Metropolia Business School
2012

Course code: LX00AA34 & LE00AB02
Course Name: Business Ethics
ECTS: 2 or 3

Objectives:
Students are able to acquire the fundamental ethical reasoning skills necessary for prudential decision-making in ethical issues and dilemmas which arise from international business and globalization.

Students will be able to:
-   Give an account of the concept of ethics in an international, global, multicultural business context
    - Recognize and identify, discuss and analyze ethical issues that arise from international business and globalisation
    - Apply relevant ethical theories to ethical issues in international business devise and justify approaches for responding to the ethical issues and dilemmas
-   Understands that they are part of responsible and ethical company and society as well

Content:
Business ethics involve the efforts business organizations undertake to meet their responsibilities both as economic and social agent. Businesses have become aware of their social and moral responsibilities through pressure exerted by their stakeholders. Customers, for example, expect business to supply reliable and safe products at a fair price. Stockholders demand that their investments be rewarded by dividends and improved market value. Employees desire their employer to provide a safe and rewarding work environment, and offer reasonable benefits. Similarly, other stakeholder groups (such as suppliers, community leaders, media, etc.) call for companies to offer benefits that contribute to the community beyond just providing jobs and high-quality products.

Managers hold primary responsibility for the integration of business ethics into organizational decision-making. A key principle in ethical decision-making is that managers should anticipate, acknowledge and address the potential conflicts between (a) their own role as corporate stakeholders, and (b) their legal and ethical responsibilities for the interest of other stakeholders. Ethical decision-making requires (future) managers to implement a balanced holistic perspective of both stakeholder management and business ethics to fully understand the multifaceted aspects of ethical conflicts (dilemmas). In order to resolve ethical dilemmas the (future) manager should be able to logically adduce valuable and legitimate arguments in support of the decision s/he makes or the action s/he takes.

This course has been designed to increase the students' awareness of the ethical challenges both individual and corporate - that arise from international business and globalisation, and to learn how to apply various decision strategies for dealing with these ethical challenges in a diverse, multicultural business environment.