

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Information Science
Award	MSc
School	Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering
Department or equivalent	Department of Library and Information Science
Programme code	PSISCI
Type of study	Full Time Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Aims

The aim of all modules in the Information Science Programme is to prepare students to enter a professional career in some aspect of information work, or to develop an established career in the area. This involves the development of the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for reflective professional practice, and for continuing professional development. Two important general aims are the encouragement of a positive attitude to lifelong learning, and of the appreciation of the important of links between research and practice. The specific focuses of this course are the handling of information in specific domains, and the applications of ICTs to information management.

PG Certificate

Those completing the PG Certificate in Information Science will have an appreciation of underlying concepts and principles of the discipline, and will be able to interpret these in a practitioner context.

PG Diploma

Those completing the PG Diploma in Information Science will extend previous knowledge and experience to develop skills of critical enquiry and a variety of approaches to problem-solving.

Masters Degree

Those completing the Masters degree will have developed a coherent, systematic, detailed knowledge of your discipline. You will be able to develop techniques for practice drawing on research and scholarship, demonstrating your role as a reflective practitioner.

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 detailed and critical understanding of the fundamental principles of information science, including information law and information management, and how such principles inform the design, implementation and evaluation of information systems and services; demonstrate a critical awareness of current problems, issues and solutions in the operations of information services; on this basis, make sound professional judgements in the complex and rapidly changing environment of modern information services
- critically appreciate how information systems and services contribute to organisational objectives and the needs of users; be able to use such an understanding to develop policies and strategies for improved information provision
- demonstrate a critical understanding of the needs of information users in a variety of environments and more detailed insights into the needs of a specific professional user community; have developed relevant skills of user needs analysis, and resource evaluation

Skills:

- demonstrate an appreciation of relevant information technologies and their application to information service delivery; understand and evaluate the significance of new trends and developments in technology
- demonstrate a critical understanding of the nature of the management of knowledge and information, and the practical ways in which is carried out; be able to critically evaluate new trends and techniques, so as to assess what is genuinely novel and worthwhile; be able to devise, promote and implement change at a strategic and policy level in the professional setting; be familiar with the details of current information management best practice in specific application areas
- demonstrate professional attitudes and skills sufficient to constantly assess the need for, and to plan and carry out without direction, original research and evaluation projects in an operational setting; including devising hypotheses and research questions, and selecting, justifying and implementing appropriate research methodologies
- demonstrate highly developed skills in information retrieval
- demonstrate highly developed skills in the analysis, evaluation and presentation of information
- demonstrate a critical understanding of the significance of new developments in

information science, so as assess what is significant in the operational setting, and implement change accordingly

- critically appreciate the importance of research and evaluation in the practice of all information work; be able to evaluate critically academic and practitioner research, and assess its significance for your own professional practice; be able to bridge the conceptual gap between academic research and professional practice, effectively linking the two

Values and attitudes:

- demonstrate highly developed qualities of critical reflection and openness to different viewpoints, so that you may continue to develop your professional perspectives, and improve your own practice, as well as influencing others similarly
- demonstrate positive attitudes to lifelong learning and continuing professional development, and independent learning skills of a very high level, so that you may continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of professional issues, and your skills of professional practice.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will be expected to attend lectures, and to participate actively in seminars, tutorials and practical sessions. Opportunities are provided for you to broaden your professional knowledge during the programme through teaching experiences offered by visiting lecturers, usually eminent practitioners in their field, and through visits to organisations in the London area. Modes of study are flexible, being offered on both a full- and part-time basis, and the student's traditional face-to-face experience is enriched by the provision of an e-learning system. We encourage a community of students who are able to exchange thoughts, develop ideas and learn from one another. Assessment is by individual or group coursework assignments, which aim to develop your self-reliance and autonomy and foster the capacity for lifelong continuing self-development and learning.

The dissertation is a substantial component of the degree offering you the opportunity to demonstrate comprehensive understanding of a particular specialism and a systematic and professional approach to research. It is a substantive task that requires you to investigate a relevant chosen area under the supervision of academic staff.

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. Individual written assignments and exercises are the norm, but some modules may use other methods, including individual practical exercises, group work projects and unseen examination papers. Most assessments have an element of choice, allowing you to focus on aspects of interest.

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

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 20 credits at first or resit attempt (15 for a Postgraduate Certificate), 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

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:

Part	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?

Taught component

Seven core modules plus one elective module; this is followed by the dissertation component. The taught component is taken in one of two standard length patterns: full-time (one year) and part-time (two years).

All modules within the programme are taught at Masters level.

On rare occasions, an elective module may not be offered in any particular year.

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.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Library and Information Science Foundation	INM301	15	C	Y	7
Information Organisation	INM303	15	C	Y	7
Information Retrieval	INM305	15	C	Y	7
Information Resources and Documentation	INM307	15	C	Y	7
Information Management and Policy	INM341	15	C	Y	7
Data, Information, Technologies and Applications	INM348	15	C	Y	7
Research Methods and Communication	INM356	15	C	Y	7
Independent Study or Practice	INM310	15	E	Y	7
Web Design and Development	INM316	15	E	Y	7
Information and Data, Law and Ethics	INM361	15	E	Y	7
Libraries and Publishing	INM380	15	E	Y	7
Data Visualization	INM402	15	E	Y	7
Semantic Web Technologies and Knowledge Graphs	INM713	15	E	Y	7

Dissertation component

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

Students may opt, if they wish, to take the dissertation in the alternative mode to their taught course, i.e. a part-time student may opt to do the dissertation project full-time, and vice versa.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
LIS dissertation	INM367	60	C	N	7

You are normally required to pass all taught modules before progressing to the dissertation.

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

Students find a wide variety of careers in information and records management, libraries and information centres, research and consultancy, IT support and content management.

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 STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

There is the possibility of undertaking independent study, or the dissertation project, abroad.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

Placements do not form a part of the course, but there are always opportunities for students to obtain volunteer or paid positions to enhance their experience.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

Accrediting Body: Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals

Nature of Accreditation

Accredited.

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.

For those overseas applicants, whose first language is not English or their country has not been exempted from the English language requirement by the UK Home Office, they will need to provide one of the following English test qualifications:

IELTS: 6.5 (minimum of 6.0 in all four components) OR
TOEFL 92 (minimum of 20 in Listening, Reading and Speaking, and 22 in Writing)

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

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