

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	Business Systems Analysis and Design
Award	MSc
School	School of Computer Science, Mathematics and Engineering
Department or equivalent	Department of Computer Science
Programme code	PSBSAM
Type of study	Full Time Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90
HECoS Code	100361

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

#### Aims

The programme is designed to produce hybrid IT/business professionals who understand the role IT systems play in supporting organisations and management. These roles can either be focused on the development of new information infrastructures (what is the right system?) or maintenance of them once the infrastructures have been successfully delivered (is the system right?). It prepares students for careers in developing, managing and maintaining high quality computer-based information systems and services, for industry and commerce, the professions and public administration. The programme takes an interdisciplinary approach, with core knowledge of organisations and business processes imparted, together with knowledge of design and implementation of information systems, to prepare students for these hybrid IT/business roles.

The programme aims to educate and develop students in those broad and deep aspects of information systems concerned with their implementation and maintenance 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.

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. This emphasis on teamwork is developed with students who come from a wide variety of academic and cultural backgrounds, enhancing the student experience. These teamwork skills are essential for the many roles in the IT field including systems or business analyst and analyst programmer. The programme also emphasises the consultancy, analytic and design

skills required, providing the theoretical underpinning for the field as well as practical skills to function as an IT professional.

Core themes include requirements analysis, systems specification, databases, project management, information and knowledge management, business processes and programming. Research strengths in the School enable students to maintain an up-to-date understanding of technology in business and its associated professions.

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

#### **Postgraduate Certificate in Business Systems Analysis and Design**

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 business 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 Business Systems Analysis and Design**

For those 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 business information systems and technology, considering such aspects from different perspectives and demonstrating critical insight on the applicable methods and techniques used in business information systems design. You will have demonstrated ability in analysing, designing, developing and evaluating business information systems, which equates to passing all eight taught modules, worth 120 credits.

#### **MSc in Business Systems Analysis and Design**

For all of you completing the MSc in Business Systems Analysis and Design, 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 business information systems, the design and implementation of an business information system that meets a client's needs, or the critical evaluation and extension of the knowledge in the area through a research-led dissertation, which can involve the development of software artefacts as well, e.g. to support business information management. This will be achieved through your individual dissertation, 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:

- 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 information systems.
- Critically evaluate and explain key concepts and methods relating to human behaviour, in particular in workplace contexts.
- Critically evaluate and explain the characteristics of information management, information infrastructures, and their utilisation within organisations.
- Critically evaluate and select appropriate methods and technologies for representing, managing, and disseminating information, to meet business needs.
- Critically evaluate and explain specialised areas of technology in the implementation of information systems to meet business needs.

### 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, contributing to information systems implementation.
- 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.
- Apply an extensive body of knowledge and skills in ICTs (information and communication technologies) and information management.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyse critically the knowledge in and the latest developments of particular specialised aspect of business information systems.
- Apply an understanding of information and knowledge to the implementation of business information systems.

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate an appreciation of the value of scientific and other research within their discipline from a critical perspective.
- 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 information 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

The assessment within each module is designed to meet the professional and academic requirements of the material delivered, 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 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 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 module 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 percentage points below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
  - An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks shall be retained in the record of marks and the greater of the original module mark and the minimum pass mark for the module shall be used for the purpose of calculation towards the Award.

2. Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first assessment and have no extenuating circumstances, you may not be offered a resit.

If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The mark used for the purpose of calculation towards your Award shall be calculated from the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt and the minimum pass mark for the component(s) for which you took a resit.

If you do not satisfy your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, but satisfy the requirements for a lower-level Award, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

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	Class	% required
Dissertation	7	60	1/3	With Distinction	70
Taught	7	120	2/3	With Merit	60
				With Pass	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				With Pass	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				With Pass	50

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Both the Full-Time and Part-Time programmes include three core modules plus ten elective modules; this is followed by the dissertation component.

- Students with no prior experience of databases must take the INM343 module. The programme 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 Compensated?	Level
Business Engineering with ERP Solutions	INM342	15	E	Y	7
Practical Business Systems Consultancy	INM353	15	C	Y	7
Business Intelligence & Analytics	INM451	15	E	Y	7
Project Management	INM372	15	E	Y	7
Research Methods and Professional Issues	INM373	15	C	N	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	C	N	7
Web Applications Development	INM316	15	E	Y	7
Data Visualization*	INM402	15	E	Y	7
Socio-Technical Systems	INM444	15	E	Y	7

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

Students who undertake the programme may also undertake the TERP10 training, which includes skills for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and SAP programming. The training is not part of the programme curricula, and students will need to pay their own fees, albeit significantly reduced.

#### Dissertation component

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

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

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

#### **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 dissertation 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-liason-unit>

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

Accredited by BCS The Chartered Institute for IT as partially meeting the educational requirement for CITP registration, in the full time and part time modes.

. Details of how to become a member of the BCS can be found on:

<https://www.bcs.org/category/9722>. Details of the CITP registration process can be found on the BCS website:<https://www.bcs.org/category/10972> .

### **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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