

MSc Business Technology Consulting (full-time)
For students entering in 2015/6

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:	25/Aug/2015
Programme Director:	Dr Vaughan Michell
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	HBS Pre Exp BOS
Accreditation:	British Computer Society (BCS) Professional Certificate in Business Analysis Practice through one of the modules

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.

Students who pass the module INMR66 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.

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

Code	Title	Credits	Level
INMR61	Applied Informatics	20	7
INMR66	Business Domain and Requirements Analysis	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: IT Project Management, Systems Analysis and Design, Business Intelligence and Data Mining, Organisational Design and Performance Management, Enterprise Systems, Business Communications & Negotiations and Managing Complexity Using Systems Thinking & Strategic Modelling.

Part-time or 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. One of the core modules will be delivered as a one-week residential course at Henley's Greenlands Campus or a similar venue. 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.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Stephen Gulliver

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 (egg 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

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 or for placements

Students may carry out their consulting projects in organisations as part of placement or internship of up to six months in duration. This requires an approval by the Programme Director who ensures that the placement enables the students to satisfy the academic requirements of Consulting Project.

Collaboration with Industry

Capgemini will actively contribute to the teaching, consulting project supervision and the delivery of the programme. In addition the consulting projects will address a real business challenge provided by Capgemini.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Business Technology
 - 1.1 Business leadership
 - 1.2 Business architect

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

- 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

- 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

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:

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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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

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.

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