

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Aim and Title	MSc Information Security and Digital Forensics
Additional Versions of this Course	MSc Information Security and Digital Forensics with Industrial Placement
Intermediate Awards Available	PGCert, PGDip.
Teaching Institution(s)	UEL on campus
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	None
UEL Academic School	ACE
UCAS Code	
Professional Body Accreditation	
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	QAA Subject benchmark statement Master's degrees in Computing 2011
Date Specification Last Updated	30/06/21

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Develop skills in the field of information security and digital forensics.
- Through a mixture of theory, advanced practical skills and experience, develop sound knowledge and analytical abilities, which will facilitate intellectual and professional development and future employment at a senior level.
- Develop the professional skills necessary for a senior career in the IT industry
- Gain hand-on experience of working in an industrial setting offered through the industrial placement scheme

What you will learn:

Knowledge

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the concepts of information security.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the procedures and techniques to employ when investigating computer incidents and computer misuse.

Thinking skills

- Demonstrate an understanding of principles and practices derived from each of the modules studied and integrate and apply the knowledge and skills gained and be able to contribute to the development of related disciplines by research.
- Be able to contribute to the development of related disciplines by research solutions.

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Subject-Based Practical skills

- Critically evaluate the architectures of computer systems, mobile and wireless network devices from a security perspective and to identify security flaws in these technologies.
- Develop expertise in the areas of service oriented computing and the management of security in business related information systems.

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Analyse a problem systematically and implement an effective solution, as an individual or in co-operation with others involved in an enterprise.
- Demonstrate an awareness of current international, national and corporate strategic models for the development and management of technology.

Learning and Teaching

Various teaching methods are employed on the course, including lectures, tutorials, seminars and laboratory work. In a lecture period, a member of the academic staff or a visiting lecturer presents ideas or information to a body of students. In a seminar, ideas are discussed by a group of students. The discussion is led by a member of the staff or a nominated student and moderated by one or more members of staff. In a tutorial, the students solve problems under the guidance of a member of staff with whom they can also discuss information presented in a previous lecture.

To enable students to derive maximum benefit from their period of attendance, lectures are designed to cover only essential subject matter, this being complemented by lecture notes. Considerable importance is attached to home assignments and a commitment to private study.

Students are recommended to plan their work in advance. Where practicable, a course of work, requirements of home assignments, together with reading references and tutorial sheets are distributed at the beginning of each section of each module. Regular formative assessments of the students' work are undertaken and feedback provided in order to monitor progress and identify problem areas.

Assessment

Modules are allocated a mark out of 100%. The pass mark for each module is based on an aggregate mark of 50%. The aggregate mark comprises marks from components whose threshold is 40%. Assessment may incorporate one, two or three components.

The module specifications specify the mode of assessment for each module.

Assessment methods include formal examinations, coursework, project work and group exercises.

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

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Work or Study Placements

Students on the placement version of the programme will undertake a placement within a partner organisation (or by means of alternative arrangements such as projects led by industry and carried out on campus) to complete a 120 P-credit Industrial Placement Module. The module is graded at either Pass or Fail, assessed by the partner industrial organisation and the University and grades reflected on the students' academic transcripts.

The industrial placement component is for a duration of an academic year, ie, normally 30 weeks including minimum 24 weeks of delivery time. It starts after students have completed the 1st year of study, ie, all the taught modules and the dissertation component of the MSc programme which together form 180 credits.

Students on the two-year MSc with placement programmes must pass all taught modules of their respective programme plus dissertation, ie, 180 credits, before they become eligible to progress to the next stage and undertake industrial placement.

Students on the MSc programme with placement will also normally be required to fulfil the 80% attendance requirement (on all modules) to be eligible to progress to the industrial placement module.

Students unable to meet the above requirements and progress successfully will normally be moved to the one-year full-time version of the programme and their student visa, if any, will be curtailed accordingly.

The structure of the extended version of the MSc programmes that includes the industrial placement is summarised in the following table:

For September intake: Term 1 (Y1: Sep – Jan) Term 2 (Y1: Jan – May) Term 3 (Y1: May – Sep) End of July Y1 Term 1 and 2 (Y2: Sep – May)	Taught modules Taught modules Dissertation Deadline for confirming placement Industrial placement
For January intake: Term 2 (Y1: Jan – May) Term 1 (Y1: Sep – Jan) Term 2 (Y1: Jan – May) End of March Term 3 and 1 (Y2: May – Jan)	Taught modules Taught modules Dissertation Deadline for confirming placement Industrial placement

Students must check the Academic Calendar for start and end of term dates.

It is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure their placement. The University will offer guidance and support; and recommend students to our industrial partners who are interested in participating in the programme. But the onus to find and secure the placement is on the students. If they are unable to secure a placement at the end of taught modules, they will be transferred back to the full time taught programme without the placement component and your student visa, if applicable, will be curtailed accordingly by UKVI.

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Students undertaking the Placement Module will also normally need to meet the following requirements:

- 80% attendance at the 12 week employability module workshops and classes.
- Registration on the UEL Employment Hub with CV and Covering Letter uploaded.
- Details of placement provided to the Placement Officer by 31st July (Sept starters) and 31st March (January starters).
- Placement Agreement form signed by the student and partner organisation at least 3 weeks before the placement start date.

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

Level	Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Status	Available by distance learning?
7	Security Management	CN7014	30	Core	N
7	Computer Security	CN7016	30	Core	N
7	IT & Internet Law	CN7015	30	Core	N

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7	Digital Forensics	CN7019	30	Core	N
7	Industrial Placement	EG7021	120P	Core for MSc with Industrial Placement	N
7	Mental Wealth; Professional Life (Dissertation)	CN7000	60	Core	N N

The overall credit-rating of this course is 180 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Typical Duration

Course without industrial placement

The full-time duration of this course is 12 months for the September intake and 17 months for the January intake:

For September intake: Term 1 (Y1: Sep – Jan) Term 2 (Y1: Jan – May) Term 3 (Y1: May – Sep)	Taught modules Taught modules Dissertation
For January intake: Term 2 (Y1: Jan – May) Term 1 (Y1: Sep – Jan) Term 2 (Y2: Jan – May)	Taught modules Taught modules Dissertation

For those not on a student visa, it is possible to move from full-time to part time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

Course with industrial placement

The course with industrial placement is offered in full-time mode only. The duration of this course is two academic years (including the industrial placement element). See “Work or Study Placements” section for more detail

The time limit for completion of a course is four years after first enrolment on the course.

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Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/ace>)

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

None

Alternative Locations of Delivery

N/A