

**Postgraduate**  
study at the University of East London

**UEL**  
University of  
East London

# MA Innovation Studies



[www.uel.ac.uk/ssmcs](http://www.uel.ac.uk/ssmcs)

# MA INNOVATION STUDIES

One year full-time or two years part-time

## PROGRAMME CONTENT

The MA in Innovation Studies at UEL explores the complex, dynamic relations between social and technological forces shaping innovation processes in an international context. There is an emphasis on inequalities due to gender, socioeconomic status and/or race; social distribution of responsibility, wealth and risk; and ethical considerations related to the governance of innovation in both business and the public sphere.

The core curriculum draws upon the sociology of scientific knowledge; information society theory; the economics of technical change; geography; regulatory and political theory; policy evaluation; and other perspectives associated with innovation systems and processes:

- Society, Science and Technology and Innovation Processes
- Historical Perspectives on Scientific and Technological Change
- Sociology and Ethnography of the Laboratory
- Global, National, Regional and Sectoral Systems of Innovation
- Socio-Technical Dynamics of the 'Information Society'
- Ethical Issues and the Regulation of Science and Technology
- The Politics of Knowledge, Political Theory and Policy Evaluation
- Research Methods

Students can select from a range of optional modules which allows for greater specialisation in areas such as the cultural contexts of software, policy and management, or global media. Students define and conduct an original research project and write a research dissertation under supervision. There are opportunities to attend research seminars, workshops and events on campus and in the London area.

## WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THE MA IN INNOVATION STUDIES AT UEL?

The MA in Innovation Studies offers a flexible programme for students interested in engaging with advanced study at different points in their professional careers, at a modern London university which is an internationally recognised centre of research excellence. UEL is the UK's most inclusive university, and has a commitment to innovative programmes that combine critical social theory with the conceptual and practical skills required for our students to make the fullest contribution to the world of work and our wider society.

The MA is offered as part of the European ESST Masters programme (European Society, Science and Technology), a partnership involving universities in Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and associates in Estonia, Finland, Switzerland, Turkey and elsewhere. For more information, visit: [www.esst.eu/](http://www.esst.eu/)

As part of the ESST framework, students have the option of moving to another European university in the second semester, each offering different specialisations, with instruction in English and/or other languages.

All students benefit from the European ESST partnership through exchange of pedagogical and resource materials, interactions with visiting scholars, and on-line discussion fora.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

MA INNOVATION STUDIES (FULL-TIME)		
Semester A	Science Technology and Innovation Studies (30 credits)	Quantitative Research Methods (Social Science) (30 credits)
B	Socio-Technical Dynamics of the 'Information Society' (30 credits)	Option (30 credits)
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA		
Summer	Dissertation (60 credits)	
MA		
MA INNOVATION STUDIES (PART-TIME)		
Semester A (Year 1)	Science Technology and Innovation Studies (30 credits)	
B (Year 1)	Socio-Technical Dynamics of the 'Information Society' (30 credits)	
POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE		
A (Year 2)	Quantitative Research Methods (30 credits)	
B (Year 2)	Option (30 credits)	
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA		
Summer	Dissertation (60 credits)	
MA		
INDICATIVE OPTIONS		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Software as Culture</li> <li>• Managing Policy</li> <li>• Global Media: an introduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globalisation, Media and Policy in a Digital Age</li> <li>• A University-wide option</li> </ul>

## PROGRAMME MODULES

### SEMESTER A (SEPTEMBER - JANUARY)

#### • Science, Technology and Innovation

This module provides an overview of the roles and impacts of science, technology and innovation in contemporary society and the complex dynamics of scientific, social and technological forces shaping innovation. The focus is on innovation processes and governance in a globalising world, and on how the costs and benefits of innovation are distributed unevenly in political, economic, social and environmental terms.

#### • Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences

The module presents the ways in which quantitative data are used in social science research. Students are offered instruction on developing the necessary practical skills through project work using key software and develop confidence in the manipulation of large quantitative datasets.

### SEMESTER B (FEBRUARY - JUNE)

#### • Socio-Technical Dynamics of the 'Information Society'

This module investigates the ways in which agencies and organisations at different levels attempt (and sometimes fail) to control networked services and media. Particular attention is paid to regulatory principles, theoretical analysis of the forces influencing regulatory outcomes and the ways in which regulatory actions are legitimated.

## OPTION MODULES

The ONE option module may be:

- Globalisation, Media and Policy in a Digital Age
- Software as Culture
- Managing Policy
- Global Media: an introduction
- a University-wide option

### SUMMER (UNTIL SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER)

#### Dissertation

Specialist supervisors from a range of backgrounds will supervise students' dissertation work and provide a supportive environment for theoretically informed projects tailored to students' interests. Students will begin planning and thinking about this substantial piece of work from the outset of the programme. The project may include critical reviews of literature and/or policy documents, field research (such as the administration of questionnaires, interviewing, focus groups or on-line interactive research), and theoretical and/or methodological innovations. The work will be original, integrative and prepared according to high standards of writing, structure and presentation.



## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are normally required to have a good honours degree in a cognate area of study. Mature applicants with a degree or with substantial professional experience may be considered for admission, usually on the basis of an interview.

If English is not your first language we require that you demonstrate your English language skills by achieving an overall IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent



## HOW TO APPLY

The easiest way to apply is online at [www.uel.ac.uk/apply](http://www.uel.ac.uk/apply). When you submit your application, we will email you to let you know it has been received. Alternatively, you can download an application form from our website and send it to us by email or post.

Application forms can also be obtained from our Applicant Enquiries Office at our Docklands Campus.

Tel: +44 (020) 8223 3333

Email: [admiss@uel.ac.uk](mailto:admiss@uel.ac.uk)



## KEY FACTS

Final award: MA

Intermediate awards: PGDip, PGCert

Duration: One year full-time or two years part-time

Location: Docklands Campus

IELTS (or equivalent): 6.5

Entry requirements: Good honours degree (or equivalent)

### FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT

Dr Josephine Anne Stein

Sociology and Innovation Studies

School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies

University of East London, Docklands Campus, University Way, London E16 2RD

Tel: +44 (0)20 8223 4249

E-mail: [stein@uel.ac.uk](mailto:stein@uel.ac.uk)

[www.uel.ac.uk/ssmcs](http://www.uel.ac.uk/ssmcs)

## STAFF TEAM

The teaching team includes UEL staff plus guest lecturers offering particular perspectives on innovation and society

Staff whose names are marked with an asterisk have indicated a willingness to supervise dissertations.

### JOSEPHINE ANNE STEIN\*

The Programme Leader for the MA and leader of the core module on **Science, Technology and Innovation Studies**, Josephine Stein is Principal Research Fellow in Innovation Studies. Her research interests concern the interplay between science, technology and democracy, including global knowledge dynamics; science, international relations and security; and sustainable technological innovation. She has directed studies for the European Union, the ESRC and the US National Science Foundation, and has written, co-edited or contributed to twenty books.

### GRAHAM THOMAS\*

Graham Thomas is a Senior Lecturer in Innovation Studies and leader for the core module **Socio-Technical Dynamics of the 'Information Society'**. His research interests focus on the origins, development and regulation of the Internet and network-based services, and his European collaborations have included comparative research in videotex and audiotex services and information infrastructures. He is Secretary and Vice President for International Affairs of the European ESST consortium in Science, Technology and Society.

### ALLAN BRIMICOMBE

Professor Allan Brimicombe is Head of UEL's Centre for Geo-Information Studies, which specialises in software for data handling, analysis, visualisation and modelling. He leads the module on **Quantitative Research Methods (Social Sciences)**.

### KEVIN CAREY

Kevin Carey is founder of the charity HumanITY, which specialises in digital inclusion across computer-based systems, broadcasting & telecommunications. He chairs the OfCom Community Radio Fund Panel and recently served as a Member of the OfCom Content Board. He has been an adviser to the European Commission and to the UK Government.

### MIRIAM MUKASA\*

Miriam Mukasa is a Lecturer in Sociology and Innovation Studies and Programme Leader of the undergraduate programme in ICTs and Development. Her research interests are in the area of gender aspects of information systems design and implementation.

### GEOFFREY OLDHAM

Professor Geoffrey Oldham chaired the United Nations Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development and served as the UK Delegate to the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development. He chaired the Commission's working groups on Gender and Science for Development, and Information Technology and Development.

### GAVIN POYNTER\*

Professor Gavin Poynter has published extensively in the areas of social theory and state and business policy, suggesting that alternative trajectories for human development may arise from critical engagement with contemporary socio-economic thought. His research focuses on theories and evidence pertaining to the "knowledge economy".

### DEREK ROBBINS\*

As Professor of International Social Theory, Derek Robbins organises regular discussion groups and seminar series open to postgraduate students and staff. His research interests focus on international comparative studies of social science.

### TONY SAMPSON\*

Tony Sampson lectures in the field of communications, specialising in new media theory and network culture. He researches spam and anomalies of network culture, 'new' economies, convergence regulation in the UK and the political economy of computer games.

### RICHARD SHARPE

Richard Sharpe is a Visiting Research Fellow at UEL who has had extensive editorial experience with the trade journal *Computing*, the *Financial Times* group, Blackwell Information Services, Oxford University Press and Sterling Publications. Books published include *Software Agents* and *The Computer World*.

### CARLES SHONIREGUN\*

Professor Charles Shoniregun's research interests include Internet security; risk assessment of technology-enabled information; electronic and mobile commerce; and telecommunications. He is involved in the emerging area of infonomics: the interdisci-

plinary science of the societal and technological dimensions of knowledge evolution in digital society.

### LINDA STEPULLEVAGE\*

Linda Stepulevage is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Innovation Studies, specialising in gender and information systems design. Her recent publications include journal articles and book chapters on user participation and social relations in large-scale software applications.

### EVA TURNER\*

Eva Turner is Principal Lecturer in Sociology and Innovation Studies and has published extensively in the area of ethics, gender and computing. She currently serves on the Ethics Panel of the British Computer Society.

### JONATHAN HARDY

Dr Jonathan Hardy leads the option module **Globalisation, Media and Policy in a Digital Age**. His research interests are in media policy, political economy of communications, global media, comparative media systems, and media and advertising integration.

### JOHN PRATT

Professor John Pratt leads the option module on **Managing Policy**. He has researched extensively into higher education policy and has been a consultant for several governments and international organisations.

### ASHWANI SHARMA

A Principal Lecturer in Media and Cultural Studies, Ashwani Sharma's research interests include race, globalisation and post-colonial theory; world cinema; diasporic media, visual art, music and digital culture. He leads the option module on **Global Media**.

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Postgraduate study at the University of East London

Docklands Campus University Way London E16 2RD  
Stratford Campus Romford Road Stratford E15 4LZ

Telephone +44 (0)20 8223 3333  
Email [admiss@uel.ac.uk](mailto:admiss@uel.ac.uk)