MSc Library and Information Sciences online chat session

This online chat session is for students interested in studying our MA/MSc Library Science and MSc Information Science courses. The session will be run by academic staff, giving you the opportunity to ask questions about your chosen course at City, University of London. As this is a typed chat group session, you will be able to see the answers to questions asked by other applicants.

Hi my name's Dr. Joseph Dunne-Howrie. I'm a lecturer in library and information science. I look forward to answering your questions about our degree programme at City.

Hello, my name is Shanice and I work in the marketing team here at City. I look forward to answering your questions :)

Thank you for joining us for today's CityChat session. This session is for students interested in studying our MA/MSc Library Science and MSc Information Science courses. This session runs from 16:30 - 17:30 (GMT). This is an open chat session for you to ask any questions you have regarding these courses and life at City, University of London. During the session, we may also share videos, polls or documents related to your course.

To ask a question, please type it in the chat box. Your question will not post straight away - it will be sent to our Moderators who will type an answer back. Once their answer is complete, it will be published with your question. Please make sure you say which course you have applied to when you post your question. You are also welcome to post just saying hi and introducing yourself!

City, University of London: Campus tour

[Image of campus tour]

https://youtu.be/yFIFxjXWxrg

Hi, I am [Redacted] and interested in applying for the MA Library and Information Science course.

Firstly, I’d be interested in how common it is to have international students in this program? And if you have a sense of numbers, maybe what the typical percentage is for US students in the program?

Have you had students whose specialism exist in the arts and crafts? And what careers have they gone on to?
Hi, we attract students from a wide range of disciplines, including the arts. In fact, my background is in theatre and performance (this was my PhD subject). I run the DocPerform project with the head of the department Dr Lyn Robinson that investigates new document formats, including live art and computer games.

**Where are you from?**

International (not EU) 100.0%

Have you had students whose specialism exist in the arts and crafts? And what careers have they gone on to?

Careers for our students include academic and research librarians, data managers, curators and archivists. LIS is what we call a meta-discipline because it has applications in all professional fields.

Same question as but for youth work/community work?

Hi, we have a lot of international students. I don’t have the exact percentage but it changes from year to year. Some of our students have gone on to work in community, school and public libraries, all of which will involve children’s literacy and outreach.

Same question as but for youth work/community work?

Child and Adolescent Literature, Literacy, and Library Services is an elective module. The module examines theoretical, ideological and practical issues surrounding child and adolescent library and information services, enabling critical engagement in order to support you to deliver high quality information services for children and adolescents.

Meet Our International Students

https://youtu.be/ylU1hxaF8o4

Also, I was a little confused on where I would stand with the English requirement. If I'm from and native English speaker, would I satisfy the requirement or still have to take the IELTS exam?

You would qualify as an English native speaker.

Thank you for clarifying that for me. You mentioned you run the DocPerform project with Dr Lyn Robinson, are they any other projects I can expect to choose and participate in dependent on my interests?
You can find details about all of our projects and events on the CityLIS blog [https://blogs.city.ac.uk/citylis/citylis-events-19-20/](https://blogs.city.ac.uk/citylis/citylis-events-19-20/)

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Hello! I'm [redacted] and have been interested in pursuing a library degree abroad and was really interested when I found this program. I've been working in youth development for a few years and have been personally really interested in how youth development shows up in library and museum spaces. From what I've seen, I've seen youth work hold good value in the UK so I thought it would be helpful to do a library degree in a country that also had great youth work happening that I could learn from!

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More information about the DocPerform project [https://documentingperformance.com/](https://documentingperformance.com/)

**DocumentingPerformance**

The Future of Documents Project. City, University of London

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Good to know, thank you!

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I'm going to start posting some general info about the course but please ask questions at any time.

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Library & Information Science Studies the Processes of the Information Communication Chain, and the Interactions Between Them

- Creation
- Organisation
- Dissemination
- Discovery
- Management
- Preservation
- Analysis
- Use
- Understanding

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LIS is related to but distinct from:

- Computer science
- Data Science
- Psychology
- Publishing
- Media and communication studies
- Cultural studies
Types of courses within library & information science
- General LIS courses
- History of the book
- Library services management
- Information management
- Digital library management
- Archives and record keeping
- Digital humanities
- Information systems / systems management

As for academic expectations in applying for the program, I was thinking of taking an online course at another place before applying to strengthen my academic record. I also noticed there were some prep programs listed such as the Kaplan one. If I applied but perhaps needed stronger academics, would I automatically be referred to take those programs such as the Kaplan one? Then would my acceptance be deferred/dependent on successful completion of that Kaplan program? Or would I have to fully re-apply next year after I may have taken that program? (Hope that makes sense!)

As far as I know Kaplan is not linked with LIS at City. Academic essay writing and research is a core requirement of the course, but we do not have a formal way of testing an applicant's ability. We advise that prospective students use their own judgement but academic support is available at university level.

How much written assessment is required in this course? Will there be a final written exam at the end of the course?

There are no exams but students must complete a written assignment for each module plus a written dissertation at the end of the course. Full time students do 4 modules per term. Part time do 2 modules per term and a dissertation in their second year.

Ah, okay, I'm referring to the Kaplan program listed on this site under "Entry requirements":
https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/library-science but okay, thank you!

No problem

How much written assessment is required in this course? Will there be a final written exam at the end of the course?

Dissertation is between 15,000-20,000 words
I saw that classes happen on Mondays and Fridays. Do lecturers usually hold some kind of office hours or supports between Tuesday-Thursday? Or is there a typical way students spend that time (presumably most of that time would be used for studying and writing).

**Students must spend that time undertaking independent study but lecturers can be contacted via email. Tutorials can also be arranged a student’s request**

Hi, I'm interested in applying to the course but would like to have some additional information about the differences in the curriculum between the Library Science and Information Science MSc. Beyond having slight differences in curriculum, do current students in either course have some idea of their career following their studies and so gravitate towards a specific course?

**Hi Information Science is concerned with information management within one or more specific subject areas:**
- e.g. law, finance, security, business, music or healthcare
- focus on resources of all kinds, database design, information architecture, metadata, discovery, measurement, analysis, visualisation, communication, ethics, impact, use
- information scientists may work in any organisation that collects and processes information of any kind

Ah, okay!

Thanks for that information :)
Hi, I'm interested in applying to the course but would like to have some additional information about the differences in the curriculum between the Library Science and Information Science MSc. Beyond having slight differences in curriculum, do current students in either course have some idea of their career following their studies and so gravitate towards a specific course?

Library Science focuses on acquisition and management of a specific collection of information, for an intended audience:

- collection may be print based and/or digital
- documents may be text, images, sound, data, streaming data
- any subject
- focus on document description, metadata, access, discovery, services, community, ethics and impact, use, understanding
- librarians work in any organisation with collection related services

The most significant differences are modules. Here are the break downs:

**Library Science**

- **Term 1**
  - library and information science foundation
  - data, information, technologies, and applications
  - information management and policy
  - research methods and communication
- **Term 2**
  - information organization
  - digital libraries
  - libraries and publishing
  - elective module

**Information Science**

- **Term 1**
  - digital information technologies and applications
  - library and information science foundation
  - information management and policy
  - research methods and communication
- **Term 2**
  - information organization
  - information retrieval
  - information resources and documentation
  - elective module

Do students in the program often take on internships or part-time jobs? Are they often related to the work they want to do?

Yes, nearly all of our students work part-time whilst studying. We don't have a formal internship programme but our After Hours seminar series offers excellent opportunities for networking with information professionals from outside City.
Thank you so much for the thorough breakdown of the programs! In terms of admission requirements for international students, is academics the main determinate or does any work experience, the personal statement, and/or additional references make an impact on a student being admitted?

Yes, professional experience is considered in the application.

Oh nice!

Thank you so much for the thorough breakdown of the programs! In terms of admission requirements for international students, is academics the main determinate or does any work experience, the personal statement, and/or additional references make an impact on a student being admitted?

As well as academic qualifications, personal statements and references. We aim to be as inclusive as possible and don’t like turning people away. Do apply.

I see that we will be expected to participate in workshops - will this be organised by the university or are we expected to find our own?
We will organise events like these. For example, for the past two years we have attended the British Library Labs symposium [https://blogs.bl.uk/digital-scholarship/2019/10/bl-labs-symposium-2019.html](https://blogs.bl.uk/digital-scholarship/2019/10/bl-labs-symposium-2019.html)

**BL Labs Symposium (2019): Book your place for Mon 11-Nov-2019**

Image taken from page 203 of ‘Griffith’s new historical description of Cheltenham and its vicinity ... with ... engravings. L.P.’) Posted by Mahendra Mahey, Manager of BL Labs The BL Labs team are pleased to announce that the seventh annual British Library Labs Symposium will be held on Monday 11...

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**Brilliant! Thanks**

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**Here’s a list of the current elective modules. These may change in 20/21:**

- information law and policy
- libraries and publishing
- information resources and documentation
- child and adolescent literature, literacy and library services (LS only)
- web applications
- databases (IS only)
- data visualization (IS only)
- independent study or practice reflection
- digital literacies and open practices (in higher education) (LS only)

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**If those do change, would it mean that it would no longer be offered or just not offered for this year? When does that usually get decided? I would just want to be sure I could still do the child and adolescent module if I was able to attend for the 20/21 year.**

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**As far as I know we will still be offering this as an elective next year, but there will be other opportunities to study this area. One of our guest lecturers in Libraries and Publishing, for example, works for a children’s publisher**

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**Have there been students that started out in a MSc in Library Science and then continued onto a PhD/MPhil?**

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**Yes, in fact we are known as Hotel California! One of our current PhD students did his masters’ with us a few years ago and is now in the second year of his research degree. Other alumni include Debbie Lee and Ludi Price, both of whom teach on the course as visiting lecturers. We also regularly book alumni as speakers for After Hours talks.**

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**Oh okay, nice!**

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**Also, what kind do you look for during an interview assessment? Is it more focused on my personal interests and what I wish to gain from the course?...**
The most important thing is showing a clear interest in LIS and a commitment to learning and studying.

We've got 10 minutes left so I'm going to post some more general info about the course.

There are 10 minutes left of this chat session. Please post any further questions now.

How much time will it take?
40 hours full time
20 hours part time
150 hours per module:
- 30 hours contact time
- 120 hours self study
600 hours (14 weeks) for the dissertation

City, University of London: Being a student in London

https://youtu.be/miYNB2BrUjk

How much does it cost?

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<th>Full-time 12 months</th>
<th>Part-time 24-36 months</th>
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<td>EU</td>
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<td>£15,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-EU</td>
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<td>Part-time</td>
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<tr>
<td>£6,000 per year*</td>
<td>£7,760 per year*</td>
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Funding

employer contribution
government loan for PG study
self-funding
bursary or other award
https://www.city.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding

The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate funding https://www.postgraduate-funding.com/

Fees and funding

Find out about fees at City, as well as the range of funding options.

- Postgraduate Funding for University Students through Grants from Charity | GradFunding

Postgraduate Funding for university students through charity grants – Fund your own studies
City LIS course composition

8 x taught modules (15 credit)

dissertation (60 credit)

- [https://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/library-science](https://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/library-science)
- [https://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/information-science](https://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/information-science)

**Information Science MSc Course**

Information Science MSc course - Approved by CILIP, this degree is ideal for anyone seeking a career in information and data services.

**Library Science MSc Course**

Library Science MSc course - Approved by CILIP, this degree is ideal for anyone seeking a career in modern collection based information services.
Apply now via our course webpages:
- https://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/library-science
- https://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/information-science

Follow us on Twitter @CityLIS #CityLIS
Contact: lyn@city.ac.uk

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**Library Science MSc Course**
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Follow our blog for student views, essays, and alumni stories [http://blogs.city.ac.uk/citylis](http://blogs.city.ac.uk/citylis)

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There are 5 minutes left of this chat session. Please post any further questions now.

You can write to me at joseph.dunne-howrie@city.ac.uk and learn more about my research by going to my website josephdunnehowrie.com

Thank you very much for your time and responses!

Pleasure. I hope to see you in September
All of the information that I've shared with you can be found here [https://www.city.ac.uk/about/schools/mathematics-computer-science-engineering/library-information-science#unit=about-our-department](https://www.city.ac.uk/about/schools/mathematics-computer-science-engineering/library-information-science#unit=about-our-department)

**Department of Library and Information Science**

City’s Department of Library & Information Science has a heritage stretching back to 1961 and is internationally recognised in research and curriculum development.

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Remember to follow us on twitter @CityLIS #CityLIS

Thanks for answering all my queries!

Same!

Thank you so much!

Pleasure

Thank you for coming everyone. Good-bye

This session has now ended. Thank you so much for joining us for today’s chat. If you have any questions, please email pgenquiries@city.ac.uk or L.robinson@city.ac.uk