



# **Faculty of Arts, Department of Business and Accounting Handbook**

*Mary Immaculate College, Academic Year 2026/27*



---

## **1. Welcome Message**

Welcome to the Department of Business and Accounting. The Department is dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Alongside this commitment to academic rigour, is an embedding of the practical relevance of Business and Accounting through skills development. Underpinning our work is a strong emphasis on entrepreneurship and the fostering of entrepreneurial mindset in our graduates.

Our members of staff are committed lecturers and active researchers. They are all highly qualified in their respective disciplines, many with real-world industry experience. Their approach to teaching mirrors this important link between education and industry, ensuring that our graduates gain the necessary applied skills for their future careers.

---

## 2. Department Overview

**Mission Statement:** To provide practically-relevant and research-informed education in Business and Accounting. To develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and promote entrepreneurship, and ethical business practices.

For a full department overview, visit: [MIC Business & Accounting Department](#)

---

## 3. Programmes & Modules

Business and Accounting is available on the following programmes;

MIC Thurles Campus

- BA in Education, Business Studies and Accounting (MI016)
- BA in Education, Business Studies and Religious Studies (MI017)
- BA in Education, Gaelge and Business Studies (MI019)
- BA in Education, Mathematics and Business Studies (MI021)
- BA in Education, Home Economics and Business Studies (MI022)

MIC Limerick Campus

- Bachelor of Arts (MI002)

For module details, visit: [Business & Accounting | Mary Immaculate College](#)

---

## 4. Policies & Regulations

- **Attendance:** There is a correlation between attendance at lectures and tutorials and the final grade awarded in a module. Regular attendance is required, and students have a professional responsibility to engage in their programme. Active participation in lectures, tutorials, and guest lectures is expected. Students are also expected to spend additional time, outside of scheduled lecture and tutorial hours, on self-directed learning. Your attendance and engagement will be addressed in any references provided. Any absence should be certified.
- **Plagiarism & Academic Integrity:** It is important to note that academic cheating in all its forms is deemed to be a serious disciplinary offence under the Code of Conduct. Your attention is specifically drawn to the MIC Handbook of Academic Regulations and Procedures, the Academic Integrity Policy, and individual module guidelines. A lecturer reserves the right in cases of suspected plagiarism to ask individuals to explain assessment answers in person or to present their assignment formally,

individually and/or in groups, depending on assessment. Any student who facilitates the plagiarism of another student(s) is subject to the same penalties.

- **Specific regulations, MIC Thurles programmes:** Thurles programmes have a number of capped modules, where a minimum D1 grade is required to pass the module. Lecturers will make you aware of these modules.

For full policies, visit: [Student Handbook | Mary Immaculate College](#)

---

## 5. Grading & Assessment

- **Assessment Deadlines:** Strict deadlines apply for coursework submissions.
- **Late Submission of Assignments:** Timely submission of assessments is essential. Extensions can only be granted in advance of the submission deadline. The policy for late submissions is as follows: Late submissions without a pre-agreed extension will be penalised by a deduction of 5% per day off the final awarded mark (out of 100%). If you encounter extenuating circumstances affecting your ability to submit on time, it's imperative to contact the module lecturer as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations.
- **Repeat Assessment:** Repeat assessment formats are outlined at the start of each module. It is the responsibility of the student to comply with the assessment guidelines, including submission dates and guidelines.

For detailed grading policies, visit: [MIC Academic Regulations](#)

---

## 6. Staff Contacts

| Name                | Position                          | Email                        |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dr. Rebecca Purcell | Head of Department                | [rebecca.purcell@mic.ul.ie]  |
| Dr Deirdre Brady    | Lecturer in Business              | [Deirdre.Brady@mic.ul.ie]    |
| Dr Patrick Buckland | Lecturer in Business              | [Patrick.Buckland@mic.ul.ie] |
| Dr Marian Carcary   | Lecturer in Business & Accounting | [Marian.Carcary@mic.ul.ie]   |
| Dr David Cosgrave   | Lecturer in Business              | [David.Cosgrave@mic.ul.ie]   |
| Olive English       | Lecturer in Accounting            | [Olive.English@mic.ul.ie]    |
| Séamus Lynch        | Lecturer in Business              | [Seamus.Lynch@mic.ul.ie]     |
| Dr John McCarthy    | Lecturer in Business              | [John.McCarthy@mic.ul.ie]    |
| Dr. Emma Reardon    | Lecturer in Business              | [Emma.Reardon@mic.ul.ie]     |
| Madeline Ronan      | Lecturer in Accounting            | [Madeline.Ronan@mic.ul.ie]   |
| Dr. Maria Ryan      | Lecturer in Business              | [MariaD.Ryan@mic.ul.ie]      |

For updated contact details, visit: [Business & Accounting | Mary Immaculate College](#)

*Whom should I contact?*

For queries related to a module, the first point of contact is always your lecturer(s) on that module.

For other queries contact, Dr. Rebecca Purcell, Head of Department – [rebecca.purcell@mic.ul.ie](mailto:rebecca.purcell@mic.ul.ie)

---

## **7. Research & Ethics**

All **undergraduate student research** must comply with MIC's **Business and Accounting Ethics Guidelines**.

If you are conducting primary research with human subjects within your module, your lecturer will make these guidelines available to you, and ensure you comply.

---

## **8. Student Entrepreneurship at MIC (MIC Limerick)**

The Business Start Up Mentorship at Mary Immaculate College (MIC) Limerick Campus, led by Dr. David Cosgrave, provides aspiring student entrepreneurs with a comprehensive mentorship designed to guide them from idea to a fully operational business.

The program offers a structured framework that includes weekly hands-on mentorship. Students are coached on how to develop a value proposition, and how to validate their business ideas with real paying customers. Crucially, the mentorship helps students navigate and avoid the major pitfalls of entrepreneurship as their business grows.

This initiative already has a proven track record of success, with mentees having successfully secured external funding from prestigious bodies, including Student Inc and Enterprise Ireland, demonstrating the mentorship's effectiveness in fostering tangible and impactful entrepreneurial outcomes.

Contact: [david.cosgrave@mic.ul.ie](mailto:david.cosgrave@mic.ul.ie)

---

## **9. Undergraduate Dissertation (UGD) (Bachelor of Arts – Year 4)**

The Business UGD entails exploring a research topic in the broad domain of business. Potential Business UGD supervisors and their research areas of interest will be provided in the UGD handbook circulated by the Arts office to all BA Yr 2 students in the spring semester. Please note that your area of research interest need not exactly match the supervisor research areas listed. You can contact a listed potential supervisor for advice on your proposed research topic, but this is not tantamount to supervision agreement. You will be allocated a supervisor, where possible once the research proposal process is completed and you cannot request a particular supervisor as part of this process.

The research proposal process commences with a research proposal form, which will be available early in the Yr 2 spring semester, and which needs to be typically submitted by Friday of Week 6. You will be informed of the outcome of the research proposal process by email to your student e-mail account by Friday of Week 8. This will allow you sufficient time to explore alternative option UGD supervision (if necessary), or to contact your allocated Business option UGD supervisor to obtain their signature for submission of your UGD dissertation registration form by the end of Week 10.

The business UGD process will entail various points and forms of assessment in addition to the final submission, including a Research Proposal and UGD Content Outline document submission early in Autumn semester of Yr 4 and a post-submission oral presentation. There will be an information session for all Yr 2 students on the Business option UGD and the research process early in the Spring Semester.

Contact: [john.mccarthy@mic.ul.ie](mailto:john.mccarthy@mic.ul.ie)

---

## **10. The B!G Idea Programme Facilitator Certification (MIC Thurles)**

The B!G Idea is a creative thinking initiative that teaches the world's most in demand skills to 15 to 19 year olds. Using creative thinking skills and activating their voices, students develop solutions to issues they identify as major stressors in their lives, with the help of hundreds of industry professional mentors, bridging the gap between education, industry and society. The B!G Idea programme is offered in education settings across the Island of Ireland, as part of TY, LCVP, and Youthreach & CPC. As a social enterprise, the B!G Idea has garnered international recognition for its unique approach to education, focusing not just on academic success but also on real-world problem-solving and creativity.

In 2025/26, MIC Thurles and the B!G Idea are teaming up. Year 3 students that partake in the B!G Idea programme, as part of their Entrepreneurship module, will gain certification as facilitators and ambassadors of the B!G Idea. Enhancing both their own skills, and CVs.

[www.thebigidea.ie](http://www.thebigidea.ie)

---

## **11. BSTAI Membership (MIC Thurles)**

The BSTAI is the national subject association for teachers of Business Studies, Accounting, Business, and Economics at post-primary level. It provides a professional network for teachers, supporting collaboration, sharing of best practice, and ongoing professional development.

Membership is open to all post-primary teachers of Business subjects, and is free for MIC Thurles student teachers. Joining gives members access to exclusive resources, events, and a supportive professional community.

*What BSTAI offers:*

- Access to up-to-date resources, teaching materials, and exam-focused supports
- Regular subject-specific webinars, workshops, and conferences
- Opportunities to connect with other teachers nationwide and share ideas
- Networking opportunities, which may also help with future job opportunities
- Updates on curriculum developments, assessment changes, and key education news
- Regional branch meetings and events to support local collaboration

*Annual Conference:*

Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Mullingar Park Hotel

*Further Information:*

Official Website: [www.bstai.ie](http://www.bstai.ie)

MIC Thurles Business Department: [seamus.lynch@mic.ul.ie](mailto:seamus.lynch@mic.ul.ie)

BSTAI Tipperary branch; Miriam Bergin, Coláiste Mhuire (Thurles)

---

**We wish you a successful and rewarding academic year!**