

Programme Specification

MA in Information Design (full time)

MA in Information Design (part time)

For students entering in September 2018

PFTINFODESM

PPTINFODESM

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	12 months (full time), 24 months (part time)
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide a thorough grounding in the principles and methods of information design. It aims to develop fluent, articulate, and reflective designers who are well-equipped to influence the direction of their subject and profession through their effective problem-solving abilities, through originality in their application of knowledge, and through their exercise of sound professional judgement under uncertain conditions. Information designers must by necessity be lifelong learners, so the programme aims to equip students with the appropriate skills.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
TYMIDP	Information design: practice	90	7
TYMIDC	Information design: core module	30	7
TYMPDS	Dissertation	60	7

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

Part-time study lasts two years, with the practical module, divided into two tracks. Full-time students undertake work on track A and track B simultaneously; part-time students undertake one track in each year. Assignments on the core module, TYMIDC, are undertaken in the first year. The dissertation module, is normally undertaken during the second year.

Additional costs of the programme

Students are expected to have their own laptops with the relevant software licenses for the projects they are working on. Printing facilities are available in the Department, and printout and mounting expenses will be incurred, depending on the individual projects that students undertake and the variety of working materials required for these projects (e.g. for creating models, mock-ups, etc.).

A series of optional field trips may be offered, which may imply travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. Field trips may range from evening or day trips to London and Oxford for specific events like lectures, or trips to relevant conferences in the UK and abroad.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

Optional modules:

There are no optional modules on this programme.

Placement opportunities

There may be opportunities for Professional Practice Assignments with industry partners, within the Practice module.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Teaching will be by means of lectures and seminars, oral presentations and writing assignments, studio sessions, demonstrations and critiques.

Weekly seminars consider key concepts in communication design, spanning the range of research and practice in which the Department is active. Seminars may focus on discourse areas, key texts, original artefacts, or topics relating to the pathways offered within the programme. Seminars make use of visual aids. These may be electronic resources or artefacts. Students are encouraged to explore both online and artefactual resources, and are provided with support for locating information online, and making use of the Department's Collections & Archives.

Practical projects cover both core areas in Information Design, and areas aligned to the pathways available for each cohort. Teaching takes place in a series of weekly tutorials, demonstrations, and critiques which run throughout the Autumn, Spring, and Summer terms. In addition to regular and visiting members of staff, visiting lecturers and demonstrators contribute with sessions or workshops on specific topics, enrich the subjects covered and provide important feedback from the industry.

The sessions are informal, and facilitate group discussion of project work. Students are encouraged to be reflective about their own work, and will be expected to discuss their work in the studio. Projects are delivered in small groups, and involve group and individual meetings and tutorials. Students may be offered the opportunity to engage in self-directed projects, or projects with industrial partners. At the end of a project a final review may

include plenary meetings, and also sub-group meetings and individual tutorials. Projects may also require a concluding presentation to both students and supervisors.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 360 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme is assessed through a combination of coursework (including seminar papers, practical projects, and presentations) and a dissertation. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

Assignments on the core module, TYMIDC, are undertaken in the first year. Research methods sessions for the dissertation module are undertaken during the first year, with submission of the Dissertation at the end of the second year. Assignments on the practical module are taken across both years. Students need to pass the core module TYMIDC to progress into the second year.

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

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 Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and

- (ii) a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.