

Business Information Systems

Final award	MSc
Intermediate awards available	PGCert, PGDip
UCAS code	N/A
Details of professional body accreditation	-
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	-
Date specification last up-dated	November 2013

Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
FTMS, Malaysia	Entire Programme	No	Yes	Full-time and Part-time
Linton Education Group, Malaysia. This programme is no longer recruiting.	Entire Programme	No	Yes	Full-time and Part-time
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-

Profile

The summary - programme advertising leaflet

Programme content

The aim of this programme is to provide students with theoretical knowledge, advanced practical skills and experience to enable them to develop such abilities that would make them essential to supporting corporate systems and driving information systems enabled change at senior management level.

Business Information Systems at UEL

The programme provides specialist technological updating and a broadening of the horizons of participants by considering the use of Information Systems in stimulating and harnessing change at corporate environments. It offers the opportunity to expand on existing and gain new valuable knowledge into the use of information systems in a corporate context.

There are opportunities to study the very latest developments from the standpoint of theoretical research or with a view to complex systems construction.

Admission requirements

Applicants are normally expected to hold a first degree in Computing, Science or Business studies. In the case of non Computing graduates some computing experience or a substantial element of studies should involve information technology related or numerate subjects. The applicants should hold a British award classification of no less than a lower second class honours (2:2). Alternatively, a degree qualification of a standard equivalent from a recognised university outside the U.K is expected.

In the case of applicants whose first degree is from overseas, then minimum overall IELTS 6.0 with a minimum 6.0 in writing & speaking and 5.5 in reading & listening or TOEFL 250/600 is required. International qualifications will be checked for appropriate matriculation to UK Higher Education postgraduate programmes.

Students that apply to enter stages of the programme may be admitted through normal Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes, or through an approved articulation agreement. Therefore such applicants must be able to demonstrate and evidence that they have the required learning outcomes as listed in the modules for which they are seeking exemption.

Programme structure

The programme is offered in full-time mode and part-time mode, commencing September or February. The full time mode consists of two 15-week semesters plus a 14-week dissertation project. The part time mode consists of four 15-week semesters plus a 28-week dissertation project. A full time student will study two 30-credit modules per semester whereas a part time student will study one 30-credit module per semester. For both modes of study the dissertation project may occur during the summer period. 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. However, this may impact on the overall duration of the study period. Students will be required to complete their programme within six years from initial registration.

Learning environment

This programme utilises a mixture of learning methods that focus on and maximises the student learning experience through:

- A series of lectures and seminars that promote student participation
- A number of tutorial and practical sessions that enforce student learning
- A number of problem solving, individual and group, activities that enhance student understanding and skills
- A series of student based activities such as presentations
- A web-based learning system that supports students in various aspects of their studies

Assessment

To reflect the programme objectives and learning outcomes each taught module is usually assessed through a combination of various assessment techniques. These typically include group and individual work, written reports, examinations, and essays. The project module is assessed in terms of a proposal and the dissertation.

Relevance to work/profession

-

Thesis/Dissertation/project work

The dissertation gives the student an opportunity to apply the discipline and skills of the programme to an individually selected topic requiring a measure of original development, providing a vehicle for conducting an in-depth research investigation, analysis and critical review of relevant material.

Added value

The programme caters for the need of much sought after practical and applicable skills as well as academic knowledge to allow graduates to gain important roles in a variety of industry and business sectors.

Your future career

The programme provides for a wide range of career paths from specific Information Systems Management related positions as well as more hybrid management / Information Systems specialist positions. These are needed to fill the growing need for companies to have key management positions filled with personnel who can understand the challenges of the particular industry but are also able to make best productive use of their Information Systems facilities in supporting their strategic objectives.

Moreover, the programme provides the necessary knowledge for graduates who wish to engage in further study for a PhD degree and possibly follow a career in academia.

How we support you

UEL and the School of Computing, Information Technology and Engineering have in place a number of mechanisms to support you throughout your studies. A personal tutor is allocated to each student at the start of the programme. The personal tutor is available to help you in your academic progress as well as in any general issues that you might face during your studies. An appropriate project supervisor is also allocated to every student who takes the dissertation project to provide support and knowledge throughout the project duration. For each module there is a module leader who can help with any issues around that module. There is also a programme leader to help you with any issues you might have with the programme. Last but not least, counsellors are available for consultation through the student services.

Bonus factors

Students attend a research methods seminars / workshops which allow them the opportunity of investigating a variety of contemporary methodological frameworks and research methods so as to prepare them for the individual research dissertation.

Outcomes

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Expand your knowledge with a balance of theory and advanced practical skills.
- Gain experiences to enable you to develop a sound knowledge and analytical ability.
- Enhance your intellectual and professional development.
- Provide the opportunity for future employment at a senior level

What will you learn?

Knowledge

- demonstrate a critical understanding of and ability in the tools and techniques of the analysis of IS and requirements
- demonstrate a critical understanding of Global Technology Management and issues related to ICT

Thinking skills

- demonstrate a critical understanding of the theory and practice of IS application within the context of business enterprise.
- demonstrate an understanding of principles and practices derived from each of the modules studied and integrate and apply the knowledge and skills gained, in a new area or form, to enhance the performance of an enterprise
- be able to contribute to the development of related disciplines by research.

Subject-Based Practical skills

- demonstrate a critical understanding of and ability in the tools, techniques and equipment used in the development of IS applications
- demonstrate fundamental management skills and techniques relating to the leadership of projects.

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

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 **180 for Masters, 60 for PGCert, 120 for PGDip.**

Typical duration

The typical duration of this programme is one year full-time or two 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 is divided into two semesters of roughly equal length. A typical student registered in a full-time attendance mode will study two 30 credit modules per semester and a typical student registered in a part-time attendance mode will study one or two modules per semester. The advanced independent research module may occur during the summer period.

What you will study when

The programme is modular in construction and modules are all Core (must be taken).

Semester	Module Code	Module title	Credit	status
A	CN7006	Rapid Application Development	30	Core
A	CN7005	Project Management	30	Core
B	CN7008	Global Sustainable ICT Management	30	Core
B	CN7012	Database Systems	30	Core
A,B,C	CN7000	Dissertation	60	Core

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain a Postgraduate Certificate, you will need to obtain 60 credits at Level M.

In order to gain a Postgraduate Diploma, you will need to obtain 120 credits at Level M

In order to obtain a Masters, you will need to obtain 180 credits at Level M.

These credits will include a 60 credit level M core module of advanced independent research (Dissertation).

Students continuing to the MSc award will not be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma

Masters Award Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Masters award then the award classification is determined by calculating the arithmetic mean of all marks 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% Distinction

60% - 69% Merit

50% - 59% Pass

0% - 49% Not Passed

Assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- Participation in lectures, tutorials and workshops
- Directed and general reading
- Primary and secondary research, e.g. using the Internet or Learning Resource Centre

Thinking skills are developed through

- Successful completion of set assessment tasks
- Self-appraisal and self-evaluation
- Critical evaluation of concepts, assumptions, arguments and data

Practical skills are developed through

- use of general IT applications such as word processors and spreadsheets etc
- use of specialised IT applications such as program development environments

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

- working in groups to complete work set, such as presentations
- managing time to complete assessments by deadlines

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- examinations
- multiple choice tests
- extended essays and reports

Thinking skills are assessed by

- all assessment tasks set, particularly those requiring critical evaluation
- use of appropriate problem solving skills

Practical skills are assessed by

- assessment tasks requiring use of general and specialised IT applications
- use of equipment in practicals and presentations

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

- evidence of group and team working
- ability to work to time constraints

Quality

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this 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 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 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.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future

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 per year)
- Programme evaluations

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- providing details on the programme notice board

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Questionnaires to former students
- Annual student satisfaction questionnaire
- Industrial liaison committee

Further Information

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- [The UEL web site](#)
- The student handbook
- Module study guides
- [UEL Manual of General Regulations](#)
- [UEL Quality Manual](#)
- [Regulations for the Academic Framework](#)
- [School web page](#)