INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMME BUSINESS, LAW, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Institute of Business, Industry and Leadership

Academic Level:	3	**Credits:**	120
UCAS Code:	N/A		
Awarding Body:	University of Cumbria		
Delivered by:	Malvern International		
Delivery Site:	International College – Lancaster Campus		
Programme Length:	1-year (IFY) + 3 years of core programme standard		
Mode of Delivery:	Face-to-face		
Pattern of Delivery:	Full - Time		
	Total weeks of study:	24	
	Delivery pattern:	2 semesters x 12 weeks each semester	
	Standard semester dates:	Yes	
Programme Webpage:	https://internationalcollege.cumbria.ac.uk/programmes/international-foundation-programme/		

Entry Criteria
The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the Applicant Information pages of the University website for more information. APL, is not accepted for these programmes. Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the above programme webpage.

PROGRAMME AIMS AND OUTCOMES

Programme Aims

By the end of this programme, you will be able to:

1. Develop core academic skills by fostering critical thinking, independent learning, and analytical skills essential for success in higher-level business and management studies or legal studies.
2. Enhance English language proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, aiming for the equivalent of an overall 6.0 with no element below 5.5 IELTS score, enabling effective academic and professional communication.
3. Introduce UK higher education and social norms to support your adaptation to the academic expectations, teaching styles, and collaborative nature of business, law and social sciences studies.
4. Build foundational knowledge by exploring key concepts, principles, and contemporary issues within the field, preparing you for a range of specialisations at the undergraduate level.
5. Instil professionalism and self-management skills by promoting effective time management, self-reflection, and teamwork abilities to prepare you for academic and professional environments.
6. Prepare for progression to undergraduate study by equipping you with the academic, communication, and business-specific skills necessary to meet the entry requirements and standards of UK business programmes or law and social sciences programmes.

Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to:

After completing 120 credits (FdCert) of study, you will be able to demonstrate:

K1 Demonstrate knowledge of core concepts, including key theories, models, and principles relevant to business, law, or social sciences, recognising interdisciplinary approaches and how these fields intersect, establishing a foundational base for critical engagement and progression to specialised undergraduate study.

K2 Apply critical thinking and analytical skills to interpret and evaluate information across business, legal, and social contexts, supporting effective decision-making in both academic and professional environments.

K3 Develop an understanding of UK academic practices, including research methodologies, study skills, and adherence to academic integrity, and demonstrate proficiency in academic writing, citation techniques and critical evaluation of sources to support independent research and structured argumentation.

K4 Demonstrate proficiency in English language skills across reading, writing, speaking, and listening, achieving clear and structured communication in academic and professional settings, with a target of an IELTS equivalent of an overall 6.0 with no element below 5.5.

K5 Recognise and evaluate the influence of cultural, social, ethical and sustainability factors within business, law, and social science practices, and develop an awareness of digital transformation, globalisation and the role of sustainability in shaping modern organisations, and societal change.

K6 Identify and apply essential study skills, including time management, self-directed learning, and effective notetaking, supporting academic independence and preparation for higher-level study.

Programme Outcomes – Skills and Other Attributes

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After completing 120 credits (FdCert) of study, you will be able to demonstrate:

S1 Develop effective communication skills in both written and spoken English, tailored to academic and professional contexts within business, law, and social sciences, demonstrating proficiency in structuring arguments, presenting information clearly, engaging in discussions, and applying appropriate citation and referencing techniques to maintain integrity and professional standards.

S2 Apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to scenarios within business, legal, and social science contexts, using logical reasoning and analytical tools to make informed and ethical decisions.

S3 Cultivate effective teamwork and interpersonal skills, collaborating in diverse, multicultural groups to achieve academic and project-based objectives within the fields of business, law, and social sciences.

S4 Enhance digital literacy and technological proficiency, using relevant software and digital platforms for research, data analysis, and professional communication across disciplines, and develop an awareness of ethical considerations in digital research, including data privacy, security and responsible AI use in legal, business and social contexts.

S5 Manage time effectively and work independently to meet academic deadlines and project requirements, developing resilience, self-discipline, and adaptability in a structured academic environment, and engage in reflective learning to assess personal progress, identify areas for improvement, and enhance academic and professional growth

PROGRAMME FEATURES

Programme Overview

The programme is a one-year preparatory course designed to equip international students with the academic skills, English language proficiency, and foundational knowledge needed for undergraduate studies in the UK. The programme offers tailored pathways in Business Management, Law and Legal Systems, and Social Sciences, preparing students for diverse fields by combining subject-specific modules with essential academic and research skills.

The programme is ideal for international students, who have completed their secondary education but do not meet the academic and English requirements for entry to undergraduate studies at university.

This programme provides students with a strong foundation in academic and professional English, quantitative and qualitative research methods, and pathway-specific subjects that align with their intended undergraduate focus. The curriculum is carefully designed to ensure that students develop critical thinking, analytical abilities, and cultural awareness, all essential for success in UK higher education.

Upon successful completion of the foundation programme, students are guaranteed a place in a suitable programme of undergraduate study.

Malvern International – International College

Our programme offers a comprehensive blend of English language enhancement and essential skills development through a practice-led, student-centred approach tailored to the unique demands of business, law, and social sciences. Throughout the academic year, students will gain confidence in using English across academic and professional contexts while developing critical research and study skills, vital for success in UK higher education. Alongside language acquisition, students will explore foundational concepts in business, law, and social sciences, encouraging the analytical and critical thinking skills necessary for effective engagement with real-world issues and academic discussions.

Students will also develop key digital literacy skills, acquiring proficiency in industry-standard software and tools for research, data analysis, and presentation, ensuring they can manage projects and present information clearly from concept through to completion. Exposure to global issues and diverse cultural perspectives will further enrich their understanding, preparing them for the multicultural and international environments they will encounter in higher education and professional settings.

Programme Structure

The duration of the programme is one academic year. The students will need to complete 120 credits to successfully pass the foundation programme. Each module will have 72 hours of contact time and 128 hours of independent student learning, totalling 200 hours per module.

At admissions, you have selected one of the following pathway programmes:

- BSc (Hons) International Business Management with International Foundation Programme
- BSc (Hons) Business Management with International Foundation Programme

- LLB (Hons) Law with International Foundation Programme
- BA (Hons) Sociology with International Foundation Programme
- BSc (Hons) Psychology with International Foundation Programme
- BSc (Hons) Psychology with Counselling & Psychotherapy with International Foundation Programme

Your selected pathway will determine what modules you will complete during your foundation programme. The structure of the programme is as follows:

Degree Title	**Common Modules**	**Degree Progression Modules**
BSc (Hons) International Business Management with International Foundation Programme	Communication Skills Academic English: reading and writing skills Quantitative Research Skills Qualitative Research Skills	Fundamentals of Management Introduction to Statistics
BSc (Hons) Business Management with International Foundation Programme	Communication Skills Academic English: reading and writing skills Quantitative Research Skills Qualitative Research Skills	Fundamentals of Management Introduction to Statistics
LLB (Hons) Law with International Foundation Programme	Communication Skills Academic English: reading and writing skills Quantitative Research Skills Qualitative Research Skills	Foundations of Law and Psychology Social Issues in Contemporary Society
BA (Hons) Sociology with International Foundation Programme	Communication Skills Academic English: reading and writing skills Quantitative Research Skills Qualitative Research Skills	Foundations of Law and Psychology Social Issues in Contemporary Society
BSc (Hons) Psychology with International Foundation Programme	Communication Skills Academic English: reading and writing skills Quantitative Research Skills Qualitative Research Skills	Foundations of Law and Psychology Social Issues in Contemporary Society
BSc (Hons) Psychology with Counselling & Psychotherapy	Communication Skills Academic English: reading and writing skills	Foundations of Law and Psychology

with International Foundation Programme	Quantitative Research Skills Qualitative Research Skills	Social Issues in Contemporary Society	

Learning and Teaching

Teaching

A variety of blended learning teaching methods will be embedded in the programme to enable students to achieve the learning outcomes and to facilitate their personal and professional development. Methods of teaching and learning will include formal lectures, seminars, group work and discussions, tutorials and self-directed study. The teaching and learning will be supported by online asynchronous learning activities accessed via the Virtual Learning Environment. Underpinning the learning and teaching methods will be an enquiry-based learning approach where an exploration of scenarios and real-world problems will be utilised to discuss and develop the students understanding thereby integrating theory into practice.

At Level 3 you typically have around 6 contact hours per week per module, typically consisting of:

- 2 hours of lectures
- 2 hours of seminars
- 2 hours of workshop

Independent Learning

When not attending scheduled learning activities you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study.

Teaching Staff

Teaching staff for this programme will typically have a blend of academic qualifications in the subject area and practical experience. In our pathway programmes, we ensure English language development is integrated with core subject knowledge. Our English for academic purposes and research skills team are applied linguistics professionals with academic experience in teaching English and research skills to international students. Our core subject specialists possess at least a Masters in the field of study and have extensive teaching experience in higher education. Often our subject leads also have extensive professional experience and/or are engaged in active research.

Assessment

Year 0

The programme makes use of both summative and formative assessments to meet the overall learning outcomes at the programme level and the individual learning outcomes at the modular level. The assessment strategy will enable students to integrate their learning and apply it to the academic environment. The assessments will also enable students to demonstrate a variety of skills required for academic autonomy and decision-making within the higher education setting.

Students will be assessed using a variety of methods including portfolios, reflective accounts, case studies, verbal presentations, reports and essays. Formative assessment will be embedded in all modules to allow for monitoring and progression of student learning.

Feedback

Feedback is provided within 20 working-days in either written or oral form.

Graduate Prospects

The International Foundation Programme in Business, Law and Social Sciences is designed to support your progression into undergraduate study and to establish the early foundations for your academic and professional development.

The programme equips you with the essential skills required to succeed at university, including effective communication, academic writing, critical thinking, and independent learning. Through subject-specific modules, you will be introduced to key ideas and approaches in business, law, and social sciences, helping you develop the confidence to participate in academic discussions and engage with contemporary global issues.

Throughout the programme, you will also begin developing transferable skills such as teamwork, digital literacy, ethical awareness, and cultural understanding, skills that will support your learning and progression in your chosen undergraduate degree.

As part of your transition to university life, you will be introduced to the Career Ahead Award, a flexible, online employability tool available to all University of Cumbria students. You are encouraged to begin engaging with the award during your Foundation Year, focusing on:

- Skills – recognising and reflecting on the academic and personal skills you're building.
- Experience – recording the learning and activities you complete during the year.
- Career Planning – beginning to think about your long-term academic and career goals.

You will also have access to the University's Careers and Employability Service, offering a range of workshops, resources and guidance to support your progression throughout your degree.

Upon successful completion of the Foundation Year, you will be fully prepared to enter undergraduate study in your chosen discipline and to continue developing the knowledge, skills, and attributes that support academic success and future career aspirations.

MODULES

Year 1			
Code	**Title**	**Credits**	**Status**
UCIC3001	Communication Skills	20	Compulsory
UCIC3007	Academic English: Reading and Writing Skills	20	Compulsory
UCIC3008	Quantitative Research Skills	20	Compulsory
UCIC3006	Qualitative Research Skills	20	Compulsory
Students progressing to Business Honours Degrees are required to take:			
UCIC3009	Fundamentals of Management	20	Compulsory
UCIC3010	Introduction to Statistics	20	Compulsory
Students progressing to the Law or Social Science-related Honours Degrees are required to take:			
UCIC3011	Foundations of Law and Psychology	20	Compulsory
UCIC3012	Social Issues in Contemporary Society	20	Compulsory

Note:

Students progressing to Business Honours Degrees are required to take:

- UCIC3009 (Fundamentals of Management)
- UCIC3010 (Introduction to Statistics)

Students progressing to the Law or Social Science-related Honours Degrees are required to take:

- UCIC3011 (Introduction to Law)
- UCIC3012 (Social Issues in Contemporary Society)

Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive an International Foundation Certificate (FdCert) in Business, Law and Social Sciences

Additional Module Information
- Students must pass 120 credits in order to progress to the next level of studies. - Students must complete all the modules relevant to the selected pathway at the point of admission. There are no optional modules available to students at this level.

Key to Module Statuses	
Compulsory modules	Must be taken although it may possible to compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed).

Timetables

Timetables are normally available during Welcome Week. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure timetables are as student friendly as possible, scheduled learning can take place on any day of the week.

Our Timetabling team work hard to ensure that timetables are available to students as far in advance as possible, however, there may be occasional exceptions such as in the case of teaching which falls outside of the usual academic calendar. The University of Cumbria academic calendar runs from July to July, so timetabling information for programmes which include teaching sessions in August may not be published until closer to the August delivery.

All classes will be delivered in the centre with face-to-face teaching. There is no possibility for online delivery mode with this programme.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Support

Student Support Services

The Student Enquiry Point is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- Careers and Employability
- Chaplaincy for faith and spiritual wellbeing
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Digital Skills
- Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD)
- International Student Support
- Library
- Money Matters
- Safeguarding
- Skills@Cumbria
- Sports and Fitness Facilities
- University Student Accommodation

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and works with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at www.ucsu.me

You can email at any time at studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk

Induction

Induction takes place during Welcome Week, prior to the official start of teaching. All foundation year students will participate in a shared induction programme with international college and University events, giving you the opportunity to meet students from your subject area as well as those from other foundation pathways. In addition, you will also take part in programme-specific induction activities, where you'll be introduced to your academic team**,** learn more about your modules and assessment types, and get to know the expectation of your chosen programme.

Throughout Welcome Week, you will take part in a range of activities designed to:

- Build a strong sense of community with your classmates
- Help you navigate life at the University
- Introduce you to the academic support and wellbeing services available
- Prepare you for the transition into UK higher education

You will be shown how to access and use our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Blackboard, and how to submit your assessments using Turnitin.

During your first week of teaching, you will be assigned a Personal Tutor (PT). Your PT will support you throughout the Foundation Year, providing academic guidance and helping you settle into university study. In addition, UCIC students benefit from dedicated support from the Student Services Team. This enhanced induction and support structure is specifically designed to ensure a successful transition to your follow-on course at the University of Cumbria.

Transitioning to Level 4: When you progress to your main degree programme, you will already have taken part in a Foundation Year induction. However, it is important that you also engage with your Level 4 induction activities, which are designed to help you meet your new cohort, understand your programme structure, and feel fully integrated into your academic department.

Personal Tutor

All students on this programme are assigned a Personal Tutor (PT) from the International College academic team at the beginning of their Foundation Year. The Personal Tutor provides structured academic and pastoral support, helping students to engage with their studies, reflect on their progress, and access appropriate services when needed.

Personal Tutors:

- Offer one-to-one academic guidance
- Monitor student engagement and progress using tools such as the Student Progress Tracker (SPT)
- Support students in managing challenges that may impact their academic performance
- Refer students to relevant support services when necessary

The International College's Academic Development Policy underpins the delivery of personal tutoring through regular progress reviews, Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) where appropriate, and coordinated support from student services.

Upon successful completion of the Foundation Year, students progressing to Level 4 will be assigned a new Personal Tutor within their academic department at the University of Cumbria, in line with the University's Personal Tutoring Policy. This tutor will support students through the remainder of their undergraduate studies, offering discipline-specific academic advice and ongoing developmental support.

Library Services and Academic Skills

The Library home page can be accessed here: https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning.

Module leaders will collaborate with Library Services to ensure that your online reading and resource lists are current, and items are available via the library discovery tool OneSearch. In order to maximise access, availability and usefulness, ebooks and electronic journal titles will, in most cases, be prioritised. You can access a wide range of electronic and print content using OneSearch and you can find out more about key texts, databases and journals for your subject by accessing the library's subject resources webpages. Where appropriate, module reading and resource lists will be made available to you electronically on Blackboard.

Each campus library has a dedicated webpage. Check out local information about opening hours, reserving books, using self-service kiosks, printing and photocopying, booking study spaces and more. https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Libraries/

An Ask a Librarian service runs from 17:00 - 09:00 weekdays and round the clock on weekends and holidays. This means you can get professional help using about library services, finding information, referencing and searching, even when the library is closed. https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Libraries/Ask/

The Skills@Cumbria service can help support your academic, library and digital skills and success throughout your programme. It includes a suite of online self-help resources accessible 24/7 via the University's website and Blackboard site.

The Student Enquiry Point is a simple way to contact Library and Skills@Cumbria Services. Additional skills support for students is offered via:

- Appointments
- Learn Well at Cumbria
- Study from Home Webpage
- Digital Capabilities and LinkedIn Learning Pathways

Further support and guidance, including EDI and Safeguarding: We are an inclusive community, committed to supporting and learning from each other, find out more about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Depending on the nature of your course, you may well already know about or be learning about safeguarding in a professional context and to find out about the University of Cumbria's safeguarding policy and procedures visit: Safeguarding.

Student Voice

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The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at www.ucsu.me.

You can email at any time on studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk.

IT and Technical Support

Technology is an invaluable asset when it comes to studying, so it's important you know how to make the most out of the excellent IT facilities we have available. Our aim is to ensure you can access university electronic resources from anywhere or any device, whether on or off campus. The Student Hub is your one-stop gateway to all University systems, Outlook email, and OneDrive.

Whether you consider yourself a computer expert or you're not confident about your IT skills, we're always around to ensure you get the level of support you need. We have a wealth of information and support available on the IT Services website and have a dedicated IT Service Desk where you can talk to someone by phone or log your question online from anywhere, at any time.

University Cumbria Students' Union (UCSU) Student Support

UCSU offers a free, independent and confidential advice service to all students. They can help with things like academic appeals, extenuating circumstances or if you're considering a formal complaint. UCSU are also on hand to represent you in any formal meetings, for example in malpractice panels or fitness to practice meetings. Appointments are telephone based and can be booked at www.ucsu.me/support.

Course Costs

Tuition Fees

Course fees can be found at https://internationalcollege.cumbria.ac.uk/programmes/international-foundation-programme/

Additional Costs

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- Laptop equipped with Microsoft Office package

Exceptions to the Academic Regulations

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes.

External and Internal Benchmarks

All programme and assessment regulations, policies and procedures are aligned with The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ): The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (qaa.ac.uk)

The programme considered the Subject Benchmark statements in QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Law (2023) and QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Business and Management (2023) in the development of this foundation course.

Quality Assurance Mechanisms:

Quality assurance is undertaken as close as possible to the point of delivery. There is a route from the module level to course levels so that issues can be addressed and delivery enhanced in the appropriate arena.

Externality is guaranteed via external examiner reports who make judgements on the quality and standards of its provision.

Students can comment on their modules and courses in various ways including module evaluations, and course committees.

- Student evaluations and feedback
- Annual programme monitoring reports
- External examiners' reports and responses to reports

- Periodic teaching and learning review
- Moderation and standardisation processes
- Internal boards
- Internal and external stakeholder feedback
- Continuous evaluation of recruitment and retention data, progression and achievement data, student destination data, and data relating to student support.
- UoC Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
- UoC Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes

Disclaimer

This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery modes, delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University or Malvern International to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage.

Date of Programme Specification Production	09/04/2025
Date Programme Specification was last updated	10/11/2026