

# IB007-15 Problem-Solving in Organisations

**23/24**

**Department**

Warwick Business School

**Level**

Foundation

**Module leader**

Tamara Friedrich

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This is a core module for WBS Foundation Year students.

To equip students with the capacity to effectively communicate, solve problems and be creative and innovative in their work, learning and other daily tasks. Problem-solving skills can improve students' success in the classroom, in their daily lives and, more importantly, in their careers. Thus, the module will establish a valuable foundation-level capability that will help students improve their skills and raise their confidence levels for degree-level study, regardless of their chosen course.

Specific aims of the module include:

- To promote an understanding of key definitions, concepts and theories in regards to organisational problem-solving.
- To provide students with a foundational understanding of effective communication in organisations in order to facilitate decision making and problem-solving.
- To promote an understanding of the key ways a leader can facilitate problem-solving.
- To encourage recognition and understanding of common pitfalls or challenges in decision making, such as biases and ethical issues.
- To encourage students to approach problems in a creative and innovative way.

- To develop skills in solving problems as individuals as well as in a team.
- To facilitate an understanding of the importance of creativity and innovation to organisations and society
- To build students' confidence in applying problem-solving techniques, both as individuals and in teams.
- To develop related personal skills such as leadership, teamwork and communication.
- To introduce students to the field of social science, and to familiarise them with asking questions/delivering answers through research in this field.

[Module web page](#)

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## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Lecture topics may include but are not limited to:

General communication

Conflict

Negotiation

Being a leader  
Motivation (leading others and leading yourself)  
Followership  
General decision-making  
Biases in decision-making  
Ethical decision-making  
Introduction to creativity and the creative person  
Creative problem solving skills  
Creativity in teams  
Team creativity strategies  
Innovation in organisations  
Entrepreneurship  
Innovation in society

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand the definitions of different problem-solving concepts (e.g., creativity, leadership, negotiation), and recognise instances where these are being used to improve performance.
- Understand key communication concepts.
- Understand the definitions of basic leadership concepts.
- Understand common decision making errors (e.g., biases, unethical decisions).
- Understand the individual creative process.
- Understand the team creative process.
- Understand the role creativity and innovation play in starting businesses, improving organisational performance, and improving society.
- Identify problems and opportunities that require different problem-solving techniques.
- Generate, evaluate and plan the implementation of ideas.
- Metacognition to recognize when they may fall into common decision making biases.

## **Indicative reading list**

Effective Organisational Communication: Perspectives, Principles, and Practices by Richard Blundel, Kate Ippolito and David Donnarumma Publisher: Pearson (2012)  
Thinking, fast and slow by Daniel Kahneman Publisher: Penguin (2012)  
Leadership by Peter G. Northouse Publisher: Sage (2015)  
Creativity 101 by James C. Kaufman Publisher: Springer Publishing Company; 1st edition (2009)  
Zig Zag: The surprising path to greater creativity by Keith Sawyer Publisher: Jossey Bass; 1st edition (2013)  
Group Genius: The creative power of collaboration by Keith Sawyer Publisher: Basic Books (2008)

## **Subject specific skills**

Be able to apply key communication techniques effectively to solve problems.  
Be able to effectively utilize basic leadership and followership strategies.  
Apply techniques to avoid common decision making errors (e.g., biases, unethical decisions).

Effectively apply the individual creative process to solve problems independently.

Effectively work together in teams to solve problems creatively.

## Transferable skills

Decide when and how to use different communication techniques.

Apply Leadership and followership skills.

Apply creative problem-solving skills.

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	10 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	48 hours (32%)
Assessment	73 hours (49%)
Total	150 hours

### Private study description

Private Study.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time
Individual Assignment (15 CATS)	70%	51 hours
Group Presentation (15 CATS)	20%	15 hours
Individual contribution report and minutes	10%	7 hours

### Feedback on assessment

Students will receive written feedback on their assessments from the tutor. The module will also use peer review and one-to-one feedback to support learning.

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## **Availability**

There is currently no information about the courses for which this module is core or optional.