

MSc in Management Information Systems (Ghana)

For students entering in 2014/5

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Henley Business School at Univ of Reading
Programme length:	12 months
Date of specification:	15/Oct/2014
Programme Director:	Dr Yinshan Tang
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	HBS Pre Exp BOS
Accreditation:	Eligible for British Computer Society Professional Certificate in Business Analysis Practice

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to offer opportunities to local and international students entering postgraduate education at high standards. It will prepare students for effective management and utilisation of information resources in the domain of business and management at postgraduate level. The programme will enhance students' existing knowledge and skills in key technological and business areas. Students will be able to apply their knowledge and skills in planning, management, design and implementation of IT based solutions to different application domains in business and management.

Transferable skills

In parallel to subject competence that students are required to acquire from their programme of study, they are expected to enhance their research ability, team work, communication skills, information handling, problem-solving, project management, creativity, and analytical skills. This is achieved through a mix of different methods of teaching and learning (lecture/practical, classroom-based/problem-based, theory-oriented/skill-focused) and different methods of assessments (examination/ coursework). A key part of the study programme is the MSc dissertation project in which students will be trained and assessed as specified in the module specification in most of the transferable skills (e.g. independent research, critical analysis and project planning and management).

Programme content

A student must complete all compulsory modules. In addition, optional modules should be undertaken to make up the rest of the credits required. The student must also complete a dissertation.

Compulsory Modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
INMG61	Applied Informatics	20	7
INMG62	Research Methods	20	7
INMG66	Business Domain and Requirements Analysis	20	7
INMG72	System Analysis and Design	20	7
INMG75	Organisational Design and Performance Management	20	7
INMG64	Dissertation	60	7

Students must choose one optional modules to the value of 20 credits. 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 IT Project Management, Business Intelligence and Data Mining, Enterprise Resource Planning Systems, Customer Relationship Management Systems and Business Communications and Negotiations.

IN modules are offered by BISA (Business Informatics, Systems and Accounting).

Students who pass the module INMG66 Business Domain and Requirements Analysis with the mark of 60 or above will be eligible for British Computer Society (BCS) Professional Certificate in Business Analysis Practice.

Part-time or modular arrangements

This programme may be studied part-time over two consecutive years. This programme normally starts in March for the first cohort and October for the subsequent cohorts.

Progression requirements

A student may undertake an optional module at any time, without necessarily being constrained by the completion of core modules. The dissertation project can commence after satisfactory completion of the Research Methods module.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

All the modules may be delivered by a mix of lectures, tutorials and practicals. Each module will be delivered in one week of concentrated teaching, supplemented by independent self-study and guided self-study supported by academic staff at Operations & Management Information Systems (OMIS) Department, University of Ghana Business School. The support for learning will be in forms of email, bulletin board, electronic discussion forum and employment of other e-learning technologies. An assessment of a module will take place at the end of each module.

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 dissertation.

Dissertation projects will be conducted by students individually under supervision by academic staff from Operations & Management Information Systems (OMIS) Department, University of Ghana Business School.

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 dissertation. 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 Certificate

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 2nd Class Upper (2.1) Honours Bachelors Degree or equivalent in related fields; or
- equivalent experience, subject to the University's APEL rules.

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.

Admissions Tutor:

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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 Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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 and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

The University of Ghana Business School will provide support for students and their learning in the following areas:

- Infrastructure: lecturer rooms, reading rooms, library access, computer labs;
- Learning support: teaching, seminars, workshops, industrial visits, tutorials, discussions and one-to-one interaction;
- Supervision: supervision support from local faculty

Transfer between programmes

A student is permitted to transfer between this programme and the following programmes subject to approval by the receiving Programme Director: MSc Information Management & Systems, and MSc Business Information Management. Transfer of a dissertation project, after it commences, is normally not permitted.

Career prospects

This Masters programme is designed to be industry oriented with the possibility of allowing students to carry out in-depth academic enquiries. The prospective students may be fresh graduates or experienced professionals. They can undertake the programme of study on part-time or full-time bases. Given these, it is expected that graduates from this programme will be able to take the following responsibilities either in industry or academia: systems manager, technical manager with IT expertise, IT operation manager, system analyst, software engineer, application architect/developer, project leader, researcher/educator/trainer, quantitative analyst.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Placement is not required in the programme of study, though students can conduct their dissertation projects in business organisations, which needs to be arranged by the students.

Students will have the opportunity to come to the UK for a maximum period of 6 months in their dissertation visits. This allows them to receive direct supervision from their dissertation supervisors in Reading. Their experience of education and research in Europe will add much value to their career development. A bench fee will be charged for visits longer than 3 months. Students, however, will not be permitted to take any placement or jobs during their dissertation visits.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Information Systems (IS) planning and management:
 - 1.1) IS architecture and components
 - 1.2) IS development and methodologies
 - 1.3) Business processes and IS design
 - 1.4) Project management and planning
 - 1.5) Business intelligence analysis
2. Practice
 - 2.1) Problem identification and critical analysis
 - 2.2) Design, development and evaluation

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The course concentrates on aspects 1 and 2. All modules collectively will cover the identified scope. Introduction to new concepts as well as the use of practical case studies will enable students to think critically. Aspects 3 and 4 are covered within other modules such as Research Methods and Informatics. Students of MSc in Informatics place more emphasis on Theory through research in the dissertation project.

Assessment

- 2.3) Management and organisation
- 2.4) Professionalism and ethics
- 2.5) Commercial and industrial exploitation
- 3. Communication and interaction
- 4. Theory

Knowledge is tested through a mixture of formal examinations and practical work. The dissertation project will also assess the knowledge, understanding and ability of applying them in solving problems.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding related to aspects outlined above
2. Apply such knowledge and understanding to the formulation of IS solutions
3. Recognise and analyse criteria and specifications appropriate to a specific problem
4. Critically evaluate and test a computer based solution to business problems
5. Reflect and communicate
6. Recognise and conform to appropriate professional, ethical and legal practices

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 and 2 as above. 3, 4 and 5 will be taught as part of the core modules, and will be exercised in the dissertation. The Options will also address these aspects. 6 will be taught in the modules on Professional Issues and Research Methods.

Assessment

These skills are tested through a mixture of formal examinations and practicals. The dissertation will also assess these skills.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. Analyse business problems, specify business requirements
2. Specify, design and construct IS solutions
3. Evaluate the solutions
4. Recognise risks and safety aspects
5. Communicate, present and disseminate the solutions

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1, 2, 3 will be covered both in the business and IT related modules. Both are present as the cores. 3 will be also addressed in the Research Methods module. 4 and 5 will be covered in the Research Methods module and the Dissertation Project.

Assessment

Skills 1 to 5 will be assessed by a mixture of practical work and examination.

D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

1. Independent research, including planning and management
2. Literature research
3. Time management
4. Critical analytical skills
5. Communication and presentation in a professional manner
6. Technical documentation in English

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 will be covered in all modules as each student is required to conduct a substantial amount of independent study before and after the intensive study blocks. 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be addressed in the dissertation project. 5 and 6 will be addressed in the Research Methods Module and the Dissertation Project. 6 will be addressed in all modules, especially in the course work.

Assessment

All will be assessed by examination, practical work and dissertation.

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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.