



Module Specification

Business Applications

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Business Applications

Module code: UFCFP3-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Computing and Creative Technologies

Partner institutions: None

Field: Computer Science and Creative Technologies

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In addition to the Learning Outcomes the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally discretely assess the following:

Progression to independent learning

Awareness of appropriate professional literature

Working with others

Outline syllabus: The role of IS in business, the range and variety of information systems: typologies and evolutionary frameworks; monolithic, client-server and computer/network and web-service-based information systems and their evolution; reasons for diversity; emergence of new application areas ahead of theory and methodology; the impacts of the web, multi-media and technological convergence.

The relationship between IS and operational systems and between IS and organizational processes and levels; the effects of IS on the individual, groups, organizations, and markets and the relationships and influences between them.

Exploration of a range of application domains: commercial, industrial and professional examples; inquiry into the regular processes characteristic of such domains and the role played by information systems in supporting, extending or changing them; could include, for example, supply chain management, financial accounting, office automation, computer integrated manufacturing, e-learning, product design, virtual reality, Business Process Management.

The systems lifecycle as a way of organizing thinking about and intervention in, complex sociotechnical environments; systems as whole-life, multi-dimensional, constructs; establishing user requirements within the business context, system specification; systems analysis, systems design, systems procurement and systems implementation, operation, evolution and retirement; project management and its relationship to the systems lifecycle including an understanding of the social and technical organisation of the development process and a need for integration and control of development activities through project management.

The importance, applicability and relevance of abstractions, models, diagrams, notations and descriptions in the development process; examples commonly used in information systems development e.g. functional descriptions (data flow diagrams),

data descriptions (entity relationship models), and relational data analysis (normalisation).

During the module we will consider the wide range of uses, applications and effects of information systems. The materials presented are intended to enable students to understand the spread and diversity of information systems applications in different domains, establish an initial understanding of the nature and uses of information systems and grasp and use appropriate systems models and frameworks in approaching the study of information systems.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Weekly lectures - will be used to present and highlight the major concepts and issues in the syllabus, with additional detail provided in the form of online notes, readings, or other indicated sources.

Employer experience and 'know-how' makes an important contribution to the module and the e-skills invited 'Guru Lecture' series is a key element in bridging the academic and business worlds. There are approximately 12 Guru Lectures throughout the academic year, hosted (in turn) by one of the ITMB participating universities. These lectures are broadcast live to the other universities using state-of-the-art web conferencing software. Guru Lectures are intended to inspire and motivate the students and to support their studies by showing the importance of theory to the world of practice. Speakers and topics are arranged in negotiation between the 14 participating universities and span technology, business, project management and personal/interpersonal skills.

Weekly seminar/workshops - will be conducted through a structured, tutor-facilitated programme. The module lays great emphasis on the need to combine formal, academic material with the application of ideas and concepts. To this end extensive use will be made of case study based exercises, group work exercises, webcast and video material. Collaboration, team working and sharing of knowledge and experience will be promoted through a group project underpinned by material from

guru lectures.

Practical and professional skills and competences in IS development will be integrated into the syllabus. This is based on the notion that true understanding comes from participation in action and that learning through reflective IS practice is valuable. Promotion of investigative skills through conversation, interviewing, use of library and internet sources will form one of the practical elements. Associated with this will be the need to document, diagram and present the findings. A central plank of IS development practice, working in teams, will form another major element in students' practical engagement with the module, in order to promote skills in communication, assertion, negotiation and evaluation.

No variations for part-time study. Distance learning not available for this module, due to the emphasis on teamwork.

Hours

Contact time: 72

Assimilation and development of knowledge: 148

Exam preparation: 20

Coursework preparation: 60

Total study time: 300

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and purpose of information systems in business and contemporary IS/IT applications, initiatives and issues.

MO2 Appreciate the strategic and competitive use of information systems and the changing nature of business dynamics, structures, functions and relationships

MO3 Be aware of and question the changing nature of skills, knowledge, relationships and work patterns in business

MO4 Use appropriate tools, technologies, techniques and methods in engaging with the process of business systems specification, development and implementation

MO5 Demonstrate key transferable skills in the areas of: communication, self-management, problem formulation and decision making

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ufcfp3-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ufcfp3-30-1.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Group Work - implementation and documentation - will be undertaken in small groups and will assess Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 5. Group Work - proposal and design - will be undertaken in small groups and will assess Learning Outcomes 4 and 5.

Both group work tasks are to be undertaken in small groups. This has the benefit of creating peer groups, providing a support network for learning, allowing for the consolidation and sharing and dissemination of prior learning and the practice, improvement and assessment of key transferrable skills.

Staff will provide on-going guidance to students on working in a group and the work of groups will be continuously monitored in workshop sessions so that problems and disagreements can be resolved in a fair and equitable manner at the earliest possible opportunity.

Both group work tasks are based on the same scenario so as to provide both formative and summative feedback on the investigation and analysis undertaken by groups before work begins on the design and build phases of the assignment deliverable.

Both resit tasks will be based on the same case study.

Assessment tasks:

Case Study (First Sit)

Description: Proposal and design of a business application.

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO4, MO5

Case Study (First Sit)

Description: Development of a prototype business application demonstration of a business application using databases based on the same scenario as the proposal and design groupwork.

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

Case Study (Resit)

Description: Proposal and design of a business application.

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO4, MO5

Case Study (Resit)

Description: Development of a prototype business application demonstration of a business application using databases based on the same scenario as the proposal and design groupwork.

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Business Computing [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Information Technology Management for Business [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Business Computing {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23