Programme Specification

MSc Informatics (full-time)   BFTZINFORMDM

For students entering in 2024/25

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	MSc Informatics (full-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) European Foundation for Management Development (EQUIS)
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Business and Management

Programme information and content
This programme aims to equip students with knowledge and skills to investigate, identify and implement digital and technological strategic solutions through technology leadership. It covers essential knowledge, skills and behaviours to lead digital technology provision, to understand organisation goals, strategies and practices and to implement technological strategic solutions. This programme will prepare students to become digital and technology solution specialists who are confident, competent and capable individuals, capable of applying leadership and change management skills in digital transformation processes. The programme has two technical pathways: Data Analytics and IT Strategy. This programme is a joint programme between University of Reading and Beijing Institute of Technology.

Programme Learning Outcomes
-MSc Informatics (full-time)
During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate a developed knowledge of informatics and digital technologies, showing competency at analysing how they support business processes.
2	Describe technology road mapping including implementing strategies and digital transformation plans, and examine how they achieve improved productivity, functionality and end user experience.
3	Develop skills to plan and implement technology based business changes, applying them to deliver effective transformation in the workplace through establishing clear objectives, discerning priorities and setting out responsibilities in collaboration with others.

4	Analyse the strategic importance of technology-enabled business processes, and how they are designed and managed to determine an organisation's ability to compete effectively.
5	Synthesise business transformation and integration of different management functions in the context of technological change in organisations.
6	Reflect critically on own ability and leadership to deliver digital transformation in contemporary organisations.
7	Communicate effectively digital solutions and transformation strategies as well as key performance outcomes with team members with different backgrounds.
8	Demonstrate empathy and motivate others to deliver collaborative, high-quality technical solutions and outcomes within organisational contexts.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

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

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
MQM1DIN	Digital Innovation	20	M
MQM1DIS	Dissertation (MSc Informatics)	60	M
MQM1IIO	Informatics in Organisations	20	M
MQM1LDO	Leading in the Digital Organisation	20	M

Non-credit-bearing BIT modules: Since this programme is a joint programme between Beijing Institute and Technology (BIT) and University of Reading (UoR), non-credit-bearing modules provided by BIT are needed to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. These modules include: Theory and Practice of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era (2700006); Marxism and Social Science Methodology (2700005); Master's Public English (240003).

Non-credit-bearing Academic English modules: ILMAL1B Academic Language Skills 1 and ILMAL2B Academic Language Skills 2. These modules are also required to meet the English requirement for this programme of IELTS 6.5 (with no component below 5.5) or equivalent.

PATHWAYS

A student must complete all compulsory modules listed above, and compulsory modules for the chosen pathway as listed below.

Pathway 1 – Data Analytics

In addition to the compulsory core modules in section 1 above, compulsory modules for the Data Analytics pathway are:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
MQM2DTM	Data Management	20	M
MQM2BDA	Business Data Analytics	20	M
MQM2DAS	Data Analytics Strategy in Business	20	M

Pathway 2 – IT Strategy

In addition to the compulsory modules above, compulsory modules for the IT strategy pathway are:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
MQM2MSA	Managing Strategic Alignment of Business and IT	20	M
MQM2DBS	Digital Business Strategy	20	M
MQM2STC	Strategic Technology Consulting	20	M

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

This is a full time programme.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

All modules are taught at Beijing Institute of Technology, China

Optional modules

There are no optional modules but students have an opportunity to choose between two pathways to customise their learning and development.

Teaching and learning delivery

All the modules will be delivered through a mixture of online learning and in-person workshops. Learning support will be provided through academic tutor support, email, bulletin board, electronic discussion forum and employment of other e-learning technologies.

Excluding the non-credit-bearing Stage 1 modules (BIT and Academic English), total study hours for the programme are 1800 hours. The contact hours will depend upon the module combination. In addition to scheduled contact hours, students will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about 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

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

European Foundation for Management Development (EQUIS)

Assessment

Assessment of knowledge and understanding of learning outcomes and behavioural skills is achieved via both summative and formative assessments. Forms of assessment, which are specified in the individual module descriptions, include:

- Individual written assignments
- Presentations, individual or group
- Reflective learning assignments
- Individual or group projects

A final dissertation, which is an individual research project, is often undertaken through exploring the student's own research, work experience and career interests.

Progression

There are three stages in this programme:
• Stage 1: non-credit-bearing BIT and Academic English modules
• Stage 2: Informatics in Organisations, Leading in the Digital Organisation, Digital Innovation and modules in either the IT Strategy pathway or Data Analytics pathway
• Stage 3 : Dissertation

At the end of Stage 1, students must pass each BIT module with a minimum mark of 50%. Students must also pass the non-credit-bearing Academic English modules or demonstrate they have achieved an equivalent of IELTS 6.5 (with no component below 5.5) at the end of Stage 1.

It is normally expected that all the modules in each stage are completed prior to entry to the next stage of the programme. Requests for extensions of assessment deadlines will be based on the provision of evidence in line with the University's Exceptional Circumstances procedure (https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/The-Important-Stuff/Rules-and-regulations/Exceptional-Circumstances). A student may be withdrawn from the programme due to lack of engagement, which is at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Students who fail to achieve a 50% pass mark are permitted one re-sit/resubmission per module at an appropriate point in the programme schedule, except for BIT modules for which BIT's re-sit policy applies.

Re-sits or resubmissions will be capped at 50% at module level for the purpose of classification. Programme Management will advise students when a re-sit and resubmission is required as well as about the policy regarding timing. The normal procedure on exceptional circumstances will apply to those seeking an extension for a re-sit and resubmission. If a student does not resubmit or re-sit within the specified time from the first assessment without an agreed Exceptional Circumstances Form a mark of zero will be awarded for that assessment.

Reassessment arrangements for each module are specified in the module description form.

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

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%
(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND
A mark of at least 60% in the dissertation
AND
No marks below 40%.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate
(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

Additional costs of the programme

The core textbooks / e-books need to be purchased. Students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of additional textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs.

A range of resources to support your curriculum, including library and electronic resources, are available through BIT.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2023.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MSc Informatics (full-time) for students entering in session 2024/25
15 December 2023
© The University of Reading 2023