Business Information Management
MSc / PG Diploma
Aim of Programme

This MSc or PG Diploma programme aims to impart understanding and skills in information management and IT with a focus on business. It covers the organisation and development of businesses, information systems and IT. It also addresses management and design issues for them. Students can specialise in areas like big data, e-commerce, or IT project management. The programme studies IT, but does not require students to design programs or write software.

Duration of Programme

The full-time MSc programme starts in mid September and lasts 1 year. The Postgraduate Diploma starts at the same time but only lasts 8 months. Students completing the PG Diploma at MSc level may transfer to the MSc.

Part-time study for the MSc over 2 years is also possible by special arrangement with the programme director.

Programme Structure

The first two semesters (September-May) are spent studying taught courses in Business Information Management. At the same time research skills are developed as a preparation for the MSc project. Exams take place at the end of each semester.

In the third semester (May-August) students undertake a specialist project and write it up as a dissertation. The project enables further development and consolidation of skills introduced in taught courses, applying them to a challenging practical problem in this subject area.

The project is carried out under the supervision of an individual academic who is an expert in the field. In some cases the project can be carried out in collaboration with an outside industrial or academic organisation.

The table shows essential and optional courses in the first 2 semesters. Full time students study 4 courses each semester.
SEMESTER 1 COURSES

C11CS Competitive Strategy
- To integrate business concepts and ideas to show how companies compete.
- To explore strategic management models and how companies operate.
- To develop critical understanding of competitive advantage and its environment.
- To develop skills in using business case studies to enhance business planning skills and strategic thinking.

F21DF Database and Information Systems
- To explore the methodologies for analysing, specifying and designing databases and information systems.
- To explore the relationships among organisations, human activities and information systems, and between the latter and software development life cycles, and use them in systems design.
- To give practical experience in designing, building, deploying and using databases and information systems via programming.

F21IF Information Systems Methodologies
- To explore a range of issues concerning advanced methodological approaches to information systems development.
- To develop critical faculties and techniques in selecting and applying these methodological approaches.

F21IM Information Technology Master Class
- To introduce students to the cutting edge of research in a topic in Information Technology.
- To provide students with an opportunity to create and deliver a master-class on that topic to their peers.

C11OH Organisational Behaviour/ Human Resource Management
- To explore and study contemporary issues in organisational studies.
- To examine the relationships between organisations and their environment and how they adapt to changes in it.
- To explore power, politics, leadership, cultural management, ethics and social responsibility.
- To examine HRM techniques, performance and reward management, work/job design and team-working.

F21SA Statistical Modelling and Analysis
- To impart a range of statistical modelling and analysis techniques for data analysis and demonstrate their practical application.
- To develop the ability to deal with complex issues and make informed professional judgements about them using statistical models and analysis.

SEMESTER 2 COURSES

F21AD Advanced Interaction Design
- To review principal abstractions, methods and techniques for the management of large and complex data sets (“Big Data”).
- To develop an understanding of the foundations and tools of the Semantic Web.
- To impart ability to appreciate critically a range of data integration solutions.

F21BP Big Data Management
- To review principal abstractions, methods and techniques for the management of large and complex data sets (“Big Data”).
- To develop an understanding of the foundations and tools of the Semantic Web.
- To impart ability to appreciate critically a range of data integration solutions.

F21DE Digital and Knowledge Economy
- To consider the impact of deploying new technologies and emerging knowledge in developed economies.
- To discuss e-Business, as a modern business model that leverages technical advancements to create economic growth.
- To introduce relevant models, analytical techniques, technologies and methodologies including business, organisational, knowledge and technology based issues.
- To facilitate the dialogue between business and computing personnel, and translate business requirements to computing ones and vice versa.

F21EC e-Commerce Technology
- To impart understanding of e-Commerce technology and of how Information Systems shape it.
- To put e-Commerce technologies in a structural framework, show how they support e-Commerce operations, provide technical know-how for implementing e-Commerce platforms and analytical skills to examine the technical aspects of e-Commerce.
- To show how marketing strategies in e-Commerce enable effective B2C relationships.

C11PA Project Management
- To develop an appreciation of the knowledge and skills of a professional project manager.
- To develop competence in using a generic set of quantitative and qualitative project planning and control tools and techniques.
- To enable recognition of the limitations and appropriateness of approaches to project management.
- To study project progression from strategy formulation to execution.
- To define the role and current issues faced by project managers in the context of project control.

F21RP Research Methods and Project Planning
- To enable students to develop skills in critical thinking, research planning, academic writing and experimental design appropriate for a postgraduate programme.
- To enable students to gain skills in project planning and an awareness of legal, ethical, social and professional issues relevant for computing practitioners.
- To enhance students’ employability by development of job seeking and career planning skills.

We may alter the courses offered at any time. Some courses may not run every year. Not every course combination may be possible to take. Students must satisfy each course’s prerequisites and their course choice must be agreed with the programme’s director.
**Entry Requirements**

Applicants require a first or second class honours degree or its overseas equivalent showing evidence of numeracy. Graduates with a little less than this may sometimes be admitted to the Postgraduate Diploma programme. If their exam and coursework performance is MSc level by May, they may then be recommended for transfer to the MSc.

Non-native English speakers must also satisfy the university’s requirements for competency in English. This can be done with an IELTS score of 6.5, EDEXCEL London Tests of English level 5, UCLES Certificate in Advanced English (CPE) grade C, level B in academic English from our own English language teachers or by proving they have studied wholly in English at university level. A full range of English language training courses can be taken at Heriot-Watt University before starting a programme.

Applicants requiring sponsorship for a tier 4 visa to study in the UK via a CAS letter must also satisfy the UK Borders Agency’s minimum English language requirements.

**How to apply**

Apply online at

[www.hw.ac.uk/study/apply/uk/postgraduate.htm](http://www.hw.ac.uk/study/apply/uk/postgraduate.htm)

Supporting documents including 2 academic references, degree certificates, transcripts of marks and English test results can be uploaded digitally to the online application facility.

**Scholarships and Awards**

International students can apply for a variety of scholarships from the Scottish executive, other bodies and our school. Please visit

[www.macs.hw.ac.uk/cs/pgcourses/finance.htm#international](http://www.macs.hw.ac.uk/cs/pgcourses/finance.htm#international)

Scottish and EU citizens can apply for SAAS loans. Please visit

[www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

Other scholarships may be available from the university. Please visit

[www.hw.ac.uk/study/scholarships/postgraduate-taught.htm](http://www.hw.ac.uk/study/scholarships/postgraduate-taught.htm)

**Cost**

The Scots/UK/EU fee for this one year full time MSc programme at Heriot-Watt university in Edinburgh starting in September 2019 is £7168. The overseas fee is £18680. The cost of living during one year of study in Edinburgh is estimated at £10800. The Dubai campus fee is AED 81900 for 2019/20.

**Career Prospects**

Graduates from this programme can expect to be employed as IT consultants, IT systems integrators, web developers, IT analysts, IT entrepreneurs, IT business analysts, information officers, e-business consultants, IT project managers and as research associates or research students within universities.

**Post-Study Work Opportunities in Scotland**

Good opportunities exist for students who graduate in a specialism in demand in the Scottish economy to get employment here. The Scottish government is keen to help talented individuals from around the world come to study, work and live here. More information can be found at [www.talentscotland.com](http://www.talentscotland.com)

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