

Postgraduate Programme in Information Management and Business Technology

A New Exciting Cutting Edge Programme Developed with Industry for Industry

Convergence of IT with traditionally technology-independent areas of an organisation has had major implications for IT professionals and non-technical business managers. Each group is required to understand and handle both sides of the equation in a more integrated fashion. Organisations require hybrid managers to understand the technical and business requirements of the organisation. The **Information Management and Business Technology** programme has been jointly developed with industry to provide organisations with MSc graduates with hybrid managerial knowledge and experience.

Based around real industry problems, and consisting of a mixed blend of recently graduated students and experienced employees from industry, the programme aims to provide modules constructed in consultation with industry, in effect 'real life' case studies.

Networking with fellow students from a variety of professional backgrounds will enhance sharing of knowledge and exposure to a range of views and attitudes, together with novel approaches to new developments and common challenges.

Brochure Contents

These pages contain basic information about the academic programme and entry qualifications. Other information that provides answers to frequently asked questions about funding, part-time study etc., can be found on the coloured inserts in our information pack.

Further information about the University and campus life can be found in the Postgraduate Prospectus or at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/prospectus/pg/index.htm> As programmes are developed and updated, the information may be subject to change.

Programme Details

Two awards are available to successful students: the MSc or the Loughborough Postgraduate Diploma (LPD). Full time candidates for the MSc degree undertake the programme for twelve months; full time candidates for the LPD (120 credits) undertake the programme for nine months. The programme is also available part-time, but not in distance learning mode.

Part 1 of the MSc programme (taught modules, running from October to mid-May) consists of nine core modules (120 credits); Part 2 comprises the dissertation (60 credits).

The core modules are:

Semester 1

E-Business Techniques
Essential Skills for Computing
Principles of Information and Knowledge Management
Project Management and Leadership
Supporting Collaborative Work through Technology

Semester 2

Information and Social Network Analysis
Information Management and Semantic Technology
Information Systems and Modelling
Management of IT Systems

In semester one, the modules are taught over 11 weeks, except for Project Management and Leadership which is taught in one week; in semester two the modules are taught over four three-week periods.

Module Descriptions

The following brief descriptions are provided as an introduction to the programme. Full modules specifications, including a short reading list and indication of assessed coursework, will shortly be available at:

<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/dis/studying/studying.html>

E-Business Techniques includes defining e-business, e-business strategy, legal issues, customer relationship management, supply chain management, B2B techniques, B2C techniques, and the future of e-business.

Essential Skills for Computing aims to establish an understanding of, and develop, the essential skills required for computing including systems, command line languages and scripting; structure of documents; using and manipulating data stored on a modern database system.

Information and Social Network Analysis will provide an understanding of how business processes and information interact, and enable students to analyse how information and knowledge flows impact upon an organisation. Students will learn methods to model information and knowledge flows in order to optimise the business environment in an information and knowledge intensive organisation.

Information Management and Semantic Technology concerns the structure of information within organisations and on the internet. An introduction to information retrieval and semantic technologies, systems and services that will aid the end user in locating appropriate data, information or knowledge within an acceptable timescale. Semantic web skills to enable students to be semantic web ready, by being exposed to a range of techniques and software tools.

Information Systems provides a framework in which the professional engineer or computer scientist can assess the data requirements for information management systems, design a data structure suitable for implementation on a modern database management system and be able to use and manipulate data stored on a modern database system. A variety of modelling techniques are used to model different aspects of the information systems requirements.

Management of IT Systems aims to give students an understanding of the particular issues and practices involved in the provision and management of (computer-based) IT systems. On completion students should be able to assess requirements and identify potential problems, articulate and evaluate possible alternative approaches to meeting the requirements and put their plan into effective action, coping with changes as they occur.

Principles of Information and Knowledge Management aims to develop an understanding of current theories and practices of information and knowledge management with a view to applying the theoretical understanding to real life situations, making distinctions between information and knowledge,

Project Management and Leadership aims to give students an understanding of how to manage projects and the risks for both the individual managing their own project and for the team leader managing a larger-scale project. The emphasis is on getting a quality product or service delivered on time and within budget. Use of project planning computer packages and application of project methodologies. Examples will be taken from industrial and business working practices to illustrate ideas throughout.

Supporting Collaborative Work through Technology provides an understanding of collaborative work practices and processes across a range of organisation settings and the role of technology in supporting different phases in the collaboration process. The application of multidisciplinary concepts such as common ground, communities of practice, decision making, organisational culture and social affordance to the evaluation and implementation of technologies to support collaborative work.

Assessment

Each module will be delivered by a combination of lectures, labs, tutorials and podcasts. Modules will be assessed by coursework or examination. In order to open up the programme to industry, modules in semester two will be run over two-week periods.

Dissertation

The second part of the programme (for those students studying for the MSc) will be workplace based, where possible, leading to the submission of a 15,000 word dissertation (60 credits). Each student will have an academic and a workplace supervisor. Work on the dissertation will normally begin in mid-May. The Dissertations Coordinator holds several briefing sessions on dissertation preparation. Choice of subject will be made by students in consultation with academic staff and employer, where appropriate.

Full-time students must submit the dissertation by 15 September in the appropriate year. Alternative arrangements for submission are available for part-time students.

Entry Qualifications

For this programme we are looking for students who are interested in a career in the multitude of jobs that form the information bridge between IT and business. Applicants with good communications skills are encouraged.

A good first degree (min. 2:2) is the normal qualification for entry to this taught postgraduate programme. Applicants should have a minimum of one year's relevant experience of working in industry or have completed a sandwich placement .

International applicants are required to have either a minimum IELTS of 6.5 with a score of 6.5 in listening and 7.0 in writing or a TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based)/250 (computer-based)/90 (internet-based) with a TWE score of 4.5.

International applicants who do not hold the minimum English Language requirements may be admitted to a pre-session course.

All applicants resident in the UK are invited for an Open Day and/or interview, which will give them the opportunity to become more familiar with the academic content of the programmes, meet current postgraduate students and staff, and tour the Department and campus.

Overseas applicants are also very welcome to visit the Department if they are in the UK and able to come to Loughborough. Please notify the Postgraduate Admissions team if you intend to visit.

Postgraduate Admissions

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