MRes

Business and Management Research Methods

University of Stirling Management School
The MRes Business and Management Research Methods is a specialised degree that develops the skills to conduct high quality research into business, management, organisations and related areas. It provides a vital foundation for careers in conducting, evaluating and commissioning research within academic settings and for consultancies, development agencies and policy-making institutions.

"The MRes Business and Management Research Methods provides both a stand-alone Master of Research in Business and Management and a training programme for PhD researchers. The course equips students for academic careers but it can also provide or enhance managers’ and policy-makers’ critical skills in both generating and evaluating the validity, reliability and limitations of evidence for decision-making."

Dr Markus Kittler, Course Director

This Master’s course prepares students for undertaking a doctorate either at the University of Stirling or at other leading universities in the UK and the world. Its multi-faceted approach equips graduates from a wide range of subject areas to undertake advanced research to the highest standards within business and management studies as well as other social science disciplines.

The emphasis is on producing researchers who are reflective and aware of the assumptions, strengths and limitations of their research; who are highly skilled in a multitude of management/organisational research techniques; and who are readily able to apply this knowledge in new and diverse domains.

Students work closely with lecturers and supervisors who are internationally acknowledged research experts. The course is delivered by academics with strong records in publishing high impact findings of global significance in top-ranking journals. University of Stirling Management School researchers have a wealth of experience in collaborating with research associates in the public, private and voluntary sectors and work on studies commissioned by companies, industry bodies, governments and prestigious research councils.
Why study MRes in Business and Management Research Methods at Stirling?

1. International research rankings
The University of Stirling Management School has an enviable reputation for world-class research outputs. In the Research Excellence Framework (REF2014) the University of Stirling Management School was rated among the top 25 in the UK for Business and Management research.

2. Strong research training credentials and accreditation
Research excellence underpins all that we do and this is acknowledged by key research funders. The MRes Business and Management Research Methods is part of a suite of very prestigious courses approved by the Economic and Social Research Council (the chief government-sponsored agency that funds British-led economic and social research) for use in research training of ESRC-sponsored students undertaking PhD research, via the Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences.

3. Highly personalised graduate research training
The MRes Business and Management Research Methods is one of the University of Stirling’s smaller courses. Because of its elite nature, students regularly engage with lecturers on a one-to-one basis and in small groups. This personalised training allows for flexibility in order to match studies to career aspirations.

4. Strengths in qualitative and quantitative research
The course provides an excellent introduction to the full range of research approaches. It develops balanced research specialists with expertise in quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods methodologies. Our modules are structured to facilitate learning at a deep level and ensure that students are given the opportunity to embed new skills and build on research techniques and analytical abilities over time.
In addition to gaining a very good grounding in the core aspects of management research, I was able to tailor the MRes to my particular research interests. While developing an understanding of the sociological underpinnings of management research, I also learned practical skills through the MRes assignments which a researcher in academia and in other roles would use, such as preparing research proposals, designing surveys and conducting literature reviews. This course is great preparation for a PhD and for entering management careers where research and analytical skills are increasingly important. 

Chris Ball, ESRC sponsored PhD research student, April 2013

What is an MRes Business and Management Research Methods?

The Master of Research degree is abbreviated to MRes. It is a postgraduate course made up largely of taught modules that focus on developing research expertise in a specific academic discipline. It includes a dissertation or research project that gives students the opportunity to apply research skills.

The MRes is offered by universities with significant research strengths. It introduces students to a comprehensive range of research tools and techniques and provides a firm foundation for those who aspire to successful careers in research roles.

The Stirling MRes Business and Management Research Methods is designed to prepare students for doctoral research in social science subjects of relevance to contemporary business and industry as well as the general management of organisations. It also acts as a bridging degree for students who wish to transfer to Business and Management from another discipline and want to prepare and apply for PhD studies.

University of Stirling Management School PhD candidates take MRes modules as part of their first year of PhD training. While the course provides specialist research training for those seeking academic careers, employability in other sectors is also emphasised – so there is a strong practical focus on techniques and methods that can be applied in commercial and not-for-profit organisations.

Career opportunities

The MRes Business and Management Research Methods is ideally suited to students with plans to pursue careers in research-related fields. Employers of research specialists include: universities, research institutes, policy-making organisations, governments, large corporations and market research consultancies. Our alumni work as academics and research associates in the UK and elsewhere.

This course equips postgraduates to pursue more advanced research studies. While there is no guarantee you will be accepted for PhD studies, the MRes Business and Management Research Methods from the University of Stirling Management School assists students to prepare proposals for PhD studies.

For further information on the course content visit www.stir.ac.uk/j8
About the course

Stirling’s MRes Business and Management Research Methods follows two taught semesters, which run from mid-September to late December, and from January until the end of May. Three modules are taken in each semester. After the Spring semester students undertake a dissertation over the summer months.

The taught content of the course furnishes students with expertise and skills across the whole range of techniques that are relevant for research in the areas of Business, Management and Organisations. Students learn the philosophical bases of research and how research questions may be developed and answered. The course then provides in-depth coverage of quantitative, qualitative and experimental research methods, their uses and limitations and how they may be practically applied within research projects.

Course structure

Semester 1

Fundamentals and Philosophy of Management Research
Covers the essential aspects of the research process to ensure a firm foundation for the more specialist methodological modules.

Qualitative Methods for Management Research 1
Introduces students to qualitative data collection methods used within management and related research and develops practical skills to conduct qualitative management research and analyse qualitative data.

Understanding and Using Statistics
Equips students to conduct, interpret and appropriately report statistical analyses related to their research projects, to a publishable standard.

Semester 2

Qualitative Methods for Management Research 2
Explores advanced qualitative data-gathering, analytical techniques and research presentation methods for different audiences.

Experiments for Decision Making in Business and Policy
Familiarises students with experimental design to predict and change human behaviour.

Survey Measurement and Analysis
Develops expertise in survey design and implementation, drawing on a range of measurement tools used in disciplines as diverse as psychology and economics.

Developing leaders of the future

Postgraduate education at the University of Stirling Management School goes beyond text books and lecture rooms by also focusing on personal and professional development. Our Flying Start Leadership Programme, at the beginning of the academic year, equips students with the awareness, knowledge and techniques essential for building a successful career. These range from practical skills, like effective public speaking, to developing ways to work under pressure in difficult situations and managing conflict. This innovative programme ensures that you will graduate from Stirling with the confidence and cultural awareness to thrive in a constantly evolving work environment.
Entrance requirements

A minimum of a second class honours degree (2.1 preferred) or equivalent.

If English is not your first language you must provide evidence of your proficiency such as a minimum IELTS score of 6.0 (5.5 in all bands).

If you don’t meet the required score you may be able to register for one of our pre-sessional English courses. To register you must hold a conditional offer for your course and have an IELTS score 0.5 or 1.0 below the required standard.

Fees, funding and scholarships

The MRes Business and Management Research Methods is recognised by the Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences’ Doctoral Training Centre (run by a consortium of Scottish universities). Under the Doctoral Training Scheme, UK students can apply to the Economic and Social Research Council for funded studentships that will cover fees and maintenance for the four-year programme (including the MRes), leading to the award of a PhD. Candidates from EU countries other than the UK are eligible to apply for a ‘fees only’ award.

Further details of ESRC funding for postgraduates are available from: www.esrc.ac.uk

The University of Stirling Management School is committed to investing in academically talented students. There are various categories of funding available to support the cost of your studies at the University of Stirling. Information on some of the most common funding and scholarship opportunities that are available to you can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/39 or www.stir.ac.uk/scholarships
Postgraduate study at Stirling

**On Campus**
Taking advantage of Scotland's pristine natural scenery, the University of Stirling is an inspiring and peaceful place to learn and advance knowledge. Postgraduate students are offered campus accommodation and study areas conducive to working towards successful completion of a Master's degree.

The University offers extensive indoor and outdoor sports facilities, a shopping precinct and arts centre. We have a large team of librarians and IT specialists available for one-to-one guidance with research skills and use of the University's high-tech learning environment. Assistive technologies are available for students with disabilities.

**Student and alumni support**
The University of Stirling Graduate School will support you in making the most of your time at Stirling – ensuring you develop your skills and, crucially, your employability within a rich academic environment. We have excellent links with major employers in business and industry, and our academic schools and careers service work closely with these to prepare work and professional practice opportunities.

Our relationship with students does not stop at graduation: we maintain and build links with our extensive network of alumni. We facilitate social and networking events for our former students in the UK and elsewhere.
The University of Stirling Management School is one of the UK's leading business schools, consistently achieving high satisfaction ratings in national student surveys. The University of Stirling is among Scotland's top three universities and the UK's top 10 in recognised measures of student feedback.

Research excellence
We are building our global reputation for academic excellence through a wide range of international research and education delivery partnerships. Stirling Management School has established successful international partnerships in several regions, including Asia and the Middle East. We are exploring additional sustainable overseas partnerships in order to attract the world's best academics to work with us and the most talented students to enrol on our courses.

Accreditation and affiliation
We are a member of the Association of Business Schools; the European Foundation for Management Development; in partnership with the Chartered Management Institute and are signatories to the Principles for Responsible Management Education.

The MRes Business and Management Research Methods is also accredited by Economic and Social Research Council and Scottish Graduate School of Social Science.

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