

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

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| Name and level of final award: | MSc The <i>MSc in Business Information Systems</i> is an MSc degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible. |
| Name and level of intermediate awards: | Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate |
| Awarding body/institution: | University of Westminster |
| Status of awarding body/institution: | Recognised Body |
| Location of delivery: | Cavendish Campus, London, United Kingdom |
| Language of delivery and assessment: | English |
| Course/programme leader: | Dr. Panos Chountas |
| Course URL: | www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/business-information-systems/postgraduate-courses |
| Mode and length of study: | Full Time / Part-Time (Day) / Part-Time (Evening) / Burst Mode / Block Mode |
| University of Westminster course code: | PECSBIS |
| JACS code: | |
| UCAS code: | P004363 (FT), P018018 (PTE) |
| QAA subject benchmarking group: | Subject Benchmark Statement: Master's degrees in Computing, 2011, available online www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/QAA386_Computing.pdf |
| Professional body accreditation: | British Computer Society (BCS) exemption from Part II requirement |
| Date of course validation/review: | Initial approval 1992, last review 2010 |
| Date of programme specification: | September 2013 |

Admissions requirements

The course builds on students' graduate competences and develops further their logical, analytical skills and technical in a way that they can be applied to Business Information Systems problems. Consideration will be given to all applicants with a good Honours (normally 2.ii or above) degree from a British University or overseas equivalent in an IT/Computing discipline or another discipline that either provides important underpinning for / insight into IT/Computing (e.g. sciences or engineering), or which benefits from its close marriage with IT/Computing (e.g. economics and business studies).

The department is committed to widening participation in education, particularly with respect to mature applicants whose extensive experience of working in business and industry has given them maturity that may outweigh any gaps in academic qualifications. Applications of such candidates are encouraged, and will be considered carefully; moreover, where maturity may outweigh formal academic qualifications, the academic qualification requirement will be relaxed.

All applicants are required to show competence in both written and spoken English; thus, overseas applicants whose first language is not English are normally required to have attained the equivalent of an IELTS score of at least 6.5 with 6:0 or above in each element prior to joining the course (more information on minimum scores for other language tests can be obtained for the admissions office).

All applicants are required to submit with their application, copies of their academic and/or professional qualifications and transcripts, two references (one of which should be academic, for applicants who have been in Higher Education in the 5 years prior to applying for the course), and a statement explaining the reasons they want to be admitted to the course, what they expect from the course, how they are going to achieve it, what they will bring to the course, what their career aspirations are and how they think the course can help them achieve those aspirations.

The admissions policy conforms to the Equal Opportunities Policy and the Admissions Policy of the University of Westminster. Each application is considered on its individual merits and decisions in admitting applicants to the course are made based on evidence that the applicant is likely to benefit from the course and to complete it satisfactorily.

On a number of occasions, applicants may also be asked to attend an informal interview with the Admissions Tutor. For applicants leaving locally, these interviews may have the form of an invitation to the one of the University's Postgraduate Information Events, where applicants can meet members of the course team and the Admissions Tutor, ask questions and discuss any issues regarding the course. Alternatively and applicants living further afield such interviews may be contacted over the phone interview or by teleconferencing. The interviews normally aim at establishing applicants' suitability for the course and also applicants answering questions and discussing issues regarding the course.

Successful applicants with disabilities are contacted by the University of Westminster's Disability Support Co-ordinator and are asked to make an appointment with the University's Disabilities Officer, in order for the student to assess the University's facilities for disabled students. Following that meeting if it is deemed necessary a further discussion with the Course Leader may be appropriate to enable the applicant to make an informed decision.

All successful applicants are sent well before the start of the course more detailed information about module, timetable and an up-to-date reference list of textbooks that they can use to prepare for the course. Successful applicants who are not practitioners in the field and/or who feel that they may need to do more preparation before the start of the course are strongly advised to contact the Admissions Tutor or the Course Leader for advice.

Part-time students are expected to be in full-time employment; those attending in part time day mode or burst/block must have the approval of their employers to attend the course, as they are required to attend classes during work hours. Moreover, students are warned that a Masters programme of this type is by definition very intensive and it requires their total commitment if they are to be successful.

Aims of the course

The course brings together a wide range of existing expertise within one MSc programme and mirrors the convergence of these skills within the industry. In this sense it is innovative and responsive to the latest developments in business practice, as well as feeding departmental research directly into teaching. The course has been designed to meet the growing industry need for Information Systems to cover the whole range of Enterprise Information needs. It is a practitioner oriented course that provides highly marketable Business Information Systems and IT skills relevant to the creation, use and management of Business Information Systems and Information Centres. The course is aimed at (a) graduates with a good Honours degree in an IT/Computing related discipline; and (b) practitioners who want to enhance their professional abilities, develop further their careers, update their technical skills and/or deepen their knowledge/understanding of state of the art and emerging technologies in Information Systems.

More specifically, the course provides a balanced study that aims at producing graduates capable of

- thinking in a systematic and methodological way about Business Information Systems issues;

- developing additional functionality for existing Information Systems in line with enterprise thinking and taking into account all the issues involved;
- utilising their problem solving skills and their knowledge of various methodologies, techniques and tools to deliver solutions to problems associated with Information Systems practices;
- creating models and architectures to restructure the Business Information Systems for the optimal delivery of Business Intelligence and performance management;
- creating models and/or deploying appropriate techniques and tools to deliver / manage / administer software artefacts and/or information systems solution that satisfy specified requirements and to test their use in a target domain;
- studying the context within which the restructuring of enterprise information systems takes place, i.e. identifying the strategic, managerial and operational activities involved in gathering, processing, storing, representing and distributing of data and information and the delivering appropriate monitoring and controlling activities for each part of the enterprise;
- critically evaluating alternative design and implementation strategies and the impact emerging technologies advances on delivering solutions within Business Information Systems practices;
- independent in-depth analysis of a chosen topic within the business information context making use of information resources outside a teaching environment;
- developing professional attitudes as well as the interpersonal and entrepreneurial skills required of a practitioner in the industry;
- being self-motivated and independent learners, self-aware and able to reflect on their learning, and to manage their own personal development and career planning.

Overall the course aims to develop students' competences and to equip them with specific skills so that they can either work effectively as deliverers of enterprise solutions, IT professionals who have a strong awareness of the environment in which they operate and/or be able to pursue research oriented academic study.

The course is of value to anyone who is already involved or wishing to be involved in any aspect of Business IT solutions, from the 'soft' end of business analysis & systems design to the 'hard' development of all levels of analytical processing software and its testing and maintenance. The course is suitable for enterprise consultants, project leaders and managers, marketers & those who need to obtain and to understand business intelligence and performance management systems, business systems analysts & designers, database administrators who need to communicate models effectively, support enterprise software and manage the architecture, application programmers, and warehouse application developers. Moreover, experienced analysts/designers will find the course provides a valuable opportunity to update their knowledge skills, especially if they need to take full advantage of the benefits of modern software development, warehouse architectures and designs in order to deliver performance management, business intelligence to existing Information Systems.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

To enable graduates prepare better for future employment, embedded into the programme of study are three implicit pathways that can lead to different roles in a Business IT environment. In particular, one pathway leads to roles related to the creation and support of Enterprise Information Systems; a second pathway leads to the role of Application Developer capable of delivering web-enabled information systems solutions, whereas a third pathway leads to the roles related to the analysis and design of contemporary Information Systems and/or the management of Information Systems in a way that can harness the potential emerging technologies open. Students can choose which of these pathways they may like to follow by choosing appropriate optional modules.

Typically graduates of the course will seek employment as enterprise consultants and managers, marketers, business intelligence consultants, business systems analysts & designers, database administrators, OLAP programmers, ETL programmers and application developers, in any aspect of the enterprise software development process, from the front-end activities of objectives analysis & business analysis to the development of User interfaces and the implementation of performance management software in both private and public sector organizations.

Employment

Recent graduates from the MSc in Information Systems have taken employment in organisation such as Logica, IBM, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Accenture, Glaxo Welcome, the Post Office, British Council, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Home Office, Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch, Nationwide, Arnold Linden, Teswaine Business Communications, Centaur Holdings PLC, Castell Ltd, Standard and Poor's, Abbey, Digitas, University of Hertfordshire, Taylor Woodrow, Local Councils.

Further Studies

MPhil/PhD in Database Systems, Data Warehousing at the University of Westminster or at other higher education institutions.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and understanding

Graduates of the course will:

- KU1: have a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights in the area of Business Information Systems research, much of which is informed by academic research and professional practice in the particular field;
- KU2: have a comprehensive understanding of the techniques and approaches applicable for the design, development, implementation and maintenance of Information Systems;
- KU3: show originality and innovation in the application of knowledge and techniques for designing, developing, implementing and maintaining such systems;
- KU4: show critical awareness of current research issues, problems and/or insights;
- KU5: understand and be able to participate within the professional, legal and ethical framework as professionals in field;
- KU6: make general evaluations of commercial risk through some understanding of the basis of such risks;
- KU7: develop and apply new technologies.

The following table shows how the above skills are mapped to modules:

| | EBSY 790 | EBSY 791 | EBSY 717 | EBSY 718 | EBSY 701 | EBSY 702 | EBSY 704 | EBSY 705 | EBSY 708 | EBSY 712 | EBSY 713 | EBSY 714 | EBSY 715 | EBSY 716 | EBSY 719 | EBSY 720 | EBSY 721 | EBSY 722 |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| KU1: | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| KU2: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| KU3: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • |
| KU4: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | | • | • | • |
| KU5: | • | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | | | | | | • | | |
| KU6: | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| KU7: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | | | • | • | • | | • | • |

A typical graduate of the course will be able to:

- deal with complex issues related to practices, workings and technologies employed in the process of developing and managing Database Systems both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level; and who will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;
- decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations; and
- the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Specific skills

On completion of the course, students will have developed the following subject-specific practical skills:

- SS1: ability to specify, design and construct fit for purpose Business Information Systems and/or applications for the storage, management and handling of data using appropriate modelling techniques, application development environment(s), CASE tools and/or appropriate programming languages;
- SS2: ability to recognise risks that may be involved in the success/failure of such Systems and to devise, plan and implement strategies to address such risks;
- SS3: use and application of various technologies, architectures and techniques/tools/methods (e.g. Data Warehousing, Data Mining, Distributed data management and technologies and architectures and appropriate middleware and infrastructures supporting application layers) to utilise the ever increasing amount of routinely stored data in Business Information Systems;
- SS4: reflect on the impact technological advances have on the field of Business Information Systems, identify personal development needs and adapt to these changes;
- SS5: embark on an independent in-depth analysis and/or study in the area of Business Information Systems that may require the extensive use of a variety of information resources;
- SS6: ability to recognise, appreciate and operate within legal, ethical and professional frameworks related to use of Business Information Systems.

The following table shows how the above course skills are mapped to modules:

| | EBSY 790 | EBSY 791 | EBSY 717 | EBSY 718 | EBSY 701 | EBSY 702 | EBSY 704 | EBSY 705 | EBSY 708 | EBSY 712 | EBSY 713 | EBSY 714 | EBSY 715 | EBSY 716 | EBSY 719 | EBSY 720 | EBSY 721 | EBSY 722 |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| SS1: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • |
| SS2: | • | • | • | • | • | | | | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | | |
| SS3: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| SS4: | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| SS5: | • | • | • | • | • | | | | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| SS6: | • | • | | | • | | • | | • | | | | | | | | | |

Key transferable skills

Upon completion of the course students will have developed a number of general rather than discipline-specific skills which any practitioner must have if s/he is to be successful. These Key Transferable Skills developed and assessed at postgraduate level are:

- KTS1: Group working
Students will be able to (a) work effectively within a group both as group leaders and/or group members; (b) clarify tasks and make appropriate use of group members abilities; (c) negotiate and handle conflict with confidence; and (d) participate effectively in the peer review process;
- KTS2: Learning resources
Students will be able to use a full range of learning resources to carry out literature reviews and engage in research activity;
- KTS3: Self-evaluation
Students will be able to reflect on own and others functioning; participate effectively in the peer review process and analyse and identify ways to improve practice; continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and recognise their development needs and to develop new skills to a high level;
- KTS4: Management of information
Students will be able to competently undertake research tasks with minimum guidance; sieve through information clutter to identify relevance, to organise and present information effectively using different media;
- KTS5: Autonomy
Students will be independent and self-critical learner, who can act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks and who will be able to guide the learning of others;

KTS6: Communication

Students can engage confidently in academic and professional communication with others, reporting on action clearly, autonomously and competently;

KTS7: Problem solving

Students have independent learning ability required for continuing professional study, making professional use of others where appropriate.

Some of these skills, such as Problem Solving skills and Communication skills, are intrinsic to the nature of the course and thus they have been assessed / developed by each and every assessment component. For other skills, like group working, effort has been made to be included in as many modules as possible because ability to work effectively with/within a group, to clarify/allocate tasks, negotiate load and resolve conflict are important skills that IT professionals involved in IS design should have. The following table shows how the above key transferable skills are mapped to modules:

| | EBSY 790 | EBSY 791 | EBSY 717 | EBSY 718 | EBSY 701 | EBSY 702 | EBSY 704 | EBSY 705 | EBSY 708 | EBSY 712 | EBSY 713 | EBSY 714 | EBSY 715 | EBSY 716 | EBSY 719 | EBSY 720 | EBSY 721 | EBSY 722 |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| KTS1: | • | • | • | • | • | | | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| KTS2: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| KTS3: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • |
| KTS4: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • |
| KTS5: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| KTS6: | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| KTS7: | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | | | • | • |

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning & Teaching

The learning strategies employed on the course vary depending on the module and the learning outcomes for each module. The course itself consists of traditional formal lectures and 'structured lectures', where lecturing is broken up by periods of student-led activity. The lectures are used to provide a firm grounding in the theory, methods and techniques relevant to the module's topic. Lectures are usually supplemented by further instructor led sessions, where theoretical or practical in nature problems are addressed. During these sessions students will attend problem solving tutorials, sometimes working alone, often working in groups, sometimes working on paper, often working at a PC or workstation, always with a member of staff guiding the work or on hand to help resolve problems. To integrate the knowledge gained in individual modules common case studies, where possible, are used across modules, with each module tackling different aspects of the same problem. There are also seminar sessions in which students will present work to their classmates and assess each other's work.

To support students in their studies and to allow access to module materials and course related information web-based teaching materials are used routinely. The modules' pages on the University's Virtual Learning Environment and/or the faculty's intranet pages are used as repositories for lecture notes, presentation transparencies, course/assessment schedules, coursework (including feedback) and occasionally for assessment purposes. The course recognises the importance of individuals being able to function equally well both as individuals and as members of team; thus, group activities are encouraged and promoted. To support and encourage student face to face interaction and collaborative work through exchange of emails, files, and online discussions, the facilities offered by the University's Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard) are commonly utilised.

To summarise, teaching and learning strategies involve the use of

- case studies, to improve students' analytical and problem solving skills;
- use of specialised software tools and packages, such as Development Environments and Computer Aided Software Engineering (CASE), to build students hands on skills and understanding of such tools;
- presentations from outside speakers with industrial experience, to enable students see how the taught material is applied in industry;
- team/group work, to enable students develop further their teamwork skills to work effectively in a professional environment;
- research methods involving the use of library and online sources to develop students research and analysis skills.
- presentations and academic report writing as part of the assignments set, to develop further these important skills.

Assessment

A number of the taught modules in the programme are entirely assessed through coursework, but the diet of assessment for a significant number of modules involves both a coursework and an examination component, the latter of which normally takes the form of a two-hour examination at the end of the academic year.

Where the assessment of a module involves both examination and coursework, the relative weightings of the examination and coursework components are normally 50/50. For modules, where the assessment diet involves a combination of coursework and exam students are expected to achieve a minimum mark of 35 in the exam and the coursework (on aggregate) in order to pass; however, for most of the coursework only modules students have to achieve the above threshold mark in each individual coursework component in order to pass.

The approach taken in relation to assessment is that assessment is an integral part of the learning process; thus, assessment is designed to be fit-for-purpose in demonstrating the achievement of the specific module learning outcomes. The general principles governing assessment on the course are:

- a variety of assessment methods are employed fit-for-purpose to measure particular learning outcomes;
- the choice of assessment method(s) employed provides an opportunity for new learning and contributes to the learning process;
- timely and formative feedback is given for all assessments, including examinations;
- assessment is criterion-based, i.e. assessed work is marked using clearly stated assessment criteria, finally,
- in selecting assessment methods consideration is given to maintaining an acceptable and balance assessment loading.

Course structure

In order to be awarded a Masters in Business Information Systems, a student must pass modules worth at least 180 credits and attempt modules worth no more than 240 credits. The modules a student needs to pass to be eligible for the award of the MSc qualification are all level 7 modules and include:

- all of the following core modules (100 credits):

| Module Code | Module Title | UK Credits | ECTS | Pre/Co-requisites | Exam | Course work |
|-------------|--|------------|------|--|------|-------------|
| EBSY717 | Requirements & System Modelling | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY718 | Architectures, Design & Deployment of IS | 20 | 10 | EBSY717 | – | 100% |
| EBSY790 | Research Methods and Professional Practice | 0 | 0 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY791 | Business Systems Pg Project | 60 | 30 | Pass at least 100 credits incl. all the core modules, i.e. EBSY790, EBSY717, & EBSY718 | – | 100% |

- and at most four of the following core/optional modules (80 credits):

| Module Code | Module Title | UK Credits | ECTS | Pre/Co-requisites | Exam | Course work |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------|---------------------|------|-------------|
| EBSY701 | Data Management & Repositories | 20 | 10 | NONE | 30% | 70% |
| EBSY702 | Database Languages | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY704 | Web-Enabled Database Applications | 20 | 10 | EBSY701 and EBSY712 | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY705 | Data Warehousing & OLAP | 20 | 10 | EBSY702 or EBSY708 | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY708 | Computing for Business & Management | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY712 | Business Systems Programming | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY713 | Semantic & Collaborative Technologies | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY714 | Project Management | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY715 | IT Business Models | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY716 | Enterprise Utility Computing | 20 | 10 | NONE | 40% | 60% |
| EBSY719 | Systems Interoperability | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY720 | Social Systems | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY721 | Web and Social Media Analytics | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY722 | Data Visualisation and Dashboarding | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| | Free Choice Module | 20 | 10 | NONE | | |

Please note:

- Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. The availability of modules depends on resources and on the numbers of students selecting a particular optional module.
- Although the Free Choice Module can be any postgraduate (level 7) 20 credit module offered by the Faculty, in practice students' options are limited in several ways; the free choice module has to be on a subject related to the students' programme of studies, it should not be dis-requisite / similar or prevent the student from taking any of the modules in his/her programme of studies. In any case, the Course Leader has to approve the proposed Free Choice Module before a student registers for it. Please also note that the Free Choice Module can be any of the core optional modules mentioned above.

Full time students are expected to complete the course within a calendar year, whereas students doing the course in part-time mode are normally expected to complete it over a two year period. The above means that full time students cover the taught part of the course over the two semesters of an academic year and that they work on their project during the summer months of the same year. Part time students cover the taught part of the course over four semesters (two years) and that they are expected to work on their project during the summer months their second (last) year of their studies.

A number of taught modules in the programme are assessed entirely through coursework, but for the majority of modules the diet of assessment involves both a coursework and an examination. Moreover, the coursework for the majority of modules involves a number of assessment elements that allow the thorough assessment of learning outcomes.

To pass a module, students must achieve an overall mark of 50% (the pass mark for any module is 50%) in the module. In addition and depending on the module's diet of assessment, students must achieve the threshold mark of 35% in the coursework and/or in the examination. Typically, if a coursework involves more than one assessment element then students may have to achieve the threshold mark either on aggregate or in each individual assessment element or a combination of the two. Students, who fail to achieve the above, will be deemed as having failed the module and they may be offered a re-assessment.

At the discretion of the Assessment Board, a student may be re-assessed (re-sit) once only in any module other than the project module on each occasion that they attempt the module. The following guidelines can affect potential re-assessments (in what follows the term component should be understood as examination, coursework or any assessment element that a module's syllabus stipulates that needs to be achieved at threshold):

- If an overall mark of 50% or above is achieved and there is a particular component where a score of less than 35% is achieved, then the student will be deemed as not having passed the module and they may be offered a re-assessment in that component. The overall mark for a module successfully completed following a re-assessment will be capped at 50%.
- If an overall mark between 40% and 49% is achieved then students may be offered reassessment in the components they have not achieved the passing mark. The overall mark for a module successfully completed following a reassessment will be capped at 50%.
- If an overall mark of less than 40% is achieved, then regardless of the score of individual components the student may have to retake the module the following year with attendance.

The table below summarises the above guidelines:

| | | Assessment Component Mark | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| | | < 35% | ≥ 35% |
| Overall Mark | More than 50% | Reassess | Pass |
| | Between 40%-49% | Reassess | Reassess |
| | Less than 40% | Retake | Retake |

Academic regulations

The MSc in Business Information Systems and its intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called Essential Westminster, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in conjunction with the Modular Framework for

Postgraduate Courses and relevant sections of the current Handbook of Academic Regulations, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

Award

To qualify for the award of MSc in Business Information Systems, a student must have:

- obtained a minimum of 180 credits at Level 7;
- attempt modules worth no more than 240 credits; and
 Note: A first attempt of any module will count as an attempt, and a re-attempt of any module that a student has failed will count as a further, separate attempt. Re-assessment following referral at the first sit will not count as a further separate attempt.
- satisfied the requirements contained within any course specific regulations for the relevant Course Scheme.

The University may award a Masters Degree with

- Merit to a student whose marks average at least 60% across modules at Level 7, or
- Distinction to a student whose marks average at least 70% across the modules at Level 7.

Intermediate Awards

These are awards that students are not normally registered for in the first instance. A student's registration may be changed to one of these exit awards, if a student has failed too many modules and cannot be considered for the target award s/he is registered for or a student claims such an award because s/he is withdrawing the course.

Postgraduate Diploma in Business Information Systems

In order to be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) in Business Information Systems, a student must pass modules worth at least 120 credits and attempt modules worth no more than 240 credits. The modules a student needs to pass to be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) in Business Information Systems qualification are all level 7 modules and include:

- all of the following core modules (40 credits):

| Module Code | Module Title | UK Credits | ECTS | Pre/Co-requisites | Exam | Course work |
|-------------|--|------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------|
| EBSY717 | Requirements & System Modelling | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY718 | Architectures, Design & Deployment of IS | 20 | 10 | EBSY717 | – | 100% |

- and at most four of the following core/optional modules (80 credits):

| Module Code | Module Title | UK Credits | ECTS | Pre/Co-requisites | Exam | Course work |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------|---------------------|------|-------------|
| EBSY701 | Data Management & Repositories | 20 | 10 | NONE | 30% | 70% |
| EBSY702 | Database Languages | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY704 | Web-Enabled Database Applications | 20 | 10 | EBSY701 and EBSY712 | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY705 | Data Warehousing & OLAP | 20 | 10 | EBSY702 or EBSY708 | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY708 | Computing for Business & Management | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY712 | Business Systems Programming | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY713 | Semantic & Collaborative Technologies | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY714 | Project Management | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY715 | IT Business Models | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY716 | Enterprise Utility Computing | 20 | 10 | NONE | 40% | 60% |
| EBSY719 | Systems Interoperability | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY720 | Social Systems | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY721 | Web and Social Media Analytics | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY722 | Data Visualisation and Dashboarding | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| | Free Choice Module | 20 | 10 | NONE | | |

The University may award a Postgraduate Diploma with

- Merit to a student whose marks average at least 60% across the modules contributing to the award, where the Diploma is the target award rather than an intermediate award conferred following failure in one or more modules, or

- Distinction to a student whose marks average at least 70% across the modules contributing to the award, where the Diploma is the target award rather than an intermediate award conferred following failure in one or more modules.

Postgraduate Certificate in Business Information Systems

In order to be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) in Business Information Systems, a student must pass modules worth at least 60 credits and attempt modules worth no more than 240 credits. The modules a student needs to pass to be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) in Business Information Systems qualification are all level 7 modules and include:

- all of the following core modules (40 credits):

| Module Code | Module Title | UK Credits | ECTS | Pre/Co-requisites | Exam | Course work |
|-------------|--|------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------|
| EBSY717 | Requirements & System Modelling | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY718 | Architectures, Design & Deployment of IS | 20 | 10 | EBSY717 | – | 100% |

- and at most one of the following core/optional modules (20 credits):

| Module Code | Module Title | UK Credits | ECTS | Pre/Co-requisites | Exam | Course work |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------|---------------------|------|-------------|
| EBSY701 | Data Management & Repositories | 20 | 10 | NONE | 30% | 70% |
| EBSY702 | Database Languages | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY704 | Web-Enabled Database Applications | 20 | 10 | EBSY701 and EBSY712 | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY705 | Data Warehousing & OLAP | 20 | 10 | EBSY702 or EBSY708 | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY708 | Computing for Business & Management | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY712 | Business Systems Programming | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY713 | Semantic & Collaborative Technologies | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY714 | Project Management | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY715 | IT Business Models | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY716 | Enterprise Utility Computing | 20 | 10 | NONE | 40% | 60% |
| EBSY719 | Systems Interoperability | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY720 | Social Systems | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| EBSY721 | Web and Social Media Analytics | 20 | 10 | NONE | 50% | 50% |
| EBSY722 | Data Visualisation and Dashboarding | 20 | 10 | NONE | – | 100% |
| | Free Choice Module | 20 | 10 | NONE | | |

The University may award a Postgraduate Certificate with

- Merit to a student whose marks average at least 60% across the modules contributing to the award, where the Diploma is the target award rather than an intermediate award conferred following failure in one or more modules, or
- Distinction to a student whose marks average at least 70% across the modules contributing to the award, where the Diploma is the target award rather than an intermediate award conferred following failure in one or more modules.

Support for students

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books).

Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

At University level, Services for Students provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The International Office provides particular support for international students. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

Reference points for the course

Internally

- The [University's Mission Statement](#)
- The University's [Quality Assurance and Enhancement Handbook \(2009\)](#)
- The University's [Handbook of Academic Regulations \(2009\)](#)
- [L & T Good Practice Guides](#) produced by Westminster Exchange
- [Learning & Teaching Guides for the Inclusive Curriculum for Disabled Students \(2009\)](#) produced by ICDS Project Team
- [Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy 2009-11](#)
- Outcomes and actions of the [Curriculum and Assessment Enhancement Workshop](#)
- Academic staff research interests in Database Systems, Database Languages, Systems Architecture, Data Warehousing, Data Mining, Information Knowledge Management, etc.

Externally

- QAA, Subject Benchmark Statement: Master's degrees in Computing, 2011, available online www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/QAA386_Computing.pdf
- [The Benchmarking Standards for Taught Masters Degrees in Computing](#), 2008 sponsored by CPHC and BCS,
- BCS, [Guidelines on Course Accreditation – Information for Universities and Colleges](#), September 2010.
- SEEC Credit Level Descriptors 2001, Jan 2002.

Professional body accreditation

The course is accredited by British Computer Society, (BCS); graduates of the course who wish become members of the BCS will be given exemption from Part II requirement. More information on BCS and membership paths can be found at www.bcs.org.

Quality management and enhancement

Course management

The Course Leader is responsible for the academic management and organisation of the course. The Course Leader, who is also the Admissions Tutor for the course, is assisted by an Examinations Officer and a Project Co-ordinator. The Course Team comprises the Course Leader and all the members of staff who teach on the course. Typically each module is delivered by a module team. Each module has a Module Leader, who is responsible for co-ordinating the module team and for the delivery, resourcing and smooth running of the module.

Course approval, monitoring and review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2010. The panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic course review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the Faculty action plans resulting

from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with review panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty's quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course:

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Course Enquiries:

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7915 5511
Email: admissions@westminster.ac.uk

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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