

Faculty of Science

Master of Information Systems

Incorporating

Postgraduate Certificate of Information Systems

Postgraduate Diploma of Information Systems

NEW COURSE Graduate Certificate of Information Systems

1 Background

The Master of Information Systems is the professional masters degree for practitioners in information systems. The degree has been offered for about eight years and the changes are motivated by a change in core knowledge for practitioners, and to affirm the degree as the professional masters in information systems under the Melbourne Model.

Over the last six years the core knowledge required for practicing information systems professionals has changed considerably. Firstly, technology continues to change rapidly. This means that a practitioner needs to understand how specific information technologies and systems underpin the organisation. Secondly, organisations increasingly buy and install package systems, instead of building them in-house. The continuing theme in information systems remains the role information technologies and systems play in underpinning key business processes in organisations and how to use information technology and systems strategically.

General demand and professional accreditation

Demand for information systems practitioners continues to grow. This demand is evident in statistics gathered by governments world-wide and is also manifested in our industry partners seeking our graduates. Critically, this demand together with the advent of the Melbourne Model and associated retiring of the career-entry professional degree, the Bachelor of Information Systems, highlights the need to recommit to a professional masters degree in information systems. Thus part of the changes involve re-positioning the Master of Information Systems to be both a career-entry level professional degree and a degree for those mid-career wanting to update their qualifications after years in practice.

The Australian professional body, the Australian Computer Society (ACS), accredits professional degrees in information systems. The core knowledge in this degree is that recognised internationally by partner organisations to the ACS: the Association for Information Systems (AIS) and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

2 Course/Program Objectives

The key objective of the Master of Information Systems is to equip students with capabilities to integrate key information technologies and systems into contemporary organisations. Thus the degree covers knowledge about how IT infrastructure, applications, emerging technologies and systems can be used by organizations. Additionally, it covers the management capabilities in handling IT strategy, providing IT governance, undertaking project led change, achieving compliance, protecting against threats, and in IT service provision. Those without working knowledge of IT management also require grounding in concrete real-world business processes and the roles assumed by technicians in developing information systems.

Additional to the core knowledge areas above, students also gain a broad business and real world perspective together with experience in applying business communication, interpersonal, and team skills to real situations. Further, critical thinking and analytical skills are honed through a mixture of advanced teaching models including case-based, experiential, and team-based approaches.

Finally, specific career directing electives in areas demanded by industry are available for students to round out their information systems education.

3 Entry Requirements

As recommended separately by Academic Board

4 Course/Program Structure

200pt entry

- Any undergraduate degree (Melbourne University H3 average in the final year of study or equivalent)

Foundations subjects

Four subjects – two in IT foundations and two in business process foundations

The specific subjects selected would be determined after consultation with the program director taking into account the academic background of the candidate.

- 615-501/2 Fundamentals of Information Systems
- 433-520 Programming and Software Development
- 303-662 Information Processes & Control
- 615-5XY Advanced Organisational Processes (P:303-662)

Then complete the remaining 150pts according to the 150pt entry (below)

Notes

- Those entering with Computer Science or other technical degree would be rounded-out by replacing 433-520 with a business oriented subject.
- Those entering with a Commerce degree and some Information Systems subjects or another degree with breadth in Information Systems would be advised to complete more technical subjects instead of some or all of 303-662, 615-501/2, and 615-5XY.
- Those entering with a Commerce degree but without any Information Systems subjects may replace 303-662 or 615-5XY with different business subjects according to coverage in their Commerce degree.

150pt entry

- Any undergraduate degree (Melbourne University H3 average in the final year of study or equivalent) and at least one year's documented relevant work experience
- an undergraduate degree in Information Systems with at least H3 (65%) average in the final year of study or equivalent
- a Graduate Certificate in Information Systems with at least H3 (65%) average in the Graduate Certificate or equivalent; or
- a combination of study considered by the faculty to be equivalent to the Graduate Certificate in Information Systems

IS core subjects

Note: The foundations subjects studied will be referred to as 'IS Foundations'

IS skills

- 615-6XX Information Technology Infrastructure (C:501/2&433-520&303-662 or Pgrad Cert entry)
- 615-6XY Business Analysis Modelling and Design (P:501/2&433-520&303-662/5XY or Pgrad Cert entry)
- 615-671 Business Applications and Architectures (P: IS Foundations; C:6XX&6XY or 100pt MIS entry)
- 615-652 Emerging Technologies and Issues (P:IS Foundations courses; C:6XX&6XY or 100pt MIS entry)

IS management

- 615-6ZZ IS Project and Change Management (C:6XY or 100pt MIS entry)
- 615-660 IS Strategy and Governance (P:6XX&6XY or 100pt MIS entry)
- 615-6XW Impact of Digitisation (P:303-662 and C:5XY/6XY)
- 615-695 IS Commercial and Professional Practice (P:Pgrad Cert entry)

plus
FOUR (4) elective subjects as approved by the Department of Information Systems

All subject prerequisites for electives is strictly EITHER completion of at least 50pt of level 500+ subjects OR at least 1 year's relevant work experience

100pt entry

- *Honours degree in Information Systems (Melbourne University H3 average in the final year of study or equivalent), or*
- *Bachelors Information Systems degree (Melbourne University H3 average in the final year of study or equivalent) and at least three year's documented relevant work experience; or*
- *Postgraduate Certificate in Information Systems or equivalent (H3 average) and one year's documented relevant work experience, or*
- *Postgraduate Diploma in Information Systems or equivalent (H3 average)*

Students in the 100pt program already have an Information Systems undergraduate degree (or equivalent) together with three year's relevant work experience. This would obviate the need for them to study IT Infrastructure, IS Project and Change Management, and Business Analysis Modelling and Design. However, course advice would further customize the selection of the core to include some or all of these depending on the student's objectives and experience.

Normally completion of the following FOUR (4) core subjects

- 615-671 Business Applications and Architectures
- 615-652 Emerging Technologies and Issues
- 615-660 Information Systems Strategy and Governance
- 615-6XW Impact of Digitisation

plus FOUR (4) elective subjects as approved by the Department of Information Systems

100 pt MIS students will meet the Director to customize the course where prior experience or study covers knowledge in the core subjects and to select electives

Exit point from 200pt program after the four IS 'Foundations' subjects.

- Graduate Certificate of Information Systems
- This certificate represents the core foundational Information Systems and business knowledge required for those without an IS undergraduate degree or equivalent. This is for students who wish to have an award when part the way towards completion. This sometimes arises due to changes in circumstances and allows students to realise a qualification for effort expended.
- Structure of program normally includes:
 - 615-5XX Fundamentals of Information Systems
 - 433-520 Programming and Software Development
 - 303-662 Information Processes & Control
 - 615-5XY Advanced Organisational Processes

Note: Students entering the degree with stronger technical or stronger organisational background in their undergraduate degree may replace some of these subjects with alternatives (see the 200pt degree structure)
- The exit point is for students who have completed the foundations of the full masters.

Students will be permitted to enrol directly into the exit award.

B: Exit point from 100, or 150 pt programs after completing any four subjects from the 'IS core'.

- Postgraduate Certificate of Information Systems
- This is for students who wish to have an award and be part the way towards completion without committing to a full 100 or 150 pt masters degree

- iii. Structure of program:
completion of any four of the following core subjects
 - 615-6XX Information Technology Infrastructure
 - 615-6XY Business Analysis, Modelling, and Design
 - 615-671 Business Applications and Architectures
 - 615-652 Emerging Technologies and Issues
 - 615-6ZZ IS Project and Change Management
 - 615-660 IS Strategy and Governance
 - 615-6XW Impact of Digitisation
 - 615-695 IS Commercial and Professional Practice
- iv. The exit point is for students who have completed only part of the requirements for the masters without them committing to the full 100 or 150pt degrees.

Students will be permitted to enrol directly into the exit award.

C: Exit point from 150 pt programs after completing eight core subjects.

- i. Postgraduate Diploma of Information Systems
- ii. This is for students who wish to have an award and be part the way towards completion without committing to a full 100 or 150 pt masters degree
- iii. Structure of program:
completion of all of the following core subjects
 - 615-6XX Information Technology Infrastructure
 - 615-6XY Business Analysis, Modelling, and Design
 - 615-671 Business Applications and Architectures
 - 615-652 Emerging Technologies and Issues
 - 615-6ZZ IS Project and Change Management
 - 615-660 IS Strategy and Governance
 - 615-6XW Impact of Digitisation
 - 615-695 IS Commercial and Professional Practice
- iv. The exit point is for students who wish only to complete only part of the masters without committing to the full 150pt degree.

Students will not be permitted to enrol directly into the exit award.

5 Availability of Course

The courses will be available full-time and part-time to CSP and full fee-paying Australian and overseas students from 2008.