Programme Specification

A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from The University of Sheffield

1	**Programme Title**	Information Systems Management
2	**Programme Code**	IJCT028
3	**HECoS Code**	100370
4	**Level of Study**	Postgraduate
5a	**Final Qualification**	MSc
5b	**Position in the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications**	Masters
6a	**Intermediate Qualification(s)**	Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma
6b	**Position in the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications**	Masters
7	**Teaching Institution** (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	**Faculty**	Social Sciences
9	**School**	Information, Journalism and Communication
10	**Other School(s) involved in teaching the programme**	Management
11	**Mode(s) of Attendance**	Full-time on-campus
12	**Duration of the Programme**	1 year Full-time
13	**Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body**	Not applicable
14	**Date of production/revision**	November 2006, March 2017, March 2024

15. Background to the programme and subject area

We aim to produce graduate managers who are conversant with both technical and management issues in general and thus able to help avoid the mutual incomprehension common in business (and the public sector) between managers who do not understand IT and IT specialists who do not understand management – an incomprehension which results in serious delays, cost overruns and even complete failures of major IT projects.

The course adopts an interdisciplinary concept and approach and involves the collaboration of the Information School and the Management School.

16. Programme aims

The **MSc in Information Systems Management** aims specifically to:

1) develop an awareness of the human, organisational and social contexts in which information systems operate.

2) enable students to become familiar with the technologies used to design, develop and maintain information systems.

3) provide students with practical skills in the techniques and technologies used to manage information systems in organisational settings.

4) enable those already working in the information systems field to update and expand their professional understanding and competencies into a management career path.

5) enable those already working in management to make themselves familiar with the possibilities and challenges of information systems for the non-specialist manager.

6) develop students' understanding of management theories and practices of modern organisations to enable them to identify and critically evaluate alternative strategies adopted by organisations in meeting challenges imposed by changing social, political and economic environments.

7) develop students' ability to conduct rigorous research through independent work and leading to the submission of a management report.

More generally, the two collaborating Schools aim in all their programmes to:

1) deliver a curriculum for each degree programme that develops in students a broad understanding of the subject area together with a detailed and critical understanding of selected areas.

2) deliver teaching informed and inspired by professional expertise and by the research and scholarship of staff.

3) encourage students to become informed citizens and to understand the place of information systems and management in society.

17. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding:

On completion of the PG Certificate, students will be able to demonstrate a critical understanding of relevant knowledge related to:

K1	The nature of information and its uses, the interface between information and its users, and the technology and systems which produce and communicate information.
K2	The role of operations management in promoting the efficient use of organisational resources.
K3	The management methods, techniques and tools necessary to design, develop and maintain information systems.
K4	The management and development of people in organisations: organisational behaviour, human resources management, change-management.

In addition to the above, on completion of the PG Diploma, students will be able to demonstrate a critical understanding of relevant knowledge related to:

K5	The principles and practice of the management of information systems projects.
K6	The principal methods of research relevant to the management of information systems and management more generally; an ability to critically evaluate this research and where appropriate propose new hypotheses.
K7	The role of strategic management in giving direction to an enterprise or other organisation.
K8	Selected theories and practices of management and of information studies, depending upon the chosen elective modules.

In addition to the above, on completion of the MSc in Information Systems Management, students will be able to demonstrate:

K9	An advanced knowledge and critical understanding, displaying originality, depth and insight, of a specialist area of study at the forefront of the field of information systems management.

Skills and other attributes:

On completion of the PG Certificate and PG Diploma in Information Systems Management, students will be able to demonstrate ability to:

S1	Apply creative and critical methods of appraisal in the context of the management of information systems.
S2	Identify and use relevant information for analysis and decision making in a managerial context.
S3	Communicate effectively using a variety of forms within both individual and group-based assignments.
S4	Analyse problems relating to the management of information systems using appropriate concepts, theories and techniques.

In addition to the above, on completion of the MSc in Information Systems Management students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

S5	Complete successfully an independent research study in the management of information systems, involving the skills of designing a research study, choosing appropriate methodology, conducting data collection and analysis of findings in a systematic and creative manner leading to the production of a written report of the project.

18. Teaching, learning and assessment

Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

Lectures are used to communicate subject-specific knowledge and understanding, to guide the general direction of students' engagement with each subject to develop analytical skills and to stimulate critical reflection.

The provision of **web sites** and **handouts** embodies questions, activities and case-studies to enhance understanding through exercises and illustrations and to promote critical reflection by students of the linkages between management theory and practice.

Seminars enable students to develop their understanding of the subject matter through discussion of review questions and the analysis of case studies based upon real organisational challenges. Students also prepare presentations on their case study analysis to develop communication and other transferable skills.

Group work allows students to develop transferable skills and understanding by debate and collaborative working.

Tutor and self-directed **private study** and preparation for tutorials and assessment is a significant component of each student's personal development.

Tutorials are used to respond to students' enquiries, to provide feedback on progress and to promote reflection and analysis. Students have one-to-one supervision to help them prepare their management project reports (S5). Students have one-to-one communication through the use of face-to-face meetings, email and telephone contact. The following table demonstrates how these methods relate to the learning outcomes.

	Lectures	Web-sites & handouts	Seminars	Group work	Private study	Tutorials
K1	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
K2	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
K3	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
K4	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
K5	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
K6	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
K7	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
K8	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
K9		☑			☑	☑
S1			☑	☑	☑	☑
S2	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑
S3			☑	☑		☑
S4	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
S5		☑			☑	☑

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:

Examinations are used to test knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of management and the skills of application to small-scale case studies.

Essays and **reports** are used to test knowledge and understanding and skills.

Case analysis **presentations** are used to test skills S1 to S4 and relevant knowledge and understanding.

The **information systems management systems project** is used to test S5.

The learning outcomes are assessed in the following ways:

	Examinations	Essays & reports	Presentations	Information Systems Management Project
K1	☑	☑		
K2	☑	☑		
K3	☑	☑		
K4	☑	☑		
K5	☑	☑		
K6		☑	☑	☑

K7	▢	▢		
K8	▢	▢		
K9				▢
S1	▢	▢	▢	▢
S2	▢	▢	▢	▢
S3	▢	▢	▢	▢
S4	▢	▢		▢
S5				▢

19. Reference points

The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:

Internal

University Vision and Strategic Plan
https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/vision

The Learning and Teaching Strategy of the School of Information, Journalism and Communication.

The Learning and Teaching Strategy of the Management School.

Current and recent research and scholarship of School staff. http://www.shef.ac.uk/management/research

Discussions with members of the School of Information, Journalism and Communication Studies Advisory Panel (comprising senior members of the information professions). http://www.shef.ac.uk/is/index

Discussions with members of the Management School Advisory Board (comprising senior managers). http://www.shef.ac.uk/management

School annual student programme and module evaluations.

External

Professional accreditation: Although accreditation will not be sought for this programme, the aims and objectives of the MSc Information Systems Management programme are consonant with, and address a significant proportion of, the CILIP Body of Professional Knowledge (BPK) document, available from www.cilip.org.uk/qualificationschartership

Subject Benchmark Statements
https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2014)
https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf

20. Programme structure and regulations

The MSc in Information Systems Management programme offers a full-time and a part-time programme. The full-time programme is offered over 12 months starting in late September each year and finishes the following September. The part-time programme also starts in late September each year and takes a maximum of 27 months to complete;

The programme is modular in nature, allowing students some flexibility in the design of their degree. The modules are normally delivered either by the Information School or the Management School, depending on the nature of the content, and as indicated in the module lists below. Students enter the programme with a wide range of prior skills and knowledge. Accordingly, the programme allows students to opt for the modules that are more appropriate to their levels of prior knowledge.

Students will take:

a) Eight core modules

Semester 1
- IJC435   Information Systems Modelling
- IJC424   Information Systems in Organisations
- MGT650   Managing People in Organisations
- MGT6046 Operations and Supply Chain Management

Semester 2
- IJC436   Information Systems Project Management
- IJC417   ICTs, Innovation and Change
- IJC470   Research Methods and Dissertation Preparation

- MGT6047 Strategic Management

b). one module in Semester 2 from the following approved modules (fifteen credits may be taken in an unrestricted module at the discretion of the Programme Coordinator):

- MGT6052 International Business Strategy
- MGT670   International Human Resource Studies
- MGT679   Employee Performance Management
- IJC415   E-Business and E-Commerce
- IJC420   Information Governance & Ethics
- IJC413   Business Information
- IJC434   Information Systems and the Information Society
- IJC416   Human Computer Interaction and User Interface Design
- IJC416   Electronic Publishing (requires HTML knowledge).

Semester *3:*
- MGT689 Project Dissertation OR IJC403 Dissertation (45 credits)

Core modules *are compulsory and ensure a coherent programme structure providing all students with the key concepts and essential tools they need to work as competent professionals in their chosen field.*

Approved modules *allow students to follow professional and personal interests in specialised areas in greater depth. In consultation with staff, students choose modules to design an academically coherent programme consistent with their own career aspirations and interests.*

All core and approved modules are worth 15 credits and are designed on the basis of approximately 10 hours of work per credit (including contact hours, private study and assessment) in order to ensure an appropriate and uniform workload. The dissertation, including the relevant research methods module, is worth 60 credits. Students aiming for a Masters' degree must register for modules to the value of 180 credits.

A Practical Computing Module is also available in semester 1 and delivered by the Information School to support students. This involves up to two hours of lectures/practical laboratory work per week and is not credit-rated. In consultation with the module co-ordinator, students may decide to attend all, some or no sessions on this module, depending on their prior technical skills and experience in relevant areas.

Successful completion of the programme leads to the award of the Masters' degree, with either a 'pass' or 'pass with distinction' grade.

Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma level awards are available after successful completion of taught modules to the value of 60 credits and 120 credits respectively.

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available on-line at www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar

21. Student development over the course of study

The first semester is devoted to core modules, and covers the main features of information systems, and the basic disciplines and functions of management which are key for the management of information systems.

The second semester covers 'Information systems project management', to enable students to integrate the knowledge and skills acquired in the first semester, and to develop a deeper level of skill in analysing the problems arising in changing the information systems in an organisation. The strategic management module also plays an integrative role. Options allow a student to explore issues in management and/or information studies which are related to the management of information systems. The module 'Research Methods' enables students to think carefully about and plan their information systems management project. The output of the module is a detailed project proposal.

The project dissertation enables students to demonstrate their ability to undertake a sustained investigation, drawing on relevant aspects of the knowledge, understanding and skills gained in the earlier stages.

22. Criteria for admission to the programme

Students will need to have a good honours degree in any subject, preferably with some experience of practical computing, programming, or information systems work. A strong interest in the organisational impact and value of computer-based information systems will be necessary, together with a desire to follow a career in the field (broadly defined) in business, industry or the public sector. For students whose first language is not English, an IELTS score of 7.0 is necessary, with a minimum of 6.0 in each test component.

23. Additional information

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching School(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at www.shef.ac.uk/ssid