



The Governance
Institute

Corporate governance content of MBA courses



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Note

In undertaking this analysis we studied the websites and prospectuses of the twenty highest placed UK business schools in the Financial Times' European Business School Rankings 2015.

We analysed only information on the full-time and part-time (executive) MBA courses offered by the business schools, not the full range of available courses.

The aim of the analysis was to identify what, if any, specific references were made to corporate governance in this material. This analysis does not purport to assess the actual content of these courses.

About ICSA

ICSA: The Governance Institute is the professional body for governance. We have members in all sectors and are required by our Royal Charter to lead 'effective governance and efficient administration of commerce, industry and public affairs'. With 125 years' experience, we work with regulators and policy makers to champion high standards of governance and provide qualifications, training and guidance.

ICSA
Saffron House
6–10 Kirby Street
London
EC1N 8TS

Phone: 020 7580 4741
Email: info@icsa.org.uk
Web: icsa.org.uk

✉ Twitter: [@ICSA_News](https://twitter.com/ICSA_News)
in LinkedIn: [ICSA](https://www.linkedin.com/company/icsa)
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Corporate governance content of MBA courses

Alliance Manchester Business School

There are no specific references to corporate governance in relation to the full-time MBA course.

The executive MBA course offers an optional module on 'Collective Action: leadership, bargaining and governance' which may be relevant, although no details are available.

Ashridge Executive Education

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

Some of the modules offered for both the full-time and executive MBA courses, such as 'Business and Global Society' and 'Organisation Behaviour', appear to address some aspects of corporate governance.

Birmingham Business School

The full-time MBA course includes an optional module on corporate governance, which is described as follows:

'Strategic leadership and corporate governance are phenomena relevant to organisations of varying size, business activity and geographic location. The module covers a fast growing area of consulting-related work and the basic objective is to understand the theory and practice of corporate governance and its role in the strategic management of the modern corporation.'

This module does not appear to be offered as part of the executive MBA course, although a module on 'Leading Strategy and Change' includes reference to 'review[ing] critically the role and duties of a board of directors and the concept of corporate governance'.

Cambridge Judge Business School

The full-time MBA course includes a core module on 'Corporate Governance and Ethics', which is described as follows:

'Corporate governance is concerned with how owners of capital make sure that the managers (the persons to whom they lend capital to earn a return) do not simply steal their money or misuse it in ways that the owners do not want.'

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It raises some key issues for contemporary management. Who are the relevant owners of capital? What weight should managers give to the interests of all the different stakeholders in the firm, including shareholders, employees, creditors, customers, suppliers and society? How do managers succeed in aligning and reconciling these different interests?'

It is not clear whether this module is offered as part of the executive MBA course.

Cass Business School (City University)

The full-time MBA course includes a core module on corporate governance, which is described as follows:

'This component addresses the nature and application of corporate governance in modern organisations. As well as the role and function of boards of directors, the course also includes the work of external and internal auditors, audit committees and stakeholder theory.'

Learning outcomes include:

- an understanding of the range of corporate governance theories and practices
- a full understanding of the current issues in corporate governance
- an understanding of the role of Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) in the governance of organisations
- the role of shareholders
- the role of the Board of Directors, internal and external auditors and management
- audit committees
- risk management
- new issues: corporate social responsibility, sustainability, international corporate governance standards

This module does not appear to be available on the executive MBA course. There is a module which states it gives an 'introduction to corporate governance and corporate social responsibility', but no further details are available.

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Cranfield School of Management

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

Some modules such as 'Organisational Behaviour', offered for both the full-time and executive MBA courses, may address some aspects of corporate governance, but it is difficult to judge from the available information.

Durham University Business School

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

Some modules such as 'Sustainability, Ethics and Change', offered for the full-time MBA course, may address some aspects of corporate governance, but it is difficult to judge from the available information.

Henley Business School

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

The 'Reputation and Responsibility' module offered for both the full-time and executive MBA courses appears to address some aspects of corporate governance.

Imperial College Business School

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

Some modules such as 'Ethics and Values' and 'Business Strategy, CSR and Sustainability' (on the full-time MBA course) and 'Responsible Leadership and Corporate Success' (on the executive MBA course) may address some aspects of corporate governance, but it is difficult to judge from the available information.

Lancaster University Management School

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

Some modules such as 'Global Society and Responsible Management' on the full-time MBA course may address some aspects of corporate governance, but it is difficult to judge from the available information.

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Leeds University Business School

There are no specific references to corporate governance, and none of the modules on which information is provided appear obviously relevant.

London Business School

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

Some modules such as 'Incentives' (on the full-time MBA course) and 'Corporate social responsibility and business ethics' (on the executive MBA course) may address some aspects of corporate governance, but it is difficult to judge from the available information.

Nottingham University Business School

The full-time MBA courses offers an optional module on 'Corporate Governance and Social Accountability', which is described as follows:

'The aim of this course is to acquaint students with the theory and practice of corporate governance particularly relating to social accountability and reporting. This course examines theories of corporate governance, evaluating the evolution of traditional governance systems to provide incentives to managers. In this course, this theoretical framework is extended to address both the "triple bottom line and entire supply chain", in light of increasing demands for accountability, transparency, and social responsibility of managers and business. Issues such as sustainability management accounting/control, reporting, auditing, and verification are also examined and discussed, and the role of drivers such as reporting/governance codes and the investment community in enhancing organizational change toward a sustainable development are critically evaluated. The course uses case study illustrations from various corporate contexts in South-East Asia, Germany and the UK. It provides insights into the implementation and use of new accountability and management tools, and imparts awareness of the role of these tools and practices in supporting managerial decision making and increasing transparency on environmental, social and sustainability performance.'

It is not clear whether this module is offered as part of the executive MBA course.

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Saïd Business School (University of Oxford)

There are no specific references to corporate governance, and none of the modules on which information is provided appear obviously relevant.

Strathclyde Business School

Both full-time and executive MBA courses include a core module on 'Comparative Corporate Governance', which is described as follows:

'To promote good corporate management in today's complex international environments, MBA graduates need to understand the importance of corporate governance in a free market system. This class will enable you to understand organisational structures and carry out analyses on key organisational stakeholders.'

University of Bath School of Management

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

Some modules such as 'Business in a Global Context' and 'Responsible Business Strategy', offered for both the full-time and executive MBA courses, may address some aspects of corporate governance, but it is difficult to judge from the available information.

University of Bradford School of Management

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

The 'Business Ethics and Sustainability' module offered for the full-time MBA course appears to address some aspects of corporate governance.

University of Edinburgh Business School

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

The core module on 'Leadership and Responsibility' offered for both the full-time and executive MBA courses may address some aspects of corporate governance, but it is difficult to judge from the available information.

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University of Glasgow Adam Smith Business School

There are no specific references to corporate governance.

The core module on 'Strategic Foresight' offered for both the full-time and executive MBA courses appears to address some aspects of corporate governance.

Warwick Business School

The executive MBA course offers an optional module on corporate governance, although no details are available.

The full-time MBA courses offers an optional module on 'Human Resources Management and Corporate Responsibility' which states that it addresses corporate governance, although no details are available.