COURSE SPECIFICATION

MSc Information Systems

Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration

March 2018

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	MSc Information Systems
Final Award	MSc
Exit Awards	PG certificate, PG diploma
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C0054F, C0054P
Mode of study	full time, part time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	Full time: 12 months, 16 months (January entry). Part time: 3 years
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	from September 2019 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Faculty of Technology
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Computing
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	www.port.ac.uk/**school**-of-**computing**/
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/msc-information-systems
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	British Computer Society February 2014, partial CITP
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	level 7

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Module Web Search for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The course aims to equip students to work professionally within an information systems environment. In particular, the Programme will aim to develop reflective academic skills and provide technical knowledge and skills associated with the development and management of Information Systems and related software and equipment. Students will develop intellectual, analytical and problem solving skills, in order to develop professional and interpersonal abilities. Students should be able to undertake the full range of technical tasks associated with information systems applications supported by the knowledge of the information requirements for these systems. In addition, and more generally, the course aims to:

- Provide a challenging, stimulating and self-rewarding study environment.
- Accommodate student needs in relation to maximising their career potential by enabling them to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in their chosen subject area
- • Promote career aspirations by including study topics on general professional practice and skills, which is further extended by the practical work experience gained from the placement year (if taken)

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	*The applicability, implementation and management of information systems (IS).*	*lectures, seminars, workshops*	*Reports, portfolios and supervised work sessions*
A2	*Technical aspects of IS – networks, web product development, user experience design, methodologies, databases*	*laboratory work, group work*	*(e.g. essays, dossiers, portfolios, presentations etc.)*
A3	*Development, planning and management of IS projects*	*lectures, seminars, supervised work sessions*	*Project report, demonstration (if applicable) and presentation*
A4	*Ethical issues, codes of conduct and professional practice; intellectual property, copyright*	*lectures, seminars, supervised work sessions*	*Reports, portfolios, presentations*

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	*Develop general abilities of an intellectual, analytical problem-solving nature related to technology.*	*lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work, workshops*	*Reports, portfolios, presentations*
B2	*Critically evaluate information needs against the available technology.*	*lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work, workshops*	*Reports, portfolios, presentations*
B3	*Make appropriate decisions as to relevant IS technologies to use in given situations*	*Seminars, laboratory work, group work, workshops*	*Reports, portfolios, presentations*
B4	*Plan, manage, undertake and report on a significant IS project.*	*Supervised work sessions and project supervision meetings*	*Project report and presentation*

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	*Apply analysis and evaluation techniques appropriate to the appraisal and control of IT/IS.*	*Lectures, Seminars, laboratory work, group work, workshops*	*Reports, portfolios, presentations*
C2	*Critically analyse problems, design and implement IS solutions to satisfy a given brief*	*Lectures, Seminars, laboratory work, group work, workshops*	*Reports, portfolios, presentations*
C3	Manage time, scope and resources in complex developments.	*Seminars, project supervision meetings*	*Project report and presentation*
C4	*Demonstrate experience and productive capability in the placement setting (degree with placement year only)*	*Workplace learning, seminars*	*Employment diary/logbook and placement report*

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	*Communicate effectively in writing, speaking and in appropriate forms of presentation (Communication)*	*Lectures, Seminars, laboratory work, group work, workshops*	*Reports, portfolios, presentations*
D2	*Critically review the risks and benefits of information systems to business organisations (Problem Solving)*	*Lectures, Seminars, laboratory work, group work, workshops*	*Reports, portfolios, presentations*
D3	*Build on previous achievements and feedback in order to generalise solutions to other situations (Improving Own Learning)*	*Seminars, laboratory work, group work, workshops*	*Reports, portfolios, presentations*
D4	*Work collaboratively, learn from peer discussion and feedback, but also develop distinctly individual solutions. (Working with Others)*	*Seminars, laboratory work, group work, workshops*	*Reports, portfolios, presentations*

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Acredited by BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT for the purposes of partially meeting the academic requirement for registration as a Chartered IT Professional (CITP).

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification
- University of Portsmouth Strategy
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
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- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for [Postgraduate Characteristics](#) and [Computing Benchmark](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: British Computer Society
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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Document details

Author	Dr Penny Hart
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Minimum student registration numbers	15FT; 10 for PT version of the course