

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	MSc Business Information Systems Management
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University London / Mauritius
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	
5. Final qualification	MSc Business Information Systems Management PGDip Business Information Systems Management PGCert Business Information Systems Management
6. Year of validation	2018/19
Year of amendment	2019/20, 2021/22
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full Time / Part Time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

The principal criteria for admission are that entrants are capable of working at postgraduate level and are able to succeed at, and benefit from, the programme. The following would normally be considered appropriate entry qualifications:

At least a second class honours degree in a discipline related to the programme such as:

- Relevant numerate subjects or
- Those providing a significant exposure to Information Systems (such as Business Information Systems, Information Sciences, Software Engineering, Computer Science, Computer Studies, Computing, Business Information Technology etc.)

- A relevant aspect of business (such as Business Studies, Business Administration, Economics, etc.)

Or

- An Honours Degree together with employment or professional experience in a field relevant to the programme and at an appropriate level in the field. Applicants with degrees in other disciplines need to be computer literate.

We normally require graduates with a 2:2 honours degree, or equivalent qualification, in an appropriate subject. We also consider candidates with other relevant qualifications. Those without formal qualifications need to demonstrate a minimum of three years' relevant work experience and the ability to study at postgraduate level.

Individual applicants may wish to claim certain number of credits against their learning that may have taken place outside education or through training that is not assessed as part of an education system. Typically these applicants would possess knowledge and skills that may have been acquired at the workplace through practice but may not be supported by formal qualifications. Applicants may also hold academic, vocational or professional qualifications that may be aligned to certain modules of the programme at an appropriate level. Typically such qualifications are supported by evidence in the form of certification. Each of these cases is considered individually with the scope to assess whether applicants should be allowed in the programme with specific credit that would count towards the end qualification, to an appropriate point of the programme. As each case is treated individually, applications with Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning or Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning are eligible to be considered.

International students who have not been taught in the English medium and whose first degree is not from a British university, must show evidence of proven ability in English such as IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum score of 6 in each band. The University provides pre-sessional English language courses throughout the year for candidates who do not meet the English requirements. University policies supporting students with disabilities apply, as described in the University Regulations. For further information, visit the learning resources web site at: <http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/support/index.aspx>.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Give students an understanding of theories and principles that are imported from different disciplines to underpin the development and management of web based Information Systems. These theories/principles include decision-making science, legal and regulatory theory, ethics and professionalism, systems and organisational theory.
- Enable the students to recognise the centrality of Information Systems to business and to society at large through studying critically recent developments in Information Systems in Organisations.

- Equip students with relevant knowledge and skills necessary to analyse and understand business, organisational, social, technical and regulatory issues relevant to the evaluation and management of information systems.
- Develop an awareness of web-based information systems development and enable students to make informed choices on specific information systems technologies, methods and tools, in context (organisational type, scope and complexity).
- Equip students with the technical skills necessary to develop and implement strategies for the introduction and management of information systems and knowledge management programmes.
- Enable students to further their personal and professional development

11. Programme outcomes*

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

1. The nature of Information Systems within the context of underpinning systems theory, organisational theory, and core business principles necessary to evaluate and implement Information Systems in a variety of organisations.
2. Critically evaluating IS/IT strategy in various organisational contexts, applying systems theory, and assess the social impact and management challenges which IS/IT systems bring to these organisations.
3. Critically evaluating, measuring and managing Information Systems and its quality.
4. Legal ethical and professional issues related to the management, governance and use of Information Systems.
5. The nature and use of web-based applications.
6. Assisting organisations in developing effective Knowledge/data Management programmes to maintain competitive advantage in knowledge/data driven economies.

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn knowledge, gain understanding and develop cognitive skills and abilities through self directed, resource based learning, small group discussions, small group and individual exercises, lab sessions, demonstration software, on-line examples and the research project.

Throughout their studies students are encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject. Critical evaluation and reflection engage the students in applying theory to practice.

Students develop practical abilities through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. These abilities are also nurtured through small group discussions, small group and individual exercises, laboratory sessions, demonstration software, on-line problem-solving examples and the research project.

Assessment methods

Group and individual coursework, presentations and the project thesis assess students' knowledge and understanding.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Advising on the nature of Information Systems and their commercial possibilities 8. Applying various business and management theories in the development of suitable strategies for the introduction and management of Information Systems in various organisational contexts 9. Analysing, designing, developing, implementing, and evaluating web-based applications and using information in effective decision making 10. Identifying critical Information Systems and Knowledge Management Systems success and failure factors and manage their quality. 	<p>Students' practical abilities are principally assessed through coursework reports and the individual project report, with examination questions addressing aspects of practical abilities as appropriate to the subject material.</p> <p>The programme learning outcomes are assessed with a mixture of individual and group coursework and the research project. Outcomes are assessed through coursework assignments using real case studies and in the research project.</p>
<p>B. Skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select and use a variety of modes of discourse for effective communication, including graphical, written and oral, according to the needs of the intended audience. 2. Perform effectively as a member of a team in complex and diverse working environments that may arise where members of a team are brought together from diverse backgrounds in the pursuit of European and global integration. 3. Deploy advanced techniques and solutions from one specialised field of computing to another and from one complex problem situation to another. 4. Demonstrate a critical understanding of, and the ability to deploy effectively, a wide range of learning methods resources and technologies. 5. Manage own learning and development demonstrating time management and organisational skills at a professional level. 6. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in learning and problem solving in familiar and unfamiliar situations. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn transferable skills through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Although not all the skills are explicitly taught, they are nurtured and developed throughout the programme, which is structured and delivered in such a way as to promote this process.</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' transferable skills are assessed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework, reports, examinations, presentations and the project report. • Group coursework and reports. • Research projects. • Individual coursework involving critical analysis and presentation of relevant current research issues.

7. Appreciate the need for continuing professional development in recognition of the need for lifelong learning.	
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12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

During the curriculum design of the programme, the aim was to identify certain modules where specific programme learning outcomes are assessed. In addition, a number of programme pillars have been identified offering horizontal frameworks of standard practice, where students' learning becomes the result of synthesis from a range of activities taking place in different modules. The following areas are covered in most, if not all modules of the programme:

1. Ethical framework (covering ethical issues)
2. Professional good practice framework (covering professional issues)
3. Individual/Corporate Social Responsibility framework (covering social issues)
4. Employability initiatives (focusing on student prospects)
5. Entrepreneurship/Innovation initiatives (focusing on start-up/venture ideas)
6. Personal Development Plan (focusing on personal/professional development)
7. Business awareness (assessing impact of IS on organisations)
8. People awareness (assessing impact of IS on humans)
9. Technology awareness (assessing impact of IS on new technologies)
10. Learning Experience Reflection Exercise (offering continuous feed-forward for key areas including (i) teaching delivery, (ii) learning opportunities, (iii) assessment and feedback, (iv) academic support, (v) organisation and management, (vi) learning resources, (vii) learning community and (viii) student voice.

The programme comprises 120 credits of taught modules and a 60-credit postgraduate project module. For an MSc award a total of 180 credits must be attained. For a PGDip (exit) award, 120 credits must be attained, and for a PGCert (exit) award, a minimum of 60 credits must be attained.

Students undertake the project module (60 credits) over the Summer term to complete the programme in approximately one calendar year. It is to note, students must complete 120 credits successfully in order to progress to the compulsory dissertation stage.

Part-time students typically study 60 credits of taught modules in their first academic year of study and can select any two modules of their choice followed by a further 60 credits of taught modules in the following academic year. It is acceptable within the

regulations of the learning framework for part-time students to study 30 credits in a given academic year provided the overall programme is completed within the specified timescale for part-time registration.

Full-time/Part-time programme structure:

MSc Business Information Systems Management				
Level 7 Terms 1 & 2	CST4310 Information Systems Quality Management (30 credits)	CST4320 Regulation of Electronic Commerce and Information Technology (30 credits)	CST4330 Information Systems Strategy and Management (30 credits)	CST4340 Data Management fo Decision Support (30 credits)
	-	-	-	CST4350 Knowledge Management Strategy (30 credits)
Note for Part-time	Part-time students can select any two 30 credits modules (60 credits) of their choice in one academic year and followed by two more modules (60 credits) in the next academic year.			
Level 7 Term 3	CST4390 PG Individual Project (60 credits)		-	-

12.2 Levels and modules

Starting in academic year 2010/11 the University is changing the way it references modules to state the level of study in which these are delivered. This is to comply with the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. This implementation will be a gradual process whilst records are updated. Therefore the old coding is bracketed below.

Level 7

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CST4310 – Information Systems Quality Management• CST4320 – Regulation of Electronic Commerce and Information Technology• CST4330 – Information Systems Strategy and Management• CST4390 – PG Individual Project	Students must also choose 1 from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CST4340 – Data Management for Decision Support• CST4350 – Knowledge Management Strategies	Students must pass all taught modules and achieve 120 credits before they can progress onto the project.

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

Module level	Module code
7	CST4390

13. Curriculum map

See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations

Information on the University's formal assessment regulations, including details of how award classifications are determined, can be found in the University Regulations available online at <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Grades are awarded on the standard University scale of 1–20, with Grade 1 being the highest.

For additional information on assessment and how learning outcomes are assessed please refer to the individual module narratives for this programme.

15. Future careers (if applicable)

All programmes in the Faculty of Science and Technology – their curricula and learning outcomes – have been designed with an emphasis on currency and relevance to future employment. Professional development and employability skills are embedded into teaching, learning and assessment at all levels of the programme.

The majority of graduates are employed in IT posts relevant to the subject area.

Over 20% of students pursue further postgraduate study or research.

Employer links with the Faculty are encouraged in the following ways:

- By inviting practitioners from industry as guest speakers in lectures.
- Through links with alumni, both in the UK and overseas.

Graduates are likely to follow career paths in roles such as business intelligence expert, data and information analyst, ICT project manager, business consultant and ICT consultant.

16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

The Faculty's Teaching and Learning Strategy is aligned with that of the University as a whole in seeking to develop learner autonomy and resource-based learning. In particular support of the students' learning experience, the following is provided:

- All new students go through an induction programme, and some have early diagnostic numeric and literacy testing before starting their programme.
- Learning Resources provide workshops and one to one support for those students needing additional support in academic writing, presentation skills and numeracy. Such seminars, workshops and lectures are embedded into specific modules across the programme.
- Students are allocated a personal email account, and secure networked computer storage for student's University-related files and documents.
- Soft copies of all module handbooks are provided on MyUniHub. Extensive web-based learning materials are provided to support learning in all modules.

- Extensive library facilities are available on and off campus, with e-resources accessible through the MyLibrary page on MyUniHub. Virtual learning is provided via the My Learning pages through MyUniHub. Seminars and workshops by Library and Learning Support staff are embedded into specific modules across the programme.
- Students can access advice and support on a wide range of issues from the UniHelp Desk, and specific one-to-one advice and support from the Faculty's Achievement Officers.
- High quality specialist laboratories, equipped with industry standard software and hardware, are provided for formal teaching as well as student self-study.
- Past exam papers with solutions and marking schemes for all modules are available for students in module handbooks and at <http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk>
- Research activities of academic staff feed into the teaching programme, which can provide individual students with ad-hoc opportunities to work with academics on some aspects of their research.

Middlesex University encourages and supports students with disabilities. Some practical aspects of Faculty of Science and Technology programmes may present challenges to students with particular disabilities. You are encouraged to visit our campuses at any time to evaluate facilities and talk in confidence about your needs. If we know your individual needs we'll be able to provide for them more easily. For further information contact the Disability Support Service (email: disability@mdx.ac.uk)

17. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	I200 (I100)
18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Computing

19. Reference points

The following reference points were used in designing this programme:

- QAA Subject benchmark statement, Master's degrees in computing (2011) (https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-masters-degree-computing.pdf?sfvrsn=c490f681_16)
- The revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education (March, 2018) (http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/revised-uk-quality-code-for-higher-education.pdf?sfvrsn=4c19f781_8)
- Standard for Chartered IT Professional (<https://www.bcs.org/upload/pdf/chartered-it-professional-standard.pdf>)
- Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) (<https://www.sfia-online.org/en>)
- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and Association for Information Systems (AIS) Curriculum Guidelines for Undergraduate Degree Programs in Information Systems (2010) (<https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/education/curricula-recommendations/is-2010-acm-final.pdf>)
- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and Association for Information Systems (AIS) Global Competency Model for Graduate Degree Programs in

Information Systems (May, 2017)

(<https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/education/msis2016.pdf>)

- Descriptors defining levels in the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) (<https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en/content/descriptors-page>)
- European e-Competence Framework (<http://www.ecompetences.eu>)
- Middlesex University Regulations (2018/19) (<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/university-regulations>)
- Middlesex University Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook (section 3) (<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/academic-quality/handbook/lqe-handbook-section-3>)
- Middlesex University Policies (<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies>)
- Middlesex University Public Policy Statements (<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/public-policy-statements>)

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Curriculum map for MSc Business Information Systems Management

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of Information Systems within the context of underpinning systems theory, organisational theory, and core business principles necessary to evaluate and implement Information Systems in a variety of organisations.
A2	Critically evaluate IS/IT strategy in various organisational contexts, applying systems theory, and assess the social impact and management challenges, which IS/IT systems bring to these organisations.
A3	Critically evaluate, measure and manage Information Systems and its quality.
A4	Demonstrate an understanding of legal ethical and professional issues related to the management, governance and use of Information Systems.
A5	Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and use of web-based applications.
A6	Assist organisations in developing effective Knowledge/data Management programmes to maintain competitive advantage in knowledge/data driven economies.
A7	Advise on the nature of Information Systems and their commercial possibilities.
A8	Apply various business and management theories in the development of suitable strategies for the introduction and management of Information Systems in various organisational contexts.
A9	Analyse, design, develop, implement, and evaluate web-based applications and use information in effective decision-making.

A10	Identify critical Information Systems and Knowledge Management Systems success and failure factors and manage their quality.
Skills	
B1	Select and use a variety of modes of discourse for effective communication, including graphical, written and oral, according to the needs of the intended audience.
B2	Perform effectively as a member of a team in complex and diverse working environments that may arise where members of a team are brought together from diverse backgrounds in the pursuit of European and global integration.
B3	Deploy advanced techniques and solutions from one specialised field of computing to another and from one complex problem situation to another.
B4	Demonstrate a critical understanding of, and the ability to deploy effectively, a wide range of learning methods resources and technologies.
B5	Manage their own learning and development demonstrating time management and organisational skills at a professional level.
B6	Demonstrate self-direction and originality in learning and problem solving in familiar and unfamiliar situations.
B7	Appreciate the need for continuing professional development in recognition of the need for lifelong learning.

Programme outcomes																	
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10		B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7
Highest level achieved by all graduates																	
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7		7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A 1	A 2	A 3	A 4	A 5	A 6	A 7	A 8	A 9	A 10	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7
Information Systems Quality Management	CST4310	✓		✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓				
Regulation of Electronic Commerce and Information Technology	CST4320				✓	✓									✓			✓
Information Systems Strategy and Management	CST4330	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Data Management for Decision Support	CST4340			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Knowledge management Strategies	CST4350					✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
PG Individual Project *	CST4390	✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	