# Programme Specification ARO 034a

## Section 1 Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of Stirling</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner Institution</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Name</td>
<td>Masters of Research in Business and Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>MRes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Stirling Management School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division (if applicable)</td>
<td>Centre for Advanced Management Education (CAME)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCAS Code (UG only)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Code</td>
<td>TXX47-BMR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
<td>Full Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location/Method of Study</td>
<td>On Campus – UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission Points</td>
<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of Programme</td>
<td>12 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCQF Level</td>
<td>Level 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Value</td>
<td>180 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECTS Credit Value</td>
<td>90 ECTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark</td>
<td>Business and Management (2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Body Accreditation</td>
<td>Name of accrediting body: ESRC Required for module: Yes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>We will work with SGS to achieve re-accreditation of the revised MRes programme will be completed once revised Programme is formally approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Director</td>
<td>Professor George Burt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor of Studies</td>
<td>Professor George Burt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Approved</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Updated</td>
<td>2018</td>
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Section 2 Overview

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Our Masters in Business and Management Research Methods (MRes) is accredited by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS) for the training of doctoral students. By studying the MRes you’ll learn how to:

- understand the approaches and choices needed to undertake doctoral research in business and management;
- equip yourself with the skills necessary for an academic or commercial career in business and management research;
- undertake, evaluate, commission or manage research in the commercial, public, or voluntary sectors.

The MRes course balances a theoretical grounding with a practical focus and trains you in the advanced research and personal skills necessary for business, management, economic and policy research. Our aim is to help you to become a researcher who is:

- reflective and aware of the assumptions, strengths and limitations of your research;
- highly skilled in a multitude of management and organisational research techniques;
- readily able to apply this knowledge in new and diverse domains;
- able to undertake a number of smaller research projects and complete a dissertation.

When you graduate, you can apply this knowledge to a wide variety of situations because you will be able to:

- understand the assumptions made by different approaches to research, their limitations and their implications for answering research questions using an appropriate research design;
- use qualitative, quantitative and experimental techniques to collect and analyse data to an advanced level;
- apply this knowledge to the design, conduct and reporting of research projects;
- critically analyse and evaluate the methodologies used to conduct empirical research projects.

Key Features of the Programme (including what makes it distinctive)

- Integration of quantitative and qualitative techniques to enable focused research as well as multi-method research.
- Customisation of business and management research proposal and design from the outset of the programme.
- Opportunity for MRes (level 11) students to migrate to doctoral research given level 12 dissertation option.
- Opportunities for Researcher Development skills and competencies as per QAA RDF.

PROGRAMME AIMS

On successful completion of this programme, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate the competing perspectives and philosophical underpinnings of different approaches to research in Business and Management;
2. Evaluate the theoretical development of the field of research being studied in relation to the evolution of the field of management and organisational research overall;
3. Identify, apply and develop a broad range of research methods, critically evaluate the relationship between them and understand the implications of using specific methods over others;
4. Recognise and validate problems, as well as formulate and apply solutions to a range of research problems via the logic of inquiry and be able to show integrity in pursuing it;
5. Conduct effective and comprehensive information searches and critically synthesise information from diverse sources;
6. Respect, uphold and meet the ethical standards that go along with undertaking social scientific research and the professional standards and requirements of academic work;
7. Respect the inclusive and collegial manner in which researchers conduct relationships within and beyond academia, including willingness to give and receive constructive criticism;
8. Respect the need to participate in public life, including working with a diverse range of
stakeholders in a wide range of settings;
9. Analyse and evaluate findings using appropriate methods;
10. Present and communicate research findings across a wide array of media;
11. Demonstrate the skills of a reflective and reflexive practitioner;
12. Develop the ability to make an original contribution to knowledge within the scope of a research study, whether theoretical, practical, or otherwise.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:
1. Understand the competing perspectives and philosophical underpinnings of different approaches to research in management and related areas.
2. Understand the theoretical development of the field of research that you are interested in studying in relation to the evolution of the field of management and organisational research overall.
3. Competently apply a broad range of research methods and understand the implications of using specific methods in your research.
4. Critically evaluate the relationship between different research methods employed in management and organisational research.
5. Develop in-depth knowledge in the field of research to be studied and make an intellectual contribution to it.

Intellectual, Practical and Transferable Skills and other graduate attributes:
1. Recognise and validate problems, formulate and apply solutions to a range of research problems.
2. Make original contribution to knowledge within the scope of a research study.
3. Identify, apply and develop methods and experimental techniques appropriate for research projects.
4. Conduct effective and comprehensive information searches and critically synthesise information from diverse sources.
5. Record, manage and handle information and data using appropriate bibliographic software and information technologies.
6. Analyse and evaluate findings using appropriate methods.
7. Develop approaches to presenting and communicating research findings across a wide array of media.
8. Engaging with and using information and library sources.
9. Developing skills of a reflective and reflexive practitioner.

Values and Attitudes:
1. Understand the logic of inquiry and show integrity in pursuing it.
2. Respect and uphold the ethical standards that go along with undertaking social scientific research.
3. Respect, uphold and meet the professional standards and requirements of academic work.
4. Appreciate the different ways of achieving objectivity when undertaking research.
5. Respect the inclusive and collegial manner in which researchers conduct relationships within and beyond academic, including willingness to give and receive constructive criticism.
6. Respects the need to participate in public life, including working with a diverse range of stakeholders in a wide range of settings.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

A variety of teaching methods will be used throughout this programme. Methods include – classroom lectures, seminars, use of qualitative and quantitative research software, practical workshops on interviewing and other qualitative methods, practical hands-on data coding, testing data sets in laboratory setting, and theory-building from data.
**What Types of Assessment and Feedback Can I Expect?**

*Outline of the assessment methods and approach to be used on the programme.*

**Assessment and Assessment Criteria**

Assessment criteria will be appropriate for the specific module. For examples, essays, statistical data analysis with accompanying analytical outcomes, fieldwork including in-depth interviews.

**Feedback on Assessment**

You will receive feedback on coursework within 3 weeks of completion of the assessment. Feedback is usually provided electronically on formal coursework. Feedback and Guidance sessions with teaching staff are available on all modules. These provide regular opportunities to discuss feedback further. More information about feedback on assessment can be found here; [http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/)

**Assessment Regulations**

*No exceptions*

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at the University of Stirling, please see the full version of the assessment regulations at: [https://www.stir.ac.uk/regulations/postgraduate/assessmentandawardofcredit/](https://www.stir.ac.uk/regulations/postgraduate/assessmentandawardofcredit/)

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**What Will I Study?**

Total year 1 credit value = **180**

Compulsory credits = **120**

Option = **60**

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<tr>
<th>Compulsory Modules</th>
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<tr>
<td>Module Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Philosophy of Management Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Methods in Business and Management Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Evolution of Management and Organisational research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<th>Option Modules</th>
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<tr>
<td>Module Title</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>20 credits from ‘Applied Knowledge in Management’ modules:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Microeconomics for Business and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible Marketing Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic and Operational HRM in Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>and 20 credits from ‘Advanced Applied Knowledge’ modules:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualitative Methods for Management Research 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey Measurement &amp; Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence-Based Decision Making</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>and 20 credits from ‘Advanced Applied Knowledge’ modules:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Macroeconomics for Business and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing and Developing a Diverse Workforce</td>
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Module will be entitled Operational Human Resource Management from 2019/20 intake.

Module will be entitled Managing Diversity from 2019/20 intake.

READING LIST

Required and Recommended Reading for the Programme will be provided once programme is approved. All modules will set out in required and recommended reading in the module descriptors (existing and new) and in addition to this, some reading will be electronically or in hard copy as required during the delivery of the module so that the latest publications can be used when needed.

Section 3 Student Support [PLEASE UPDATE AS NEEDED FOR THE STUDENT COHORT]

SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING

Induction
You will receive an induction during the first days of your programme. This includes a range of social events, information sessions and activities to help you orientate yourself at Stirling and access the services available to you. There are opportunities to meet staff and other students from across the university, in the Faculty and on the programme.

Flying Start Leadership Programme
The programme takes part in the wider SMS Flying Start Leadership programme. It’s exclusively for new students about to start one of our postgraduate courses. You take part in a wide range of group and individual activities, workshops and information sessions to help you prepare for the year ahead, and make the most of your time at the University of Stirling Management School.

The programme ensures that you:
- Discover more about the exciting period of learning ahead;
- Understand what is expected of you in your course;
- Get to know the teaching and support staff;
- Learn more about a diverse range of approaches to learning;
- Work as part of a successful team;
- Develop your personal goals for the year ahead;
- Activities range from practical skills – such as effective public speaking – to developing ways to work in groups with other students.

The Take-Off Conference
Flying Start activities equip students with the skills to understand self and apply these throughout their studies. In addition, during the Spring semester, students are encouraged to consider their next step by attending The Take-Off Conference. This one-day School-wide career management conference offers students a unique opportunity to prepare themselves for launch into the world of employment.

Study Skills Support
Student Learning Services (SLS) are committed to providing comprehensive guidance on all aspects of effective and efficient learning. The ultimate aim of the service is to enable you to make the most of your academic studies at the University and for you to become an independent, successful learner during your time at the University of Stirling. This is facilitated through collaborative work with experienced tutors and by offering a variety of courses, workshops and tutorials.

All students, whatever stage of their academic studies, are welcome to use Student Learning Services. However the service may be particularly beneficial:
- In your first two years of study.
- If you are making the transition from college to Higher Education.
If you have been out of education for some time.
If you are an international student studying a one-year Masters programme.

What SLS are able to do:
- Advise you on academic skills relevant to your studies at University.
- Help you consolidate your previous learning and develop new learning strategies.
- Advise on action-plans to potentially improve grades.
- Suggest practical solutions if you feel overwhelmed by assignment work.
- Help you gain confidence in the transition to Higher Education.

More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/

STEER
STEER is a University-wide peer support scheme linking in returning student "Captains" with new undergraduate or taught post-graduate "Crew" during their first year at Stirling.

The scheme aims to help you make the most of your time at the University, help new students - the Crew - settle in and realise the opportunities available to them. You can find out more information here: https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/

Stirling Graduate School
For Research Postgraduate Students the Stirling Graduate School as well as your own faculty will provide support. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/graduateschool/current-pg-students/skills-development/

Academic and Pastoral Support
Adviser of Studies: Advisers have an important role to play in enhancing your academic and personal development and are essential to ensuring you make the most of your time at university. Advisers provide a personalised point of contact for you to discuss academic concerns or queries within the academic community. The general purpose of the role is to provide more in-depth advice on the academic options available to you and on the academic policies and regulations within the University. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/

Personal Tutor: The role of a personal tutor is to help you feel part of the University community. They are a specific and consistent source of guidance, information and support for you throughout your studies. The tutor should be the your first formal point of contact for general academic guidance and pastoral support. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/

Support and Wellbeing: At university you may face non-academic issues where you need some expert help or guidance. There are lots of ways we can help you in your day-to-day life at University. Student Support Services provide a range of high-quality services to assist you during the course of your studies, help prepare you for life after graduation. We aim to enhance the student experience and help you to get the most out of your time at University. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/

Student Union: you can also access support through the Students’ Union, more information can be found here: https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/

Accessibility and Inclusion (A&I)
A&I are committed to offering a service which is welcoming and supportive of the needs of all students. Our service takes into account the full range of needs you may have, in a wide variety of circumstances including - physical and mobility difficulties, sensory impairments, specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and autistic spectrum disorder as well as medical conditions and mental health difficulties. A&I can also support you if you have short-term, temporary impairments or other difficulties as a result of an accident, injury, illness or surgery. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-
Section 4 Programme Evaluation and Enhancement

METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Module Evaluation
Module evaluations are carried out each year and are an important way of getting student feedback on the modules we teach. We aim to evaluate every module we teach in every semester. You can find out more here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/

Student/Staff Consultative Committees (SSCC)
Student/Staff Consultative Committees will meet twice per semester, and shall routinely address issues arising from student feedback on modules, the programme, as well as broader issues on academic policy.

Module Review
At the end of each semester, each Module Co-ordinator will complete a Module Review Form, which will highlight issues, how these were resolved, and areas of good practice.

Annual Programme Monitoring Review
Annual Programme Monitoring Review Forms will be completed at the end of each academic cycle. This is an opportunity for the Programme Director and the wider teaching team to review the programme. This includes a review of SSCCs minutes; feedback from the External Examiner; a review of all modules (strengths and areas of good practice, issues, responses); the range of assessment in the programme; the continuing appropriateness of the curriculum; adequacy of learning resources; quantity and quality of professional placements (if applicable); professional accreditation (if applicable); the effectiveness of changes implemented since the previous report; and outline any proposed changes for future cohorts.

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES)
A nationally recognised survey commissioned by the Higher Education Academy, we use the PRES survey to better understand our students’ experiences and to identify areas for improvement.

Programme Review
Programmes are reviewed annually and on a 5 yearly cycle. You can get involved in a variety of different ways; by completing module evaluations, becoming a course representative and attending Student Staff Consultative Committees, or participating in the review process itself. You can find out more here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/

External Examiner(s) (To be added following Stage 2 approval)
Name of External Examiner: Dr David Sarpong
Institution: Brunel University

Section 5 My Future

WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?

Several career options are available upon graduation: (i) study PhD and develop an academic career, (ii) graduate and move into a policy or commercial research position, and (iii) graduate and develop a career in any field of business and management where advanced research skills are required (e.g. management consultancy, business research consultancy).
How does this programme facilitate your development of the Graduate Attributes?

**Connected**

1. Develop a wide range of skills to undertake contemporary research in the social sciences and for inquiring into worldly social problems;
2. Develop employability skills through Flying Start Leadership Programme, Applied Knowledge open option and Researcher Development open option;
3. Participate and integrate with the research community – Stirling Management School and beyond;
4. Communicate through a variety of media about the nature and impact of the research undertaken.

**Innovative**

1. Adhere to Stirling Management School/University of Stirling and other relevant professional ethical guidelines for research that offer insights into the changing world;
2. Develop intellectual insight, innovative and creative thinking in research, create arguments and take intellectual risks that translate into the production of research;
3. Work with fellow researchers to critically evaluate contemporary social problems related to management and organisations and undertake interdisciplinary research.

**Transformative**

1. Engage enthusiastically with the Stirling Management School and the wider research community through seminars, workshops, conferences etc.;
2. Persevere and demonstrate integrity and self-confidence in communicating research in various outlets, including research publications in leading or discipline-related academic journals;
3. Engage with the various students from across the world undertaking research training in Stirling Management School and through global research networks.

**WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

N/A

**WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

N/A

**WHAT FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?**

Progression into either DBA (if they complete the Level 12 research project) or PhD programmes.

**WHAT OTHER INFORMATION DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

N/A

**Section 6 Admissions**

**HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

You’ll need a minimum of a second-class Honours degree or an equivalent qualification. Applicants without formal qualifications are encouraged to apply if they can demonstrate significant and relevant work experience. **Applicants must submit an acceptable research proposal.**

If English isn’t your first language, you must have one of these qualifications:

- IELTS: 6.5 with 5.5 minimum in each skill
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): Grade C or above
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE): Grade C or above
- Pearson Test of English (Academic): 54 with 51 in each component
- IBT TOEFL: 80 with no subtest less than 17
**More information on English language requirements**
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. [View our range of pre-sessional courses.](#)

Version: 2018.v1
Date Version Approved: April 2018
For use from: 2018/19