



# BCOM HONOURS DEGREE IN STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

(CODE: H1CSM2) | NQF 8  
INFORMATION BROCHURE 2025

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

**The Future  
Reimagined**

## BCOM HONOURS DEGREE IN



### STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

Introduction	1
Programme goals	1
Who would benefit from this programme?	1
The tuition model	1
The language of tuition	1
Modules offered	1
• Full-time	2
• Module alignment	2
• Module descriptions	3
- History & Philosophy of Management (STM 8X14)	3
- Strategic Management (STM 8X09)	3
- Strategy and Complexity (STM 8X16)	4
- Contemporary Strategic Aspects (STM 8X01)	4
- Strategic Business Simulation (STM 8X15)	4
- Research Methodology (STM 8X06)	4
- Research Project (STM 8X13) Specific Outcomes	5
Assessment practices	5
Class participation	5

Opportunities for interaction	6
• Initiated by Students	6
• Initiated by the Programme Management	6
• Group Work (Cooperation)	6
Future studies	6
Admission requirements	6
How to apply	6
Fees	7
How to contact us	7
Frequently asked questions	8

## INTRODUCTION

The Honours degree in Strategic Management (Code: H1CSM2) is an NQF 8 level postgraduate programme in commerce, offered by the Department of Business Management. The integrative nature of the programme and the emphasis on active participation and interaction between students, academics and the industry ensure that students are equipped to excel as holistic and futuristic thinkers in all areas of today's demanding new business environment.

Our aim is to educate business winners with an informed vision of their preferred future and an understanding of how to create tomorrow's success with today's strategy! For "isigwaca silinda induku" - only a fool waits for a beating (a Zulu proverb).

This brochure provides information on the programme courses and the facilitation thereof, the admission procedure, the opportunities for students and other information.

## PROGRAMME GOALS

The purpose of the Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Strategic Management is to provide students with a deepened theoretical knowledge, intellectual skills, and competencies at an appropriate level to analyze, interpret, develop, apply, and implement organizational strategies when managing a function, department, or business in a complex adaptive social environment. They should further be able to conduct and report on research in the discipline of strategic management to develop and implement organizational strategies.

This will be achieved by:

- bringing together the best students and future business leaders in stimulating courses and other academic activities.
- increasing the knowledge and professional skills of outstanding students and emerging business leaders.
- developing critical thinkers that contribute to the body of knowledge through research.

## WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS PROGRAMME?

Students in possession of a BCom (or equivalent) degree from different institutions and those with a BCom (or equivalent) in the work environment could

benefit from studying towards the honour's degree in Strategic Management.

Changes in the business environment are complex and continuous. To be successful in a business career, lifelong learning is imperative. This programme will assist you to become aware of and understand critical thinking and future trends in business as well as how to conduct scientific research. With this knowledge, you will be able to make better decisions today about a sustainable future.

## THE TUITION MODEL

The programme is presented over ONE year (full-time) or TWO years (part-time), of which both part-time and full-time students must complete 7 modules. Other than the duration, there is NO difference between the part-time and full-time program in terms of the number of modules to enroll for, the level of difficulty, the NQF-level, assessment methods or lectures.

Class attendance is compulsory. The use of technology (for example, the Internet, E-mail, uLink (Blackboard), Microsoft Word) is a requirement to write and present assignments, receive learning material, research topics, and utilize opportunities for interactive discussions.

## THE LANGUAGE OF TUITION

Classes and the study material are presented in English. Class discussions and student participation will take place in English.

## MODULES OFFERED

The programme consists of seven (7) compulsory modules and NO electives. The research project is a year module.

### Full Time

The full-time programme is presented over ONE year. Students must enroll for three (3) semester (14 week) modules in the first semester and three (3) modules in the second semester. One module (Research Project) is a year module, and students need to register for this module in the first semester. Class attendance is compulsory. Classes (lectures) normally take place twice a week, namely Monday and Thursday evenings between

18:00 to 21:00. This is just a guideline as venue availability determines the timetable. The course starts in February and MUST be completed within one (1) year (two semesters).

The full-time modules are as follows:

Semester 1	Semester 2
Strategic Management (STM 8X17) History & Philosophy of Management (SJM 8X14) Research Methodology (STM 8X06) Research Project (STM 8X13)	Contemporary Strategic Aspects (STM 8X01) Strategy Simulation (STM 8X15) Strategy and Complexity (STM 8X16) Research Project (STM 8X13)

### Part Time

Other than the duration, there is NO difference between the part-time and full-time programme in terms of the number of modules to enroll for, the level of difficulty, the NQF-level, assessments methods or lectures.

The part-time programme is presented over TWO years (four semesters), and the course MUST be completed within four semesters.

Class attendance is compulsory and follows the same timetable as the full-time programme.

In the first year, students must enroll for two (2) semester modules each semester. Second-year students must enroll for one (1) module each semester. Students also must enroll for the year module (Research project) in their second year.

Semester 1 (year 1)	Semester 2 (year 1)
Strategic Management (STM 8X17) History & Philosophy of Management (STM 8X14)	Contemporary Strategic Aspects STM 8X01 Strategy and complexity (STM8X16)
Semester 1 (year 2)	Semester 2 (year 2)
Research methodology (STM8X06) Research Project (STM8X13)	Strategy Business Simulation (STM8X15) Research Project (STM8X13)

### Module Alignment

The focus of this qualification is to develop critical thinking within the body of knowledge of Strategic Management. With this and the purpose of the programme in mind the modules in the curriculum are supportive of each other.

Individuals in their managerial capacity need to understand how to develop and implement an organizational strategy and how this strategy will affect the organization. The articulation is presented in the diagram below.

**Diagram 1: Module Articulation**



Our current Business Management Body of Knowledge is built on theory and practice through the years. To understand where we are, we need to understand the history of management and the influences of various thinkers. This provides the basis for Strategic Management; how do I implement a strategy in a complex ever changing business environment (Strategy and Complexity) and current developments in managerial thinking (Contemporary strategic management aspects). This gained knowledge will be applied to partake in the Business simulation model (Determine the effects of our decisions). But our decisions should be based on objective information. How do I get this relevant information (Research methodology) and what is the output (result) of this information what we termed knowledge (Research project).

### Module descriptions

#### History & Philosophy of Management (STM 8X14)

This module is aimed at gaining an understanding of the philosophical basis and philosophies underpinning the management theory for practicing managers to reflect on their own managerial approaches to work and organizational life and for future management research. This module will start with subsistence economies, concepts develop by Adam Smith, the various responses to capitalism such as critical management studies up to where we stand today with systems theory and complexity. The philosophical view of management will assist the student to critically evaluate management theory as taught today and create alternatives to current management questions.

#### Specific Outcomes

- Debate Adam Smith's contribution to managerial principles.
- Justify the concept "Invisible hand of the market."
- Critique the social responses of Marx and Weber to capitalism.
- Contrast Critical Management Theory with traditional management theory.

### **Strategic Management (STM 8X17)**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the module is to provide students with multiple strategic perspectives to reflect upon and compare. Students will develop a deep insight into the assumptions, possibilities, and limitations of the various perspectives at the required demand of the qualification. This will instill critical, analytical, and creative mindset that challenges organizational, industry, national and international paradigms in relation to organizational strategy.

#### **Specific Outcomes**

Students should be able to:

- differentiate between, reflect upon, and develop insights into multiple strategic perspectives.
- interpret strategic issues to creatively combine or develop conceptual strategic models; and
- using a critical, analytical, and creative mindset develop a business strategy.

### **Strategy and complexity (STM 8X16)**

The purpose of this module is organizational strategy setting takes place in an environment where stability and linear causality is assumed, but the business and organizational environment is complex, adaptive, and nonlinear. This module will deepen the student's knowledge and understanding in constructing and implementing organizational strategies in a complex adaptive social environment.

#### **Specific Outcomes**

- Use systemic ways of thinking about strategy and organizational dynamics.
- Formulate the challenges of complexity to traditional ways of thinking; and
- Apply critical thinking in complex responsive processes as a way of thinking about strategy in a scientific poster presentation.

### **Contemporary Strategic Aspects (STM 8X01)**

The module aims to enable students to develop intellectual and practical competencies regarding the comprehension, analysis, integration, and application of contemporary management issues to assist future directed organizations and to implement innovative approaches to management in an organization. The only constant in any organization is change – thus a great focus will be placed on change management. Students should

also be able to reflect on the process of management in the global organizational context by linking the reflection to the module History and Philosophy of Management.

#### **Specific Outcomes**

- Identify, present, evaluate and apply the impact of change on the organization and its stakeholders.
- Propose, evaluate, and apply the prerequisites on successful management aspects in a contemporary changing business environment.
- Debate, criticize and motivate the impact of leadership in a diverse and changing business environment.

### **Strategic Business Simulation (STM 8X15)**

This is the most important module in the Honours programme. In this module all the knowledge that you gained in your current and undergraduate studies culminates in a strategy game. You will be given an organization within a specific industry whereby internal and external forces will force you to make strategic decisions to achieve organizational objectives. This real-world simulation will develop and enhance your decision-making skills in a competitive business environment.

#### **Specific Outcomes**

- Integrate multi-disciplinary thinking through a blended learning approach,
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of Revenue-Cost-Profit relationships,
- Develop and practice critical thinking skills in business decision making,
- Engage in teamwork to understand team dynamics in a management environment.

### **Research Methodology (STM 8X06)**

The main purpose of this module is for students to understand the rationale for research and to gain skills in undertaking field research. This module is focused on the theory required to conduct scientific research. The module culminates in the submission of a scientifically correct and academically sound research proposal that is generated simultaneously with the research project.

#### **Specific Outcomes**

- Report on the “Scientific method” of research.
- Defend the various paradigms to scientific research.

- Compose a report on the nature of research.
- Justify the use of a scientific research design.
- Debate the techniques of data collection.
- Transform the data collected in empirical research into information.

### Research Project (STM 8X13)

This module aims to develop students' intellectual competencies and practical skills in doing scientifically correct and academically sound research on a topic in the field of Strategic Management. Great emphasis is placed on working (doing research) independently, although you will be provided with a study leader to assist you with the research project. In some cases, your research project report can be turned into a publishable article that may add to the strategic management body of knowledge.

#### Specific Outcomes

- Identify a researchable project in your adopt-a-business.
- Determine if the research project is feasible.
- Construct a research proposal.
- Present a comprehensive literature review.
- Determine and motivate the scientific methodology that you will use; and
- Present the findings of the research report in a scientific poster presentation.

### ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

Students in this programme are continuously assessed through formal and informal formative- and final summative assessments. You are referred to the Academic Regulations (10.2) for assessment details.

Formative assessment consists of theoretical and practical group assignments, poster presentations, class discussions based on additional reading and case studies, theoretical and practical individual assignments and class assessments, and formal module assessments.

For a semester module three assessments (which includes a final assessment/ exam) must be done. For a year module five assessments (which includes a final assessment) must be done.

A student must obtain a semester module mark of 40% to gain examination entry. The module mark is

calculated according to each module's unique composition.

A sub-minimum mark of 40% must be achieved for the examination paper or examination equivalent assignment submission. A final mark is calculated as follows: the module mark counts 50% and the examination mark counts 50%. Students pass this module if they have a final mark of at least 50%. Students obtain the BCom Honours (Strategic Management) degree if they pass all seven modules that comprise the qualification. A supplementary opportunity is not given automatically should a student fail one or two modules. The Academic Regulations guide this process.

### CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class attendance and active participation are particularly important because we learn from one another. Your opinions and thoughts on the assigned study material and on the reading of current news articles that focus on events in the study field are important. Constructive contributions may include observations and questions about the course material as well as current events and answers to questions raised by fellow students. Examples from your personal and/or organization's experience are appropriate forms of contributions. Expect to be called upon to provide to partake in class discussions.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERACTION

#### Initiated By Students

Students are encouraged to create opportunities to interact and learn, such as an Entrepreneurship/Innovators Club, Consulting Projects, Mentoring Projects, and Community Outreach Projects. The programme management supports and assists these initiatives.

#### Initiated by the Programme Management

Additional opportunities for interaction and learning are offered to students, including an orientation-day function at the beginning of the year, a year-end function and various guest speakers from the industry during the academic year.



### Group Work (Cooperation)

Task group work is an important part of this course where students should be able to work together to complete assignments or tasks. You are also required to partake in the faculty poster competition based on your Research Project.

The Department of Business Management annually awards prizes to the best academic performers in the various programmes offered by the department, including the Strategic Management Honours programme.

### FUTURE STUDIES

After completion of the honour's degree in Strategic Management, advanced study could be undertaken in one of the following: MCom Strategic Management (with the same endorsement as for Honours, i.e., Strategic Management): a dissertation on an approved subject under the supervision of a study supervisor.

MCom (Business Management): a lectured course with eleven modules, followed by a minor dissertation of limited scope. The Department of Business Management also provides the opportunity to obtain a Doctoral (Business Management) degree, in which research is undertaken under the guidance of a study leader (supervisor).

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A potential student should be in possession of a BCom or bachelor's degree, Advanced Diploma or equivalent qualification on NQF LEVEL 7, with Strategic Management on NQF LEVEL 7. An average of 65% for the NQF level 7 exit year is required, and a minimum of 65% for strategy related modules.

Potential students should have successfully completed modules on NQF level 5 (or higher) in Accounting and Economics. In addition to the UJ application form and because of a pre-selection screening process, applicants must also complete the BCom Hons (Strategic Management) selection form, obtainable directly from the Department of Business Management. Please be advised that all applicants are subject to a screening process.

A potential student must have access to a South African business who is willing to assist the student with practical, industry related

information to be used to do written assignments and oral presentations.

### HOW TO APPLY

The application period is 1 April – 30 September 2024. Successful candidates will be notified towards the middle of November.

It is compulsory for applicants to apply with or at our Enrolment Centre before completing the BCom Honours (Strategic Management) Departmental application form. Please be advised that all applicants are subjected to a screening process.

At our Enrolment Center we have TWO different methods of applying. You have the option to choose only ONE, please use the below URL and click on application process to make your selection.

- URL [www.uj.ac.za/EN/StudyatUJ/](http://www.uj.ac.za/EN/StudyatUJ/) (Student Enrolment Centre)
- Please select ONE of the following TWO methods:
- Online Web Application – FREE
- Paper-based Application – R200.00

After you have completed your application (method ONE or TWO), please inform the Department of Business Management, so that the compulsory departmental application forms can be sent to you. Contact person details as follows:

Mrs. Ida Smit Office:  
D-Ring 518  
idas@uj.ac.za Tel:  
011 559 3748 Please  
check your  
admission status on  
the following URL:  
<https://student.uj.ac.za/status.aspx>

### FEES

Enrolling for one (1) module will cost you R3 870.00 (excluding registration fee). However, the Department of Business Management does NOT deal with fees and finances. For a breakdown of the correct and updated fee structure, please contact our Faculty (A Ring APK) on 011 559 3875 or Miss Carmen Francis on 011 559 4531 from the Finance Department.

**NB: PLEASE NOTE THAT FEES MAY CHANGE ACCORDING TO UNIVERSITY POLICIES.**

## HOW TO CONTACT US

For more information you can visit the website of the Department of Business Management (<http://www.uj.ac.za/EN/Faculties/management/departments/bm>) or contact:

Programme Administrator: Mrs. Ida Smit is responsible for managing all administrative matters related to the programme. Email: [idas@uj.ac.za](mailto:idas@uj.ac.za)

### Post:

University of Johannesburg (UJ) Auckland Park Kingsway Campus  
Department of Business Management  
PO Box 524, Auckland Park,  
Johannesburg  
Republic of South Africa, 2006

### Call:

011 559 3748 (in South Africa) 0027 11 559 3748 (across South African borders)

### Visit:

University of Johannesburg (UJ)  
Corner of Kingsway & University Road  
D-Ring 519 (yellow indicators)

### Programme Coordinator:

Dr Komla Pillay is responsible for overseeing the overall management and quality of the programme. Email: [komlap@uj.ac.za](mailto:komlap@uj.ac.za)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: I have a BA degree with Business Management at third year level.**

**Can I apply for this programme?**

A: The requirement is a SAQA accredited B Com degree. You therefore do not meet the requirements. Your only way of entry is if you do additional subjects and obtain a B Com degree (See Rules of Admission). If you have worked for some time and can give proof of learning the necessary business skills during that time, you can apply for recognition of prior learning.

**Q: Can I start with the programme in the middle of the academic year (2nd semester)?**

A: No.

**Q: I have two courses outstanding to complete my undergraduate degree. Can I apply for this programme?**

A: No.

**Q: I am a working student who has a lot of discipline and knows how to manage my time. Can I study full-time for this qualification? In other words, complete it in one year instead of two?**

A: Our experience of students who attempted this in the past is that this rarely works - all these students had to extend their studies. Working and studying towards this qualification is not easy as you are required to be involved in group work and must do numerous assignments, but it is allowed.

**Q: I have a business degree from another university. Can I enroll for this programme?**

A: Yes, if your degree is equal to a SAQA-accredited B Com degree, and you comply with the Rules of Admission (para 13 above). If you have a major that is not called Business Management but has the same contents, you may also qualify.

**Q: I started with an honours programme in management at another university. Can I enroll this year at the University of Johannesburg instead? Will I receive credits for the subjects passed?**

A: Yes. Credits for subjects passed at another university will be awarded if the contents are sufficiently similar (there must be 70% overlap).

**Q: Is this degree internationally recognized?**

A: Yes.

**Q: I live in the Eastern Cape; can I enroll for this degree?**

A: No. Class attendance is compulsory.

**Q: I work full-time. Can I enroll?**

A: Yes. You can study towards this degree on a full-time OR on a part-time basis.

The part-time programme is done over two years. Classes take place in the evenings - usually once per week, but sometimes twice a week.

**Q: I have completed an application form and submitted it to the Department of**

**Business Management. Will I automatically be admitted to the programme?**

A: No. There is a selection process involved. To maintain a certain quality standard and to keep the programme student centred, we can only accommodate a limited number of students. You can only officially register for this course after you have received notice of your acceptance to the programme from the Department of Business Management.

