**MSc Business Technology Consulting
in association with Capgemini**

For students entering in 2010

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Faculty:	Henley Business School
Programme length:	12 months (full time), 36 months (part-time)
Date of specification:	August 2009
Programme Director:	Prof Kecheng Liu
Board of Studies:	Informatics MScs
Accreditation:	Accreditation from the British Computer Society will be sought

Summary of programme aims

Business technology deals with the integration of information and communications technologies in support of an organisation's business activities. This has become one of the main themes for modern business. To provide consultancy, it is essential to have the domain knowledge of business and technology. It is equally important to have the capability of communicating effectively to the decision makers. This degree is designed to provide an opportunity for students who wish to become professional business technology consultants in the multicultural and managerial environments with the following aims:

- To provide theoretical knowledge and practical methodologies or techniques;
- To enhance the knowledge and expertise for those who have professional experiences;
- To draw inputs from prestigious industrial partners and build upon the existing expertise within the Informatics Research Centre;
- To provide a clear framework enabling students to conduct business and technology focused industry assignments applying consultancy skills learned.

The programme will primarily target the applicants with backgrounds of business, management, computing, and related degrees with knowledge of technology in business.

Transferable skills

In addition to knowledge and skills learned from taught modules, students are encouraged to take personal responsibility and show initiative in developing their knowledge and understanding of the field of study and delivery. The ability to carry out independent research to solve practical problems is highly valued and expected of students on this programme. Creativity, analytical skills, oral and written communication skills, problem-solving and project management skills are also part of the trainings provided through a mix of different teaching and learning methods such as in class debates, workshop, presentation and consulting practices. Students will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines. Students will also have opportunities to apply theories learned from the course to a real life case by working together with the consultants from Capgemini on real business related aspects.

Programme content

A total of 180 credits is required for this programme: 120 credits from the core modules (including a Consulting Project of 40 credits), and 60 from the optional modules.

Compulsory Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
INMR61	*Applied Informatics*	20	7
INMR84	*Architecture Leadership*	20	7
INMR85	*Business Architecture*	20	7
INMR86	*Business Technology Consulting*	20	7
INMR83	*Consulting Project*	40	7

In addition to core modules, students must choose further optional modules so that 180 credits are achieved overall. A complete list of optional modules is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Programme Handbook. There is no guarantee that in any one year all modules will be available. New optional modules may also be added.

An exemplary list of optional modules include:

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
INMR65	*IT Project Management*	20	7
INMR66	*Business Domain and Requirements Analysis*	20	7
INMR72	*Systems Analysis and Design*	20	7
INMR79	*Enterprise Resource Planning Systems*	20	7
INMR80	*Business Communications and Negotiation*	20	7
INMR82	*Customer Relationship Management Systems*	20	7
INMR87	*Information Systems and Infrastructure*	20	7

Part-time/Modular arrangements

Students can select either full-time or part-time study in the programme. The former mode will last for 12 months while the latter model may take three consecutive years.
There is one intake per year and normally starts in October.

Progression requirements

A student may undertake an optional module at any time, without necessarily being constrained by the completion of core modules.

The Consulting Project can commence as soon as the course has started.

Summary of teaching and assessment

All the modules will be delivered by a mix of lectures, tutorials and practical sessions. The method of assessment of each module will be determined in the individual module specification.

Each module will be normally delivered in a week of concentrated teaching, followed by a week of supported learning. The supported learning will be in forms of email, bulletin board, electronic discussion forum, video conferencing and employment of other e-learning technologies.

Three exit points are built into the programme, and a student will be awarded the highest qualification he/she has achieved. A Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) requires 60 credits; a Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) requires 120 credits; an MSc requires 180 credits including a consulting project.

The Consulting Project will be conducted by the student individually under staff supervision.

Mark Interpretation
70 – 100%   Distinction
60 – 69%   Merit
50 – 59%   Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:
40 – 49%   Work below threshold standard
0 – 39%   Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degrees
To pass the MSc students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the Consulting Project. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

For PG Diplomas
To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

For PG Certificates
To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:
- A 2.1 honours degree (or equivalent) in the fields of business, information technology or a related academic area.
- Applications can also be considered from candidates with two or more years of relevant graduate-level work experience; and the number of years required depends on the

relevance of the work undertaken and the level of academic qualification the applicant attained in comparison to a 2.1 honours degree.

For an applicant whose first language is not English, either a university degree taken in English, or an IELTS 6.5 or equivalent is required. Exceptionally, if an applicant has worked in an English language environment, an English test, organised by the University's CALS, may be conducted in lieu of formal qualifications.

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme.

Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Programme Directors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online (www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student website (reading.ac.uk/student).

Career prospects

This programme is designed and delivered in collaboration with Capgemini, one of the top IT consulting companies in the world. Graduates from this programme can work in a wide range of industries and management functions. These include for example consultancy, programme and project management, business consulting, systems manager, technical manager, IT operation manager, application architect, project leader, researcher/educator/trainer, and quantitative analyst.

Opportunities for study abroad

All students will normally be expected to spend one week at 'Capgemini University' campus, located in Les Fontaines, near Paris, to study one of the core modules.

Collaboration with Industry

'Capgemini University' will actively contribute to the teaching, consulting project supervision and the delivery of the programme. Capgemini is looking to employ 3-5 top achievers each year. In addition:

- Capgemini will provide international mentors to the top performing students, through Capgemini's Global Architects Community;

- The consulting projects will address a real business challenge provided by Capgemini.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the Programme Outcomes.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

1. Business Technology
  1.1) Business leadership
  1.2) Business architect
  1.3) The role of information and technology
 	
2. Consulting process
  2.1) Models of consultancies
  2.2) Consultancy practices and processes
  2.3) Business practice and performance assessment
 	
3. Stakeholders needs and expectations
 	
4. Theoretical foundations
  4.1 Organisational behaviour
  4.2 Management science
4.3 Information Systems
	1 and 2 will be gained through the core modules and practised in the class discussions and presentations.
	
	3 will be placed in the centre of the problem solving and solution construction throughout the degree programme.
	
	4 will be built in the relevant modules where concepts, principles and constraints are provided.
	
	Assessment
	All will be assessed through coursework, seminar, discussions, presentations, and consulting projects.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to: 1. Abstract artefact for developing generic solutions 2. Examine and evaluate business and its related issues 3. Establish a holistic views in a business context 4. Justify critically findings and made sensible decisions on design of the solution 5. Comprehend the evolving relationship between business and technology.	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies** 2, 3, and 4 will be achieved through the class lecturing and practicals in all the modules. The student will gain 1 and 5 by the constructivist learning and participation of learning activities throughout the whole degree programme. *Assessment* The students will be given a series of different scenarios to practice the knowledge and skills learned in different modules. Formal examinations are also included for some of the modules. Real life case will be used for the final project.

C. Practical skills – able to:
1. Apply the theories and methodologies to design business solutions
2. Employ appropriate methods for
  2.1 defining problems in a context
  2.2 investigating the best practices
  2.3 eliciting requirements
  2.4 analysing data
  2.5 validating outcomes
	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
	1 and 2 will be built in all the modules, in particular the consulting project, in which the student will be allowed to learn and practise the skill.
	
	Assessment
	All will be assessed coursework, presentations and consulting project.

D. Transferable skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Manage tasks, times, work load prioritisations, and stresses 2. Utilise critical and analytical thinking to solve problems and develop theoretical and practical sound situations 3. Conduct effective communications and presentations in a professional manner 4. Compose technical documentation in English	1 will be practised throughout the whole degree programme with the guideline and support from the teaching staff and the degree handbooks. 2 and 4 will be built in all the modules, in particular the consulting project, which allow students to learn and practise the skill. 3 will be achieved by giving presentation, attending discussion in classes, and interviewing the clients from the industries. *Assessment* All will be assessed by coursework, presentation, and consulting project.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.