Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**MSc Information Systems and Management**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TMSIYMNG_C
5	*UCAS code*	N/A
6	**Home Department**	Computer Science and Information Systems
7	**Exit Award(s)**	PG Dip, PG Cert
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	1 year full-time 2 years part time – maximum 4 years
9	**Mode of Study**	FT/PT
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	7
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	Department of Management (DoM) Department of Geography (DoG)
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Group**	N/A

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**
	Main Aims: To build on students' understanding of information systems, computing or management by offering a one-year full-time (or two-years part-time) programme across more than one of the following areas of advanced study: • Information management; • Information Systems development; • Information systems based change management; • Computing based innovation; and enable students to demonstrate the ability to contribute to the management of the information systems field through a dissertation that researches a current phenomenon in the field or justifies and develops an artefact, e.g. a computer program, useful to specific current contexts in the field. Students who complete the programme successfully will have gained an in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge in their chosen areas of study, which they will be able to use for the: • analysis of problems; • evaluation of technology options; • deployment of appropriate solutions;

- research into, or development and deployment of, new information-based technologies;

in administrative and commercial enterprises as well as markets.

Distinctive Features:

The programme is distinct from the department's other Masters offerings in that it offers the opportunity to deepen and extend specific relevant knowledge whilst providing the opportunity to add new skills and understanding in either computing or management. It is distinct from the department's generalist programmes in that it facilitates mostly mid-career entrants as well as graduates from the Information Systems oriented programmes.

It is distinct from the Schools specialist programmes in that it does not focus on a particular aspect of Computing but allows students to build on existing knowledge and extend their understanding of multiple disciplines.

15	**Entry Criteria**

Students are admitted if they hold a good degree that demonstrates previous knowledge of Information Systems, including algorithmic programming, or Management principles. Students with degrees including both are especially welcome.

In line with Birkbeck's ethos of providing life-long learning opportunities for those in work, the programme will also admit mature students who have substantial evidenced experience of Information Development or information Systems based organisational or market change. A mixture of taught knowledge and experience may be used to meet this criterion.

Students who have no evidenced knowledge of algorithmic programming are admitted to the Management Entry Stream. All other students are admitted to the Computing Entry Stream.

16	**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:

Subject Specific:
1. demonstrate an advanced level of understanding and ability to make decisions about recently emerged information technologies;
2. demonstrate an advanced level of understanding and ability to make decisions about approaches to their integration with modern organisations or markets;
3. demonstrate an advanced level of understanding and ability to make decisions about the management of the innovation that the deployment of information systems implies;

Intellectual:
4. critically analyse problems in socio-technical systems and identify appropriate solutions;

5. evaluate technologies and their uses and effect in human activity systems;
6. select appropriate methods of investigation of problems of research in socio-technical contexts;

Personal and Social:
7. Work and learn independently;
8. Work and learn collaboratively;
9. Plan work and work to deadlines;

Practical:
10. plan implement and report on a research project or an implementation-based dissertation;
11. Develop and implement a computer program.

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

Lecturing:

This is a major vehicle of knowledge transfer. However, most modules mix other activities with lectures on any particular evening. Mature students can be highly interactive and staff are encouraged to obtain student feedback about areas that may need deeper attention.

Group Tutorials:

Several modules mix lectures with work in small groups, in which higher levels of student interaction are possible. This works particularly well with complicated subjects where the students collectively perform Library Research in a topic area.

Written Exercises (Essays & Critiques):

Feedback from written essays encourages students to develop appropriate formal and precise writing habits. It leads students to express themselves in a structured manner in writing. Major essays are completed in several Management modules and reflective critiques are required in modules such as Project Management for Informatics.

Laboratory Based Exercises:

Computing laboratory exercises are used to give the students hands-on experience in developing information systems artifacts such as computer programs. Some of these exercises are assessed.

Group Exercises:

Group exercises are used in several modules e.g. Project Management for Informatics. Group exercises improve students' social interactions and their ability to work in teams.

Presentations:

Presentations are a powerful learning experience. Students giving presentations develop their powers of information discovery, equip themselves with a deep understanding of the topics to be presented and transfer some of their knowledge to their peers who at the same time acquire skills in verbal academic discourse. In some modules, groups of

students research a topic and the group delivers a presentation. Peer Assessment is used within the group to reward leadership and penalise laggards whilst other peer marks come from the rest of the class. Individual presentations of published research papers are used in the module Project Management for Informatics.

Project /Dissertation:

Students may take a Project or Dissertation supervised in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (DCSIS) following a proposal essay from which marks accrue. Under DCSIS supervision the project may also be a piece of quantitative or qualitative research on an Information Systems or Computing subject relevant to the modules that they have studied on the programme. Alternatively, they may opt to submit a project based on the development of a computing artefact e.g. a computer program.

All projects/dissertations require the students to take an integrative approach to a major piece of work. They are required to set a boundary for the work, formulate their aims and objectives, gather information, analyse information, reflect on their work and produce a substantial report.

18	**Programme Structure**
	Description:

Students enter the Computing Entry stream if they are able to demonstrate competence in algorithmic programming through

1. The transcript from a degree in Computing, Information Systems or Engineering;
2. Reference validated, substantial programming work experience.

Students who do not demonstrate this competence are described as belonging to the Management Entry Stream.

"**A Year 1 Part-time Computing Entry Student** should take:

Information Systems (15 credits) in the Autumn and Spring Term;

and three 15 credit options in either term.

A Year 1 Part-time Management Entry Student will normally take:

Introduction to Software Development (30 credits) in the Autumn Term.

Information Systems (15 credits) in the Autumn and Spring Term of Year 1.

and one 15-credit option in either term.

A Year 2 Part-time Computing or Management Entry Student will normally take:

a further 60 credits of taught options before proceeding to the 60-credit dissertation in the Summer Term.

Optional modules may be selected from the offerings of the DCSIS, DoM or DoG shown in the lists below.

Students must not take more than 120 credits of taught modules.

The programme consists of modules. The syllabus for each module consists of a closely related set of topics, as indicated by the title of the module. The list below also indicates the academic level of the module, and a value in credits.

All modules are at level 7 except the optional Database Management, which is at level 6.

Most modules are taught in one term and have a value of 15 credits.

Information Systems is taught over two terms and has a value of 15 credits.
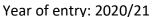
Introduction to Software Development is taught in 1 term and has a value of 30 credits.

Most optional modules are taught in one term and have a value of 15 credits.

The dissertation has a value of 60 credits and must have relevance to at least one module taken in the programme.

In order to graduate it is necessary to accumulate 180 credits. Under normal circumstances the maximum number of taught credits that can be accumulated in an academic year is 90 credits.

Full Time Management Entry - 1 Year

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	COIY059H7	Information Systems	15	Compulsory
7	BUCI021S7	Introduction to Software Development	30	Compulsory
6 / 7		Select 5 modules from available options valued at 15 Credits each (see the list in "Part Time" below)	75	Options

Dissertation Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	BUCI012D7	MSc Information Systems and Management Project	60	Core

Full Time Computing Entry - 1 Year

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	COIY059H7	Information Systems	15	Compulsory
6 / 7		Select 7 modules from available options valued at 15 Credits each (see the list in "Part Time" below)	105	Options

Dissertation Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	BUCI012D7	MSc Information Systems and Management Project	60	Core

Part-Time programme - 2 years

Year 1 Part Time (maximum credits taken 75)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	COIY059H7	Information Systems	15	Compulsory
7	BUCI021S7	Introduction to Software Development	30	Compulsory For Management Entry Stream
6 / 7		Select at least 3 modules for Computing Entry Stream and one module for Management Entry Stream from options in Year 2	45 or 15	Options

Year 2				
Select options to complete 120 credits of taught modules from indicative lists below				
Dissertation Module				
7	BUCI012D7	MSc Information Systems and Management Project	60	Core
Indicative Lists of Options				
The options below are indicative and *one* may be substituted by a module consonant with the aims of the programme with the approval of the Programme Director. Note that not all optional modules may be available in any year.				
Department of Computer Science and Information Systems Modules				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status**
7	COIY066H7	Project Management for Informatics	15	optional
7	BUCI029H7	Cloud Computing	15	optional
7	COIY060H7	Computer Systems	15	optional
7	COIY061H7	Data & Knowledge Management	15	optional
7	COIY058H7	Fundamentals of Computing	15	optional
7	COIY063H7	Internet and Web technologies	15	optional
7	BUCI040H7	Information and Network Security	15	optional
7	COIY062H7	Object-oriented Design and Programming	15	optional
7	BUCI031H7	Programming Paradigms and Languages	15	optional
7	COIY060H7	Search Engines and Web Navigation	15	optional
7	COIY053H7	Semantic Web	15	optional
6	COIY028H6	Database Management (cannot be taken with COIY061H7 Data and Knowledge Management)	15	optional
Department of Management Modules				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status**
7	MOMN001H7	The Creative Industries: Theory and Context Part 1	15	optional
7	MOMN061H7	Digital Creativity and New Media	15	optional
7	MOMN043H7	Innovation: Management & Policy	15	optional
7	MOMN042H7	Innovation Systems, Networks & Social Capital	15	optional
7	MOMN038H7	Intellectual Capital & Competitiveness	15	optional
7	MOMN010H7	Principles of Organisational Management	15	optional
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods 1		Strongly advised if the final dissertation is not a Computing Implementation

7	MOMN082H7	Strategic Management	15	optional
Department of Geography Modules				
7	GGPH035H7	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	15	optional
7	SSGE048H7	Geovisualization and Web GIS	15	optional

19	**Regulations**
	• **_Admissions_** This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf • **_Programme Regulations_** This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations • **_Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)_** N/A

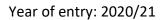| 20	**Student Attendance Framework – in brief**
	The full version of the 'Student Attendance Framework' is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf . **Principle** Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded. **Attendance expectation** Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations. **E-Registers** All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

21	**Student Support and Guidance**
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities

22	**Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards**
	The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback,

student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.
	For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality

23	**Programme Director**	Dr. Paul Yoo
24	**Start Date** *(term/year)*	October 2009
25	**Date approved by TQEC**	Spring 2009
26	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Summer 2009
27	**Date(s) updated/amended**	23 July 2020