

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	Information Systems and Technology
Award	MSc
School	School of Informatics
Department or equivalent	Department of Computer Science
Programme code	PSISTE
Type of study	Full Time Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

#### Aims

The programme aims to educate and develop students in those broad and deep aspects of information systems concerned with their implementation in a wide variety of organisational environments. The focus is on the utilisation of technology by human beings in an information context. The programme regards information, `systems and `technology of equal importance and it emphasises the human aspects and human environment of information systems, examining the technology in the context of human activities and purposes. It takes an `info-socio-technical approach to organisational information systems.

There are three types of awards that you can get (please see the section “**WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?**”).

#### **Postgraduate Certificate in Information Systems and Technology**

For all of you completing the Postgraduate Certificate you will have had the opportunity to examine the theories related to the analysis, design, and evaluation of information systems, and demonstrated sufficient ability in at least four taught modules (60 credits), which can be any combination of modules among the available ones.

#### **Postgraduate Diploma in Information Systems and Technology**

For all of you completing the Postgraduate Diploma, in addition to the above you will have explored the theory and practice, and demonstrated ability in all the different aspects of information systems and technology, considering such aspects from different perspectives and demonstrating critical insight on the applicable methods and techniques used in information systems design. You will have demonstrated ability in analysing, designing, developing and evaluating information systems, which equates to passing all eight taught modules, worth 120 credits.

#### **MSc in Information Systems and Technology**

For all of you completing the MSc in IS&T, in addition to the above you will have demonstrated original application of knowledge in the area, either through the analysis, design, and evaluation of information and/or information systems, the design and implementation of an information system that meets a client’s needs, or the critical

evaluation and extension of the knowledge in the area through a research-led project, which can involve the development of software artefacts as well, e.g. to support information management. This will be achieved through your individual project, a substantial module worth 60 credits that you can commence once you have successfully passed all your taught modules.

## **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

**On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:**

### Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the characteristics of information management, information systems and information technology, and their utilisation within organisations to carry out roles professionally.
- Evaluate and select appropriate methods and technologies for representing, managing, and disseminating information, to meet business needs whilst adhering to social, legal and ethical constraints.
- Use comprehensive knowledge of selected specialised areas of information systems and technology (IS&T) in the implementation of information systems to meet business needs whilst adhering to social, legal and ethical constraints. .

### Skills:

- Demonstrate the evaluation, communication and research skills required to pursue a professional career in IS&T.
- Demonstrate the conceptual and analytical skills to determine the business, social, legal, ethical and technical aspects of organisational information systems.
- Contribute to information system implementation, using sound principles of analysis and design.
- Apply an extensive body of knowledge and skills in ICTs (information and communication technologies) and information management.
- Demonstrate extensive practical competence in a range of current software systems.
- Investigate independently and systematically a research and/or problem solving question in IS&T (with supervision), using the professional skills developed on the course.
- Coherently summarise complex, subject specific information and present it to others in a structured and professional manner using oral and written presentation skills.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyse critically the knowledge in and the latest developments of particular specialised aspect of information systems and technology

- Apply an understanding of information and knowledge to the implementation of information systems.
- Apply an in-depth knowledge in selected specialised areas of IS&T to the analysis, design and implementation of information systems in human environments.
- Apply in-depth systematic knowledge of a particular area of IS&T to undertake independent research and/or problem solving.

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate a considered appreciation of the necessary legal, ethical and professional values appropriate to the provision of information services.
- Respect the work and intellectual property of others and reference it in a professional manner that is clear, consistent and unambiguous.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the value of scientific and other research within their discipline from a critical perspective.

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

The programme combines lectures, practical sessions, individual and group working, with the use of a managed learning environment, to provide a range of learning and assessment methods appropriate to the variety of the modules included.

Students have a wide range of subject disciplines and varying amounts of experience in various organisational contexts. They are both full-time and part-time, face-to-face and flexible mode, and come from home and overseas. This mix provides many learning opportunities for students to contribute to modules and for students to learn from each other, in class, practicals and coursework. The variety of learning modes helps to support this student heterogeneity.

The project is a substantial part of the degree offering students the opportunity to demonstrate comprehensive understanding of a particular specialism, and a systematic and professional approach. It is a substantive task that requires students to investigate a chosen area of information systems and technology.

**WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment is within each module, including the dissertation. Assessment methods vary according to the nature of the material. A combination of individual written assignments, exercises and unseen written examination is the norm, but some modules may use other methods, including individual practical exercises and group work projects. Many assessments have an element of choice, allowing students to focus on aspects of interest to them.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

[https://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/68921/assessment\\_and\\_feedback\\_policy.pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf)

### Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The pass mark for each module is 50%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 15 credits at first or resit attempt, you may be allowed compensation if:
  - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the What will I Study section of the programme specification), and
  - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme, and
  - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
  - An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you will be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks will be retained in the record of marks and your

original module mark will be used for the purpose of your Award calculation.

2. Resit: Where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award, as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

[http://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc](http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc)

#### WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

##### Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Dissertation	7	60	33
Taught	7	120	66

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without Classification	50

##### Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without Classification	50

##### Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	60	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without Classification	50

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Five core modules plus three elective modules; this is followed by the dissertation component. Optionally, the dissertation can be carried out within a period of internship.

All students enrol on an MSc. Students who wish to withdraw before completion of the MSc, or are required to withdraw by the Assessment Board having failed to meet the requirements to progress, may be eligible for lower awards.

### Taught component

The taught component is taken in one of two standard length patterns: full-time (one year) and part-time (two years).

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Systems Specification	INM312	15	C	Y	7
Databases	INM343	15	C	Y	7
Information and Knowledge Management	INM351	15	C	N	7
Research Methods and Professional Issues	INM373	15	C	Y**	7
Information Architecture	INM401	15	C	Y	7
Information Retrieval	INM305	15	E	Y	7
Web Applications Development	INM316	15	E	Y	7
Business Engineering with ERP Solutions	INM342	15	E	Y	7
Information Law and Policy	INM361	15	E	Y	7
Project Management	INM372	15	E	Y	7
Data Visualization*	INM402	15	E	Y	7
Business Intelligence and Analytics *	INM451	15	E	Y	7
Libraries and publishing in the information society	INM380	15	E	Y	7
Information Organisation+	INM303	15	E	Y	7

\*Students may only take one of INM402 or INM451 as an option.

+Students who take INM303 must also take INM305 as an option.

\*\* Compensation will only be applied at resit.

### Dissertation component

A dissertation project of 60 credits is required for the Masters award.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Individual Project	INM363	60	C	N	7

INM373 Research Methods and Professional Issues must be passed with a mark of at least 50% without compensation to proceed with INM363 Individual Project.

### **TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?**

Former students have gone on to do a wider number of roles including Database administrator, project manager and analyst programmer.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to:

<http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

### **WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

Students who successfully complete the taught part of their course without re-sits have the option of doing an internship on which they can base their dissertation. The internship period is from July to December. Students produce an internship-based proposal along with a back-up non-internship-based proposal by the deadlines stipulated in the MSc Project Guidance Document.

As well as the support of their academic supervisor, students on internship are supported by a work-based learning advisor from the Professional Liaison Unit.

Further details of the Postgraduate Internship Scheme are available from the Professional Liaison Unit - <http://www.city.ac.uk/informatics/professional-liaison-unit>

### **WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?**

Accredited by BCS The Chartered Institute for IT as partially meeting the educational requirement for CITP registration for a period of 5 intakes from the 2011 intake, up to and including the 2015 intake, in the full time and part time modes.

Please contact BCS directly for information about partial accreditation and further details regarding the CITP registration process: <http://www.bcs.org>

### **HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

Each application is considered on its merits and is given full consideration by admissions staff.

The usual minimum entrance requirement is a good second class honours degree from a UK university, a recognised equivalent from an accredited overseas institution or an equivalent professional qualification. Some IT degrees may not be appropriate (if their content is too similar).

For those students whose first language is not English, one of the following qualifications

is also required:

- IELTS: 6.5 (minimum of 6.0 in all four components)

Please note that TOEFL is not accepted as evidence of English language ability for students that require a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies.

To ensure that students are properly prepared for study, and to maximise the benefit gained from the course, admissions staff will also take close account of the areas and nature of previous academic and other achievements.

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