Business Information Systems

Final award	BSc. (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	Cert. H.E., Dip. H.E.
Mode of delivery	On Campus
UCAS code	G500
Details of professional body accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Computing
Date specification last up-dated	Aug 2013

BANNER BOX:

Information systems continue to be a critical part of the products, services, operations, and management of organizations across the world. Information systems and information technology can be so critical as to disrupt classic business models and threaten traditional revenue streams.

This programme prepares graduates for information systems jobs in the public and private sectors, as well as for higher education in the computing and business studies fields.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 240 UCAS tariff points or equivalent
- Relevant Access programme
- Mature students, without appropriate academic qualifications but with relevant work experience, attend for interview and aptitude test
- Students may be admitted through Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes.
- In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 6.0 (including 6.0 for writing and speaking and 5.5 for reading and listening) is required
- Level 3 advanced entry students may have to take a 0 credits bridge module, CN20XZ: Ethics, Safety and Legal Issues in Computing.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What are Business Information Systems?

All types of computer systems are now an important part of our lives. Well-engineered, reliable and usable information systems play a crucial role in the survival of most organisations, especially business organisations. Thus, people who can design, implement and maintain these ever-evolving computer information systems are in constant demand.

Studying in the Business Information Systems (BIS) field of computing is challenging and enjoyable, and can lead to a rewarding career. At UEL, you can study a specialised degree in Business Information Systems.

Business Information Systems at UEL

This programme allows you to study a variety of subjects, including the development of information systems, computer programming, internetworking and the business contexts in which computer-based information systems are used. Emphasis is placed on the acquisition of practical-based skills, including the opportunity for one year work experience, which will provides a solid foundation for a career in the field of computing.

Programme structure

This programme may be studied full time or part time, as a sandwich degree, or as part of a combined honours route. You will study a combination of core and optional modules, as described further in subsequent sections.

Learning environment

In addition to the usual teaching and learning facilities such as laboratories, lecture and seminar rooms and a well-resourced library, students have access to a wide range of computing resources. Specialised labs are used for study of networking and operating system environments such as Windows and Unix. Students are provided with software tools for programming, database development, Internet access and Web-based development. A Virtual Learning Environment is used to give extra support to students and allow easy communication between students and staff. The placement year (which can take place abroad) is the ideal opportunity to add to the skills gained during the first two years of the programme.

Assessment

A variety of assessment methods are used. Some modules are entirely assessed by coursework, although most modules are assessed by a combination of coursework and examination. Coursework assessment can take a number of different forms, including presentations, software demonstrations, research-based assignments and practical exercises involving system or program specification, coding and testing. Examinations might be multiple choice tests or more traditional unseen questions.

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Programme Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the programme.

Work experience/placement opportunities

On our sandwich programmes, students have the option to undertake a minimum 38 week industrial placement during their third year. This placement is normally paid. The university has long standing links with a large number of well-known employers who can provide UEL students with worthwhile work experience. Many students are offered permanent employment by their placement organisation when they graduate. in addition to enhancing employment prospects, the placement provides a valuable learning experience, the results of which feed into our students' final year of study.

Project work

Students on the single honours and major route complete an academic year long project in their final year. This is a major piece of work that allows the students to choose the direction of their study, to develop their own ideas and to integrate the various subjects studied. Students are encouraged to provide their own ideas for the project, but there is always a battery of topics provided by staff from which students can choose.

Added value

In addition to the Information Systems-related skills and knowledge acquired during your studies, you will develop a wide range of personal and professional skills including communication, presentation, negotiation, team working and time management. These sought-after skills will be useful throughout your working life and will increase your chances of finding a well-paid and interesting job after graduation.

As part of our partnership with a number of industrial and academic programmes, you will also have access to a wide range of software and on-line learning material. We constantly review our partnerships and aim to include a wide range of resources; for more information please see the School's web site.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in ....

- How to effectively manage IT projects
- How to design and manage information systems to solve business tasks
- How to use technology to manage and secure data
- How to embed technology innovations into the business processes of small, medium and large organisations
- Developing and using business and technical skills

If you enjoy....

- Designing and integrating IT solutions.
- Solving technical problems
- The challenge of finding solutions to seemingly insoluble problems
- Listening to and working with others to identify and develop these solutions

If you want....

- The opportunity to work in a high demanded, well-rewarded and exciting area
- Sought-after and up-to-date skills
- To communicate and work with a wide variety of people to solve a range of business and technical problems
- To combine your interest in computing with business-related subjects

… then, the Business Information Systems (BIS) programme could be for you.

Your future career

There is still a significant shortage of up-to-date computing skills in the UK. Organisations need to have access to these skills to make best used of their computing and internet resources.

Graduates of the Business Information Systems degree programme combine business knowledge with technical skills and are qualified for a range of jobs including systems/business/information analyst, systems developer/integrator and web applications developer. Furthermore, the programme will equip its students with the skills required for a quick progression into management roles in the IT/IS field.

For graduates who want to continue their studies at postgraduate level, the BIS undergraduate programme provides a suitable basis for application to a variety of Masters programmes, both at UEL and elsewhere.

How we support you

- Personal tutor support throughout the programme.
- Support for development and study skills, preparation for employment and research.
- Placement Office with well-established links with employers to provide support for finding placements.
- Specialist support for dyslexia and English as a second language
- Student advice services for an accommodation, finance, career, IT training and learning resources.

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Gain appropriate knowledge and skills base to pursue a career managing and developing information systems in a contemporary business context.
- Gain an understanding of the operational, strategic and practical issues in information systems relevant to small, medium and large enterprises.
- Be aware of the management, economic, legal, social, professional and ethical issues relating to information systems.
- Learn and work both independently and within groups.
- Develop the necessary study skills and knowledge to pursue further study.

What will you learn?

All learning outcomes are covered in the programme's single honours route. Where Maj, J and/or Min is shown against a learning outcome, the learning outcome is covered in the Major, Joint and/or Minor routes offered.

Knowledge

- Exploiting opportunities created by technology innovations (Maj, J)
- Designing and managing enterprise systems
- Identifying and evaluating solutions and sourcing alternatives (Maj, J and Min)

- Understanding, managing and controlling IT risks

Thinking skills

- Problem solving (Maj, J and Min)
- Evaluation and critical analysis (Maj, J)
- Self-appraisal and review of personal practice (Maj)

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Managing and securing data (Maj, J and Min) and infrastructure
- Managing IT projects (Maj, J)
- Preparation of essays, reports and presentations (Maj, J and Min)
- Production of major self-directed project (Maj)

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Communication skills (Maj, J and Min)
- Learning and working both independently and in groups (Maj, J and Min)

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is three years full-time, four years sandwich or five years part-time.

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

How the teaching year is divided

This programme has two start points: September and January. Students who start their academic year in September finish in June

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits in an academic year. A student in a part-time mode of study may register for up to 80 credits in any academic year.

What you will study when

This programme is part of a modular degree scheme. A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will take six 20 credit modules (or fewer, if any are 40 credit modules) per year. An honours degree student will complete modules totalling 120 credits at level one, modules totalling 120 credits at level 2 and modules totalling 120 credits at level 3.

It is possible to bring together modules from one field with modules from another to produce a combined programme. Subjects are offered in a variety of combinations:

Single   120 credits at levels one, two and three

Major   80 credits at levels one, two and three

Joint   60 credits at levels one, two and three

Minor   40 credits at levels one, two and three.

Modules are defined as:

Core   Must be taken
Option   Select from a range of identified modules within the field
University Wide Option   Select from a wide range of university wide options

The following are the core and optional requirements for the single, major, joint and minor routes for this programme

LEVEL	MODULE CODE	TITLE	SKILLS MODULES (Insert Y where appropriate)	CREDITS	STATUS SINGLE	STATUS MAJOR (not offered to collaborative partners)	STATUS JOINT (not offered to collaborative partners)	STATUS MINOR (not offered to collaborative partners)

	Code	Module		Credits				
1	CN1041	Academic Skills for Computing	Y	20	Core	Core	Option *	
1	SD1032	Foundations of Programming		20	Core			
1	IM1024	Web Development and Management		20	Core	Core	Core	Core
1	IM1045	Information Systems		20	Core	Core	Core	Core
1	CN1147	Introduction to Computer Systems and Networks		20	Core	Core	Option	
1	SD1333	Mathematics for Computing		20	Core			
2	CN2041	Professional Issues	Y	20	Core	Core	Option *	
2	IM2043	Information Technology Planning and Infrastructure		20	Option	Core	Option	Core
2	IM2042	Information Systems Modelling and Design		20	Core			
2	IM2801	Web Applications Programming		20	Option			
2	SD2052	Database Systems		20	Core	Core	Core	Core
2	IM2044	Usability Engineering		20	Core	Core	Option	
2	CN2014	Computer and Network Security		20	Core			
3	CN3070	Project: Research and Implementation	Y	20	Core			
3	CN3001	Computer Studies Project	Y	20		Core	Option*	
3	SD3042	Advanced Database Development		20	Core	Core	Option	Option

3	SD3059	Information Security Audit and Assurance	20	Core			
3	IM3045	Project Management	20	Core	Option	Option	Option
3	IM3802	Issues in Internet Design and Development	20	Option			
3	IM3056	Management and Information Systems	20	Option	Option	Option	Option

* If this skills module is not taken, an equivalent skills module from the other joint route must be taken.

Level 3 advanced entry students may have to take a 0 credit bridge module, CN20XZ: Ethics, Safety and Legal Issues in Computing.

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level one or higher

In order to gain a Foundation Degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 240 credits including:

A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher

A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher

(A Foundation degree is linked to a named Honours degree onto which a student may progress after successful completion of the Foundation degree)

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 2 or level 3 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 3, the award classification is determined by calculating:

The arithmetic mean of the best 100 credits at level 3 $\times\ 2/3\ +$ The arithmetic mean of the next best 100 credits at levels 2 and/or 3 $\times\ 1/3$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimals points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100% First Class Honours
60% - 69%   Second Class Honours, First Division
50% - 59%   Second Class Honours, Second Division
40% - 49%   Third Class Honours
0% - 39%   Not passed

Foundation degree classification

Where a student is eligible for a Foundation degree, the award classification is determined by calculating the arithmetic mean of all marks obtained for modules at level 1 or higher contributing to the programme and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimals points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100% Distinction
55% - 69% Merit
40% - 54% Pass
0% - 39% Not passed

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- Participation in lectures, tutorials and workshops
- Directed and general reading
- Primary and secondary research, e.g. using the Internet or Learning Resources Centre

Thinking skills are developed through

- Successful completion of set assessment tasks
- Self-appraisal and self-evaluation
- Critical evaluation of concepts, assumptions, arguments and data

Practical skills are developed through

- Use of general IT applications such as databases and spreadsheets
- Use of specialised applications such as software development tools and environments
- Research skills-based activities with feedback

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Planning activities with feedback
- Project work
- Working in groups to complete work set, such as presentations
- Working during sandwich year as placement student
- Managing time to complete assessments by deadlines

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- examinations, both unseen and based on previously supplied case studies
- extended essays and reports
- multiple choice tests

Thinking skills are assessed by

- all assessment tasks set, particularly those requirng critical evaluation
- self-appraisal of performance

- use of appropriate problem solving skills

Practical skills are assessed by

- assessment tasks requiring use of general and specialised IT applications
- use of equipment in practicals and presentations

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- evidence of group and team working
- completion of placement year
- ability to work to time constraints

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

The external examiner reports for this programme are located on the UEL virtual learning environment (UELPlus / Moodle) on the school notice board under the section entitled 'External Examiner Reports & Responses'. You can also view a list of the external examiners for the UEL School by clicking on the link below.

http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/CurrentExternalExaminers.htm

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations involving the collection of data via questionnaires
- Informal discussions / meetings between students and teaching staff, year and programme leader
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting each semester)

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- Providing details on the programme notice board

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Discussions with Placements Officer and visiting tutors

- Liaison with placement employers
- Information provided by the British Computer Society
- Liaison with schools and colleges whose students apply for places on our programmes

Further information

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (http://www.uel.ac.uk)
- The programme handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/
- UEL Quality Manual http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/
- Regulations for the Academic Framework http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/
- UEL Guide to Undergraduate Modular Programmes
- School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering at UE http://www.uel.ac.uk/ace/
- External examiner reports (available from UEL virtual learning environment (Moodle))