PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Business Systems Analysis and Design
Award	MSc
School	School of Informatics
Department or equivalent	Department of Computing
Programme code	PSBSAM
Type of study	Full Time Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The programme is designed to produce hybrid IT/business professionals who understand the role IT systems play in supporting organisations and management. It prepares students for careers in developing and managing high quality computer-based information systems and services, for industry and commerce, the professions and public administration.

The programme has a strong vocational foundation, and practical work is emphasised throughout, to facilitate understanding and develop transferable skills, which are strengthened by the interactive teamwork approach. Teamwork, essential for the analyst and designer, is developed with students from a variety of academic and cultural backgrounds contributing a range of skills and experience. Consultancy skills and analytic and design skills are coupled with an understanding of the theoretical principles upon which sound methods and practices are based. Core themes include requirements analysis, systems specification, databases, project management, information systems planning and strategy and business engineering with ERP solutions. Research strengths in the School enable students to maintain an up-to-date understanding of technology in business and its associated professions.

Aims

- Develop your critical understanding of fundamental principles of business computing, analysis, and design of software systems
- Critically evaluate and apply techniques and methods appropriate for the design of software systems
- Develop your skills in project management and information system planning and strategy
- Develop and demonstrate research skills appropriate to business systems analysis and design
- Promote innovation for IT business engineering activities

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:
- Critically evaluate and explain advanced concepts and methods used in analysis and design of complex business information systems.

- Critically evaluate and explain advanced concepts and methods relating to software systems and their applications.

- Critically evaluate and explain key concepts, abstractions and methods used in the scientific study of business systems.

- Critically evaluate and explain key concepts and methods relating to human behaviour, in particular in workplace contexts.

Skills:
- Critically evaluate, analyse and synthesise solutions to business-related problems using advanced modelling methods.

- Evaluate, analyse and synthesise solutions to problems, with critical awareness and application of problem- or field-specific knowledge.

- Coherently summarise complex, subject specific information and present it to others in a structured and professional manner using oral and written presentation skills.

- Critically evaluate and synthesise research data, conclusions and methodologies.

- Analyse, design and critically evaluate business systems using advanced modelling and development software.

- Perform independent and efficient time management.

- Solve complex problems independently and innovatively.

- Work effectively as a team member.

- Communicate effectively with fellow professionals in problem solving and collaboration drawing upon consultancy skills and self awareness of performance.

- Plan large scale project work to effective completion.

Values and attitudes:
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the value of research methods.

- Respect the work and intellectual property of others and reference it in a professional manner that is clear, consistent and unambiguous.

- Recognise, perform and evaluate the responsibilities of professional roles with full awareness of the legal, ethical and professional issues, which arise in the development of business systems.

- Reflect on own and others' functioning in order to improve practice.

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark for Computing.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn via a mix of learning and teaching strategies.

In taught modules you will learn through lectures and tutorials. Fundamental concepts are introduced in lectures. You will then apply the concepts in small, interactive exercises and in practical work in supervised tutorials.

In addition, you will engage in self-directed study to deepen your understanding, during which you will read recommended materials, engage in reflective exercises, participate in seminars and tutorials, and prepare for formative and summative assessments.

Modes of study are offered on both a full- and part-time basis, and the student's traditional face-to-face experience is supported via online tools, which will also enable feedback and engagement via discussion forums and the dissemination of additional material made available to you.

Some of the assessments and exercises will involve group work to enable you to learn how to work effectively in teams and learn other transferable skills. Assessment is by individual coursework assignments or exams.

The dissertation is a substantial component of the degree offering students 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 students 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. 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.

<u>Feedback on assessment</u>

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

<u>Assessment Regulations</u>

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 in 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

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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?

Both the Full-Time and Part-Time programmes include six core modules plus two elective modules; this is followed by the dissertation component. The elective modules offer you a choice of Information and Knowledge Management and User-Centred System Design modules; Databases and Information Retrieval modules. Note that:
- User-Centred System Design is delivered only in the evenings (but full time students can attend the evening delivery)
- Information and knowledge management and Information Retrieval are not delivered in the evenings (but part-time evening students can attend the daytime delivery).
- Students with no prior experience of databases must take the INM343 module. The program director will make the decision on what constitutes prior knowledge of databases. Students who have such prior experience can choose INM305 as an elective.
 Optionally, the dissertation can be carried out within a period of internship.

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 Compen-sated?	Level
Business Engineering with ERP Solutions	INM342	15	C	Y	7
Practical Business Systems Consultancy	INM353	15	C	Y	7
Business Intelligence & Analytics	INM451	15	C	Y	7
Project Management	INM372	15	C	Y	7
Research Methods and Professional Issues	INM373	15	C	Y*	7
Databases	INM343	15	E	Y	7
User-Centred System Design	INM355	15	E	Y	7
Systems Specification	INM312	15	C	Y	7
Information Retrieval	INM305	15	E	Y	7
Information and Knowledge Management	INM351	15	E	Y	7

* 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 Compen-sated?	Level
Individual Project	INM363	60	C	N	7

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

Students find a wide variety of careers in roles such as IT consultancy, software developers, IT support and content management. Some students may choose to continue their studies towards a doctoral level qualification.

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.

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)
- TOEFL (internet based): 90

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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