

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MSc Information Technology				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMSITECH_C				
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	N/A				
6	Home Department	Computer Science and Information Systems				
7	Exit Award(s)	MSc Information Systems Management PGDip/PGCert Information Technology				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 year FT or 2 years PT				
9	Mode of Study	FT	✓	PT	✓	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	Management; Geography				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	British Computer Society (http://www.bcs.org/)				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	Computing				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>The programme provides students who hold a first degree in a subject other than computing with knowledge and understanding of information systems, computers and computing, the use of information systems in organisations, and the management of information technology (IT) and information systems (IS).</p> <p>For students without previous experience in this area, it will provide a platform for an entry to informatics practice, including the ability to deliver operational information processing artefacts, and to appraise and manage the deployment of such. The programme will offer opportunities to study the strategic, tactical and operational management of informatics planning, analysis, design, development, processes and assets from social, technical and socio-technical perspectives. For students already in informatics practice, it will provide opportunities to both broaden and deepen their skills.</p>

15	Entry Criteria
	<p>A 2nd class honours degree from a British university, or equivalent, in any subject other than Computer Science or Information Systems. Applicants with less than the required level of academic qualification may be considered if they have significant relevant experience in the IT industry.</p>

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an advanced level of understanding and the ability to make decisions about a wide range of recently emerged information technologies. • Demonstrate an advanced level of understanding of computers, computing, software development, and how to design and implement software systems. • Demonstrate an advanced level of understanding of approaches to the integration of recently emerged information technologies with modern organisations or markets. • Demonstrate an advanced level of understanding of the management of the innovation that deployment of recently emerged information technologies implies. • Identify appropriate technical and socio-technical solutions. • Evaluate technologies and their uses and effect in human activity systems. • Select appropriate methods of investigation of problems of research or development in technical and socio-technical contexts. • Work and learn independently. • Work and learn collaboratively. • Plan work and work to deadlines. • Plan, implement and report on a project in the area of information technology.
17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Formal lectures are the principal teaching method, but in most subjects these are enhanced with practical activities which may be based on computer laboratory, group collaborations or presentations. There is a significant element of practical coursework which the students carry out sometimes in supported lab sessions and also in the student's own time. Each student also undertakes an individual project of their own devising and is supervised by a member of academic staff. The project provides an opportunity for students to investigate an aspect of the subject that particularly interests them and either to build a larger and more complex system than they encounter in the assignments or to perform an orderly piece of social science research into a currently emerging information-oriented phenomenon.</p> <p>The programme is modular, and students will be assessed in each of their seven taught modules and in the project. To pass a module or the project, students must obtain a mark of at least 50%.</p> <p>Awards of MSc degree (at Distinction, Merit or Pass) or Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate will be in accordance with the College's Common Awards Scheme.</p> <p>The assessment methods used ensure that the learning outcomes of the programme are addressed, while taking into account the needs and background of the student body. There is an appropriate balance between coursework, written examinations and the project,</p>

	<p>allowing examiners to discriminate between different levels of achievement. On-going formative feedback is provided to students by means of a suitable range of coursework assignments.</p> <p>Taught modules are typically assessed by means of a 2-hour written exam. In addition, there is a compulsory coursework component in many of the modules.</p> <p>The project is assessed by means of a written project proposal (of about 2000-3000 words) and written project report (of about 8,000 to 12,000 words), weighted 20% and 80%, respectively.</p>
--	--

18	<p>Programme Description</p> <p>There are three compulsory modules offered in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (DCSIS), which need to be taken by every student studying on the MSc in Information Technology: Introduction to Software Development (ISD), Information Systems, and Concepts of Computation.</p> <p>Students choose four additional modules from a range of available options. Some of these optional modules are offered by the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (DCSIS), others by the Department of Management (DoM) or the Department of Geography. The optional modules below are indicative and may be substituted by similar modules consonant with the aims of the programme with the approval of the Programme Director. The list of optional modules available may vary from year to year, and choices are subject to timetabling constraints and student demand.</p> <p>Students with demonstrated significant programming background may be exempt from the Introduction to Software Development module and allowed to choose two additional optional modules. Supporting documents demonstrating such background must be provided when applying for the programme. The decision whether the background is considered significant is taken by the admission tutors.</p> <p>In addition to taught modules, students will also need to undertake a project focusing on development of an Information System. The project requires implementation of a piece of software essential for an information system. In addition, the project must include extensive work on one of three aspects of the information system: A) organisation and requirements, B) development of a system with multiple modules using state-of art software methodologies, C) evaluation and analysis. This project can be also specialised in learning technologies.</p> <p>Students can obtain the MSc Information Systems Management exit award, if they complete at least two modules taught by DoM from the list of optional modules, and their final project focuses on the aspect A) above.</p>
----	---

Year of entry: 2021/22

	<p>If students do not complete the required number of modules to obtain an MSc award, they can obtain the following awards, if they meet the corresponding requirements:</p> <p>Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip): must have passed modules to the value of 120 credits at level 7 or level 6 (no more than 30 at level 6);</p> <p>Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert): must have passed modules to the value of 60 credits at level 7.</p> <p>Each taught module is worth either 15 or 30 credits; the project is worth 60 credits.</p>
--	---

19	Programme Structure			
Full-Time programme – 1 year				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	BUCI021S7	Introduction to Software Development	30	Compulsory
7	COIY059H7	Information Systems	15	Compulsory
7	BUCI068H7	Concepts of Computation	15	Compulsory
7		Options (4 x 15 credit modules)	60	Optional
7	BUCI079D7 or BUCI002D7	Project – MSc Information Technology Project or Project in Learning Technologies	60	Core for the MSc Award
Part-Time programme – 2 years				
(Year 1 part-time students must take the compulsory modules ---ISD, IS, and CoC --- and may take up to one other module from the available options.)				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	BUCI021S7	Introduction to Software Development	30	Compulsory
7	COIY059H7	Information Systems	15	Compulsory
7	BUCI068H7	Concepts of Computation	15	Compulsory
7		Option (1 x 15 credit)	15	Optional
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7		Options (3 x 15)	45	Optional
7	BUCI079D7 or BUCI002D7	Project - MSc Information Technology Project or Project in Learning Technologies	60	Core for the MSc Award

Indicative List of Options				
7	BUCI040H7	Information and Network Security	15	Optional
7	BUCI083H7	Applied Software Engineering	15	Optional
7	BUCI059H7	Interactive Systems [unavailable in 1st year]	15	Optional
7	COIY063H7	Internet and Web Technologies	15	Optional
7	COIY023H7	Applied Machine Learning [unavailable in 1st year]	15	Optional
6	COIY028H6	Database Management	15	Optional
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	Optional
7	MOMN061H7	Digital Creativity and New Media Management	15	Optional
7	MOMN038H7	Intellectual Capital & Competitiveness	15	Optional
7	MOMN043H7	Innovation: Management and Policy	15	Optional
7	MOMN082H7	Strategic Management	15	Optional
7	GGPH035H7	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	15	Optional

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Additional programme-specific information
	To obtain the MSc Information Systems Management exit award students must complete at least two optional modules from the Department of Management and their final project must include study of an organisational aspect of an information system.

21	Programme Director	Dr Vladislav Ryzhikov
22	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2009
23	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2009
24	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2009
25	Date(s) updated/amended	7 December 2020 (for 2021/22)