

# Information Technology

**This programme is no longer recruiting. Please refer to the updated specification of the same name.**

<b>Final award</b>	BSc
<b>Intermediate awards available</b>	Cert HE, Dip HE
<b>UCAS code</b>	G561 - Level 1 entry (3 Year full time route) G562 - Level 0 entry (Extended 4 year full time route)
<b>Details of professional body accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant QAA Benchmark statements</b>	Computing, Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies Sociology
<b>Date specification last up-dated</b>	August 2011

## Profile

### The summary - UCAS programme profile

#### **BANNER BOX:**

This is the first programme in the country to offer a unique opportunity to explore both, the practice of Information Technology development and the theoretical relationships of ICTs and society.

#### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum requirements for entry for Level 1 entry is 240 UCAS tariff points from: A/AS level (Including 2 A2 passes), GNVQ, AVCE, Scottish Highers, International Baccalaureate. European Baccalaureate, BTEC / SCOTEC Diploma, Relevant Access Course or successful completion of the Level 0. Other qualifications, including overseas, may be considered.

Applicants who do not fulfil the admission requirements for Level 1 may be considered for entry into Level 0. Applicants should have 120 UCAS tariff points from GCE A2 or equivalent.

We also welcome applicants from mature students who do not have formal qualifications but may have relevant experience. Students applying to this programme will be expected to demonstrate a specific interest in this area of study and should have a commitment to engaging with the subject. Applicants may be invited for interview.

#### **Overseas Qualifications**

The number of overseas qualifications which are accepted for entry are too numerous to list, but you can get advice from the British Council or our admissions unit on 020 8223 2835. You must be able to understand and express yourself in both written and spoken English and some evidence e.g. For level 1 entry a TOEFL score of 550 or an IELTS score of 6.0 (no skill

level below 5) and for Level 0 entry an IELTS score of 5.5 (no skill level below 5) would be required.

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAMME**

### **What is Information Technology?**

Our programmes are an alternative to more 'traditional' computer degrees and are of interest to those who want to explore the relationship between technology and society. While providing IT skills and in-depth technical knowledge, the programmes also incorporate interdisciplinary study of theories concerning users and consumers of technology.

Along with practical IT skills like word processing and spreadsheets, you will study how to design and manipulate databases, create computer systems and discuss the importance of user-computer interfaces in the development process. You will learn to create web pages and manipulate dynamically the content of the WWW. You will understand the basic concepts of computer programming, computer networks and operating systems and how to use the Internet for research and information gathering.

All this will be supported by the study of the history of information technology in the context of industrial, political, cultural and social development, theories of relationship between technologies and societies and the relationship between technological change, work and employment. You will learn about computer law, standards and computer security and will discuss ethical and cultural issues of ICT.

You can combine all this with other subjects if you choose to take IT Combined Honours Programmes; especially good complements are sociology, politics, international development.

We welcome applicants with little experience of IT and/or social science. As well as being well placed to pursue careers in the specialist technology industries, you will also be equipped for careers in advisory, management, administration and research positions.

Our main research interests are in investigating social and economic aspects of technological developments. Such investigation is parallel with understanding of the technical and structural aspects of the technologies. Our degrees do therefore underpin this direction.

The Information Technology degrees investigate the relationship between technology and society in a variety of aspects concentrating primarily on the following technologies: databases and systems development, development and creation of networks and programming. The Information Technology degree will lead the students to investigate and understand the social inter-dependencies of ICTs and society and will give them a sufficient in-depth theoretical technical and technological understanding and skill in these technologies. The students will then be able to embark on careers in the IT industry, while leaving their career path open to becoming social commentators, researchers or competent users of information technologies.

### **Information Technology at UEL**

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## **Programme structure**

The Information Technology degree programme can be taken over three or four years of full time study. The three year programme is taught at the Dockland Campus of the University of East London. Students who do not fulfil the admission requirements can undertake a four year programme by entering at our level zero Foundation programme. All our programmes can be taken in a full time or a part time mode of study. Currently we also offer the level 2 of the BSc Information Technology Single Honours programme in part time evening mode.

## **Learning environment**

While the students attend traditional lectures, they also meet in seminars and practical based workshops, in which the content of the lectures as well as the result of their independent learning and research is debated and practiced. Lectures are also given by invited speakers and visiting scholars. All our modules' material is available on UELPlus and some use UELPlus as mode of delivery.

## **Assessment**

Some of our Modules are assessed on coursework only, some have examinations as well as coursework. Students are asked to pass six 20 credit Modules a year, 360 credits for the whole degree. First level (year) marks do not count towards the final classification, the first year is for the student to develop and improve good study skills and build a knowledge base on which higher levels are built. We encourage students to achieve high standards in the first year so they can then go on to maximise their potential in the second and third year, and obtain the best possible degree.

Level three marks weigh double the level two marks towards the final award.

## **Work experience/placement opportunities**

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## **Project work**

Students on BSc Information Technology Single Honours programme will leave the programme with a large independent research-based dissertation, which they take over the period of the whole of their last year of study. This project, worth 40 credits, combines the students' knowledge and understanding of theoretical and practical aspects of ICTs, gained in Modules taken. Each student will be assigned a supervisor who will help them on a one to one basis. The project gives the students the opportunity to develop and research their own ideas and interests and leave the university with a showpiece of work for potential employers.

## **Added value**

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## **IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?**

**If you are interested in...**

- information systems design and development,
- databases and networks,
- development of information systems in institutions and on the web,
- innovation technology and cultural theories,
- development of interfaces
- programming and scripting
- economic and social and legal issues of ICTs

### **If you enjoy...**

- Intellectual challenge,
- working independently and in a group,
- learning about Information and Communication Technologies,
- evaluating and analysing issues and relationships of ICTs
- hands-on creative computer experience

### **If you want...**

- an open and flexible choice of Modules
- specialist knowledge in a particular ICT route
- full understanding of how society and construction of technologies interact
- to know how to create a web page, database, information system, computer program
- to know how to research the Internet
- discuss issues and relate them to your knowledge and understanding of your every day life
- to meet interesting people, meet new friends
- to spend three years in a culture of research, knowledge and inquiry
- the opportunity of February start
- the opportunity of Foundation programme

### **Your future career**

- in the IT and computer industries
- range of jobs involving competent decision-making on the use of ICTs
- range of jobs involving competent use of ICTs
- data / database administration
- competence in web based content
- range of jobs developing critical and research skills
- social and technical ICT commentators
- in working for NGOs, small business or large companies and organisations

### **How we support you**

We provide students with a range of written material:

- School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies Student Handbook which will give advice, help, structures of all our degrees, overview of UEL and School regulations, and all Modules on offer within the School, including their content, recommended reading and aims and objectives.

- Individual Module Handbooks which contain a detailed program of the Module lectures, seminars and workshops, Module assessment, full reading list and marking schema

### **Bonus factors**

The campus is positioned in the new commercial and financial development of London Docklands. The Docklands Light Railway, stop Cyprus, is immediately adjacent to the campus. There are great views of the docks, City of London Airport and the Isle of Dogs development.

## **Outcomes**

### **Programme aims and learning outcomes**

#### **What is this programme designed to achieve?**

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- to develop practical and conceptual skills in the effective application of IT
- to analyse the relationships between the many components of an IT system – the hardware, the software, the application, the user's skills and the individual, organisational and wider social context in which computers are used
- to develop skills associated with the use of IT systems
- to promote an understanding of theoretical perspectives on the social construction and diffusion of information and communication technologies

#### **What will you learn?**

##### **Knowledge**

- develop skills in operating ICTs and assessing their advantages and disadvantages
- examine the economic, technical, political and social factors which shape or influence the development of technologies ;
- understand ethical, legal and professional responsibilities of ICT professionals
- understand and apply theories of software interface and systems development
- understand the specialist ideas associated with areas of IT such as computer graphics, networks, database systems and the Internet
- understand the relationship between hardware and software
- investigate why and how institutions and organisations have adopted new technologies, and what changes have occurred as a result.
- Be able to independently research information sources

##### **Thinking skills**

- use theoretical concepts and perspectives to explain the development of IT systems in institutional and industrial settings
- gather, analyse and comment critically on ideas associated with IT using both traditional and modern sources

- analyse economic, social and technical factors which shape the development and implementation of computer systems and services
- critically evaluate various approaches to systems design
- develop the ability to critically evaluate ethical and professional and cultural issues of ICT

### **Subject-Based Practical skills**

- use commercial / professional computer applications
- discuss the range of ways in which technologies affect and have affected societies, the economy and cultures;
- analyse and offer solutions to commercial and institutional problems associated with IT systems
- design and write computer programmes and scripts
- specify computer systems
- research a variety of technology subjects and write reports and presentations

### **Skills for life and work (general skills)**

- critically evaluate the experience of developing a project report
- understand and utilise different research approaches
- work and research independently
- work in a group and solve problems associated with group activities
- create and deliver presentations
- write technical reports and academic papers
- use computers and application software effectively
- ability to communicate effectively
- Problem solving
- Working within time and resource constraints

## **Structure**

### **The programme structure**

#### **Introduction**

All programmes 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:

- 0 - equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 - equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

- 2 - equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 - equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M - equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

### **Credit rating**

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

### **Typical duration**

The typical duration of this programme is three years full-time or five years part-time. 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.

### **How the teaching year is divided**

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June, but some programmes also allow students to join at the start of Semester B, in February. A typical full-time student will study the equivalent of 120 credits over the year. A typical part-time student will study for one day and one evening per week and will complete 60-80 credits.

### **What you will study when**

This programme is part of a modular degree scheme. A typical full-time student will take six 20 credit modules per year. An honours degree student will complete six modules at level one, six at level 2 and six at level 3.

It is possible to bring together modules from one subject with modules from another to produce a combined programme. Subjects are offered in a variety of combinations:

- Single - 120 credits at levels one, two and three
- Major - 80 credits at levels one, two and three
- Joint - 60 credits at levels one, two and three
- Minor - 40 credits at levels one, two and three.

Modules are defined as:

- Core - Must be taken
- Option - Select from a range of identified modules within the field
- University wide option - Select from a wide range of modules across the University

The following are the core and optional requirements for the single, major, joint and minor routes for this programme

### **Extended Route (Level 0 entry)**

<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>STATUS SINGLE</b>
0	Studying in Higher Education	40	Core
0	Society and Self	20	Core
0	Creative Production	20	Option
0	Writing Practices	20	Option
0	Introduction to New Media	20	Option
0	Introduction to Film and Video Studies	20	Option
0	Understanding Cities and Communities	20	Option
0	Understanding the IPOD Generation	20	Option
0	Globalisation and Social Movements	20	Option
0	Reading and Writing for Academic Studies	20	Option
0	Multimedia Advocacy	20	Option

***120 credits from Level 0 Modules (including all cores) must be passed in order to progress to level 1***

### **Level 1 Entry**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>IT Single</b>	<b>IT Major</b>	<b>IT Joint</b>	<b>IT Minor</b>
1	Introduction to Study Skills and ICT	20	core	core	*core	n/a
1	Understanding Computer Technologies	20	core	option	core	option
1	Innovation, Tech & Culture: Theoretical Perspectives	20	core	core**	option	n/a
1	Industrial and Information Revolutions	20	option	option	option	option
1	IT and the Economy	20	option	core**	option	option
1	Web Page Production	20	core	option	option	n/a
1	University Wide Option	20	option	n/a	n/a	n/a
2	ICTs in a Global Context	20	option	Core**	option	option
2	New Tech, Work & Economy	20	option	core**	option	n/a
2	User Interface Design	20	core	option	option	n/a
2	Social Theory II, Globalisation and the Information Age	20	-	option	option	option
2	Networking	20	core	option	option	option
2	Programming and Scripting	20	core	option	n/a	n/a
2	Information Systems Development	20	core	option	option	n/a
2	Research & Employability	20	core	core	*core	n/a
3	Research and Dissertation Workshop	40	core	core	*core	n/a
3	Global Information Society	20	option	option	option	n/a
3	Systems Design, Work & the User	20	core	option	option	option

3	Dynamic Content for the WWW	20	option	option	option	n/a
3	Innovation and Regulation of ICTs	20	option***	option	option	option
3	Object Oriented Programme Design	20	option***	option	n/a	n/a
3	Surveillance, Technology & Society	20	core	option	option	option
3	University Wide Option	20	option	option	n/a	n/a

\* skills module: must be taken unless equivalent skills module is being taken in other half of programme

\*\* one of these must be taken on the major route

\*\*\* can be replaced with a University Wide Option Module if required

### **Requirements for gaining an award**

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level one or higher.

In order to gain a Foundation Degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 240 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher

(A foundation degree is linked to a named Honours degree onto which a student may progress after successful completion of the Foundation degree.)

### **Degree Classification**

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 2 or level 3 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 3, the award classification is determined by calculating:

The arithmetic mean of the best 100 credits at level 3  $\times 2/3$  + The arithmetic mean of the next best 100 credits at levels 2 and/or 3  $\times 1/3$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

- 70% - 100% First Class Honours
- 60% - 69% Second Class Honours, First Division
- 50% - 59% Second Class Honours, Second Division
- 40% - 49% Third Class Honours
- 0% - 39% Not passed

## **Assessment**

### **Teaching, learning and assessment**

#### **Teaching and learning**

##### **Knowledge is developed through**

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Tutorials
- Reading and research for assignments and projects

##### **Thinking skills are developed through**

- Discussions in seminars and groups and individual tutorials
- Reading and research for assignment and projects
- Application of critical evaluation to variety of issues

##### **Practical skills are developed through**

- Workshop activities and exercises
- Continual independent practice and use of technologies
- Assignment work with a practical element
- Individual projects

##### **Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through**

- Individual and group presentations
- Information Technology workshops
- Researching and writing of essays and projects
- Presentation of written assignment work
- Solving problems through real life scenarios

#### **Assessment**

### **Knowledge is assessed by**

- Interim tests and final examinations
- Essay based coursework
- Technical Report based coursework often associated with a practical element
- Knowledge used in presentation

### **Thinking skills are assessed by**

- Interim tests and final examinations with essay type questions
- Ability to Evaluate of scenarios
- Application of knowledge and theories in essay based coursework
- Analysis of issues in essay based coursework, exams and presentations
- Coursework with critical analysis of practical elements

### **Practical skills are assessed by**

- Assignments demonstrating the ability to use software and hardware to produce an end product (graphics, database, CDROM, computer program, web page etc)
- Assignments demonstration the ability to analyse existing information systems
- Demonstrating a competency in workshops

### **Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by**

- Quality of written work in assignments
- Strict assignment deadlines
- Group assignments
- On-line assessment of group collaboration
- Quality, appropriateness and clarity of presentations

## **Quality**

### **How we assure the quality of this programme**

#### **Before this programme started**

Before the programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

## **How we monitor the quality of this programme**

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the University's Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

## **The role of the programme committee**

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the University's quality assurance procedures.

## **The role of external examiners**

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

## **Listening to the views of students**

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting 2 times year)
- Personal Tutors
- Student Enquiry Desk and Student Support Office

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Circulating the minutes of the Field Committee
- School Website
- Providing details on the programme noticeboards
- Providing information at Student Enquiry Desk

## Listening to the views of others

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## Further Information

### Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
-	-	-	-	-

### Where you can find further information

Please contact the programme Leader for further information.

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site
- The student handbook (available at Student Enquiry Desk)
- Module study guides (available at Student Enquiry Desk)
- UEL Manual of Regulations and Policies <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- Departmental web pages <http://www.uel.ac.uk/hss/index.htm>