicized on the library subject pages and online catalogue.

The library also purchases academic ebooks to support students required reading, as well as cataloguing open access resources. These books are made available through the library catalogue.

Every year, the library collection is reviewed and non-relevant or out of date stock is withdrawn. Analysis of loans compared to purchases and new publications within core subject areas are used to drive additional purchases to make sure that the collection remains relevant and current.

Journals

At present the Library subscribes directly to approximately 30 periodical titles. Where electronic access is provided with a subscription this has been made available through the library's online Publications Finder.

In consultation with faculty the Library regularly reviews its periodical subscriptions, ensuring relevant coverage is provided as the curriculum changes.

Online journal databases

Full text e-journal services include access to Ebsco's: Academic Search Premier, Art Full Text, Business Source Premier, Communication and Mass Media Complete, Education Full Text, International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance, International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center, SPORTDiscus and PsycArticles; WARC and JSTOR. These provide access to around 42,000 titles, as well as business and market data and case studies.

In addition, students are directed to a multitude of other online databases which they can search for citations including Google scholar and subject specific internet gateways.

In all cases where the full text is neither in the library's subscription resources nor available online the Library provides free inter-library loans to students and faculty using the services of the British Library (BL On Demand).

Access to the e-journal databases can be found on the Library portal.

Other online resources

Other online resources include the Proquest: Global Newsstream. This is used to access 4,000 titles, mainly national and international newspapers but also to related newswires and monitoring services. We also have a subscription to FT Education which provides on-line and mobile access to the newspaper archive as well as a wide range of digital and multi-media features, in-depth reports on a wide range of business and political topics and a digital learning tool that allows students and faculty to annotate and share articles. Additionally, the Statista platform provides easy access to over 1,900,000 statistics on a wide range of business & social topics from over 22,500 sources as well as industry reports, research dossiers and market outlooks. A subscription to Mintel Academic provides access to market research data and expertise across the retail, media and financial services sectors in the UK as well as global trends and consumer behaviour analysis.

There are pages of subject related resources on the library's portal which aim to guide students to quality internet material as well as the most relevant subscription resources.

Scanning/Digitising

Under CLA licence the library provides online access to scanned materials from the library print collection to faculty. These can then be accessed by students on a particular course of study through the member of faculty's Blackboard pages.

Library Instruction

In addition to a library induction session during Orientation, each Post-Graduate Programme offers a hands-on library resources session customized to cover the most relevant resources for the subject area. Additional workshops can also be arranged with experts from our e-resource suppliers or with librarians to provide guidance for specific assignments.

Students can also receive individual, tailored help with resources and research skills on a one-to-one basis either in person or online.

Programme Specification Publication Dates

First Edition	April 2013
Revision 1	August 2013
Revision 2	January 2014
Revision 3	May 2014
Revision 4	July 2014
Revision 5	June 2015
Revision 6	April 2016
Revision 7	April 2017
Revision 8	April 2018
Revision 9	March 2019
Revision 10	May 2019
Revision 11	May 2020
Revision 12	May 2021
Revision 13	August 2022
Revision 14	May/June 2023
Revision 15	March 2024
Revision 16	July 2025

Appendix I: Curriculum Map

MA Luxury Brand Management CURRICULUM MAP

		Knowledge and Understanding					Cognitive Skills					Prof Skills					Key Skills				
Course ID	Title	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
LBM 7106	Contemporary Perspectives in Luxury Business	X		X	X		X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LBM 7102	Strategic Brand Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LBM 7108	Luxury Consumer Theory	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LBM 7107	Integrated Marketing Communications	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MKT 7160	Market Research Skills	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
MGT 7160	Business Research	X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	
Plus one of the following:																					
ENT 7110	Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X			X			
MKT 7110	Marketing in a Digital World	X					X	X				X	X				X				
APR 7120	Celebrities, Marketing and the Media	X		X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MKT 7120	Marketing and Ethics	X	X					X	X	X	X	X				X	X				
Plus either both of the following:																					
LBM 7902	Internship	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LBM 7505	Consultancy Project	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
OR:																					
LBM 7500	Dissertation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	

Appendix 2: Time to Completion for the Various Entry Points Chart

Possible Progression Pathway									
Year 1				Year 2			Year 3		
Full time				Full time			Full time		
	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer
Sept Start	3 courses	3 courses	Internship and Dissertation		Award dated late-December				
Jan Start	N/A	3 courses		3 courses	Internship and Dissertation	Award dated early-September			
Part time				Part time			Part time		
Sept Start	3 courses split over both semesters			3 courses split over both semesters		Internship and Dissertation		Award dated late-December	
Jan Start		2 courses		3 courses split over both semesters			1 course	Internship and Dissertation	Award dated early-September

Faculty may access the KILO map: [KILO KPO Tables](#)