MSc Information Technology
University of Wales

University of Wales
Prifysgol Cymru

Online-based
distance learning

Qualification
On successful completion of the programme you will be awarded an MSc Information Technology.

Awarding Body
This degree is validated and awarded by the University of Wales, UK. For further details regarding the University and its validation services, please log on to www.wales.ac.uk/validation or email validation@wales.ac.uk.

Course Description
This programme will:
- Develop your understanding of current and emerging computer technologies.
- Enable you to explore the issues around the management of Information Technology in business and industrial contexts.
- Develop your expertise and interest in topic areas of direct and complementary relevance to the workplace.
- Enable you to apply your knowledge and understanding of critical and pervasive issues in computing and information systems in a range of situations.
- Encourage you to develop an understanding of current research issues.
- Enable you to integrate theory and practice ensuring both academic rigour and practical application.

Mode
Online distance learning

Course Content (Modules)
Comprises seven modules:

1. Information Strategies
This module will provide you with an understanding of the various strategies involved in the production of Information Systems and how they relate to each other. On completion of this module you will be able to:
- Critically evaluate the role of various information strategies and their relationship to each other.
- Discuss the ways the strategies can be developed.
- Develop a strategy based on a scenario.

2. Information Systems Development
This module will provide you with an understanding of software development methodologies and software development tools and techniques. On completion of this module you will be able to:
- Critically evaluate the role of software development methodologies.
- Research the software development tools and techniques to support a software development methodology.
- Create a software development methodology and select the relevant tools/techniques for a given situation.
- Critically evaluate different approaches to software development.

3. Managing Client Focused Projects
You will have the opportunity to work upon on a real/simulated project in an industry context. You will be able to synthesise your knowledge and apply it to real life problems for a client. On completion of this module you will be able to:
- Analyse a business problem based on real life context.
- Critically evaluate project theory and practice.
- Formulate an appropriate project plan and organisation.
- Prepare and evaluate project designs.
- Assemble key components of the solution with appropriate development tools.

4. Research Paradigms
This module will provide you with the necessary knowledge and skills to critically evaluate the use of evidence in computing and digital media, to do research and generate your own evidence based material to justify your professional practice. On completion of this module you will be able to:
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of research strategies and data generation methods.
- Synthesise knowledge of research strategies and data generation in order to identify esearch questions/problems and construct a research proposal.
- Reflect critically on professional practice in computing and digital media.

5. Commercial Website Development
This module will develop both your conceptual and practical understanding of web application tools, enabling you to design and implement non-trivial web based applications. On completion of this module you will be able to:
- Design, implement and document a functional, well structured dynamic web application.
- Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the capabilities and contribution that dynamic web applications can offer in business.
- Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the need for usability design, and the key underlying principles of human-computer interaction design.
- Critically appraise web sites and evaluate competing approaches between technologies.
- Critically evaluate new trends and technologies in website development and web application technologies.

6. Current Issues in Networking
This module, which deals with selected, leading edge topics in networking and data communications, will develop your knowledge of research issues relating to network technologies and applications. On completion of this module you will be able to:
- Identify leading edge research issues within the field of data communications and networks.
- Explain research issues and current thinking in data communications and networks topics.
- Critically evaluate currently published material within the field.
- Postulate possible future research approaches and directions.

7. Project/Dissertation
You will undertake a major piece of individual study in the field of computing or computer applications. Normally projects will be drawn from commercial, industrial or research based problem areas involving you in researching and investigating aspects of applied computing, then producing a major deliverable (software package, design, animation website etc. The original research and the project process will be fully reported in the dissertation.

Assessment
You will complete a 4,000 word assignment for each of modules 1-6, plus a three-hour exam for module 2 and a dissertation of 15,000 words for module 7.

Duration of Programme
The MSc Information Technology is normally studied over a period of 24 months, but this may be extended to suit your individual needs for up to a maximum of five years.

Entry Requirements
- First degree from an approved university equivalent to a UK second class honours, in a computing subject.
- English language ability equivalent to an IELTS score of 6.5, where the medium of undergraduate study was not English.
- Candidates without a first degree will be eligible for entry if they can demonstrate extensive industrial experience.
- Candidates will be expected to have knowledge of online business systems equivalent to first degree level.

What's Included
RDI's Online University **ilearn** is used to deliver all resources for this course including:
- **Study materials** - Access electronic copies of your learning materials and important information, such as assessment instructions, whenever and wherever you are.
- **Tutor support** - Tutors use live chats and forums to stimulate discussions, request input and highlight external sources.
- **External resources** - Links to external sources can include key journal articles, your university's online library, sites of topical interest, etc.
- **Discussion with other students** - Forums allow students to come together, share thoughts and ideas and you can initiate topics that you want to discuss with your fellow students..

Workload
We recommend an average of 18 hours study time per week for this programme.

Exemptions
For this qualification we may allow you to count credit for relevant study you have already done elsewhere. Exemptions are considered on an individual basis when you submit an application form. Please note that we cannot consider work experience alone for exemptions.

How to Apply
In addition to the completed application form:
- Copies of your relevant certificates and/or transcripts
- Two suitable references. Please note we can only accept academic and/or professional work references.
- Copy of your CV detailing your work history (covering the last five years).
- Proof of English language ability (IELTS or TOEFL), if English is not your first language or you have not previously studied in English.

Apply online
Visit our website **www.rdi.co.uk/apply**

Email us
Email **applications@rdi.co.uk**

Call us
Contact us today on **FREEphone 0800 COURSES / 0800 268 7737**