Year of entry: 2021/22

Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**BSc Information Systems and Management** **BSc Information Systems and Management with Foundation Year**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	UBSIYMNG_C (4 year part-time) UUBSIMNG _C (3-year full-time) UBSIYMND _C (6 years decelerated) UUBFIMNG_C (4-years full-time with Foundation Year)
5	**UCAS code (if applicable)**	1L55/IN22 (with Foundation Year)
6	**Home Department**	Computer Science and Information Systems
7	**Exit Award(s)**	Diploma of Higher Education, Certificate of Higher Education, Certificate of Continuing Education
8	**Duration of Study (number of years)**	4 years part time or 3 years full time or 6 years decelerated
9	**Mode of Study**	(FT/PT/DL) Part Time or Full Time
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	6
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	Management
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	Accredited by the British Computer Society – Partial fulfilment of the requirements for Chartered IT professional (CITP) from 1.9.16 intake with the condition that students pass a project of type 3 or type 4.
13	**QAA Benchmark Group (if applicable)**	Computing

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**
	Main Aims The programme embodies Birkbeck College's mission which concerns the education of mature students, who are in work, hence the part-time focus, and who may have missed out on earlier educational opportunities. The programme philosophy is that computing and information systems concepts and practice have to be complemented by organisational and management concepts and practice, and visa versa, to be effective. Thus information systems and management are regarded as complementary disciplines. It recognises that people with purely computing and technical skills may not apply these skills successfully in a company or other organisation. The programme aims to provide students with an opportunity to gain theoretical knowledge and practical skills in both computing and management. Graduates are able to contribute to the effective development and exploitation of information systems and technology in companies, other organisations, and society as a whole. In the areas of computing and information systems, but also in management, today's skills are often transitory. Therefore the programme seeks to ensure that a balance is struck between learning current techniques, which the students see as important in the market place, and learning the underlying fundamentals and theories, which will be longer lasting and which will provide a sound basis for understanding and evaluating new approaches, techniques and technologies, and indeed even new theories.

	Distinctive Features Part-time, evening, face-to-face study. The programme aims to produce graduates who, with appropriate experience, will become hybrid managers i.e. managers/ information systems analysts/computer scientists well versed in the tools, techniques, approaches and philosophies necessary for the successful introduction of complex information and communication technologies in today's fast changing world. **BSc Information Systems and Management with Foundation Year** The BSc Information Systems and Management with Foundation Year is designed for applicants who do not meet the entry requirements for direct entry to an undergraduate degree, who do not feel they are quite ready for an undergraduate degree, or who are returning to study after a significant break and need extra help and support with their studies. The foundation year element of the Programme provides the core knowledge and skills required for the successful study of Information Systems and Management at undergraduate level. It includes modules covering introductory, subject-specific areas such as information systems, systems analysis, business and management. It also includes more transferable skills modules, covering approaches to study, academic writing and working in teams. Successful completion of the foundation year enables students to progress to the BSc element of the Programme. The BSC element of the Programme aims to develop the knowledge, technical skills, and self-directed learning skills required by employers in the fast-evolving world of Information Systems and Management. The primary focus is on developing strong understanding of the role of information systems in businesses and organizations. Emphasis is also placed on exploring the socio, ethical and legal aspects of Information Systems and Management. At the end of the BSc element of the Programme, students carry out a complex, real-world project.

15	**Entry Criteria**
	BSc Information Systems and Management UCAS tariff points: 112-128 points. The UCAS tariff applies where applicants have recently studied a qualification that has UCAS tariff equivalence. A-levels: BBC-ABB, including mathematics or science. Grade B or grade 5-6 in GCSE mathematics and English, or equivalent. We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential. Students without formal qualifications will need to complete an admission test including English comprehension and mathematical knowledge Overseas Applications, including English language qualifications: A level equivalent study is assessed on a case by case basis. The required English language qualifications are i) TOEFL: 91 in the Internet based test, with at least 24 out of 30 in the reading and writing subtests, and 23 out of 30 in the listening and speaking subtests; ii) IELTS: a score of 6.5 with not less than 6.0 in each of the sub-tests. Equivalent test results accepted. **BSc Information Systems and Management with Foundation Year** UCAS tariff points: 48 The UCAS tariff applies where applicants have recently studied a qualification that has UCAS tariff equivalence.

	GCSEs: Applicants are expected to have GCSE grade C or new grade 4, or equivalent, in English and mathematics. We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential

16	**Learning Outcomes**
	The Programme learning outcomes are: **Foundation year specific:** • To provide students with the subject specific skills and knowledge required to study Information Systems and Management at undergraduate level. • To provide students with the generic skills and knowledge required to study Information Systems and Management at undergraduate level. **BSc programme:** Subject Specific: 1. Computer literacy 2. General management practice 3. Ability to discuss various forms and levels of information 4. Structured techniques for information systems analysis and design 5. The context of business and administrative information systems 6. Number systems, computer architectures, data structures, algorithms, software engineering fundamentals 7. Micro and macro-economic principles that have an important bearing on organisational information decisions 8. Company material such as is found in balance sheets and other published financial statements 9. Principles and practice of Management Accounting 10. Fundamentals of corporate finance and investment appraisal 11. Process of information systems development in sizable organisations 12. Computer networking from the perspective of the internet and organisations 13. Critically evaluate methodologies of Information Systems Development in terms of their philosophies, constructs, themes, tools and techniques with respect to various real-world settings. 14. Make a reasoned input into the shaping of an organisation's Information Systems Development approaches and methodologies 15. Knowledge of strategic management 16. Knowledge of the strategic use of information systems and issues surrounding the strategic deployment of technology and strategies for managing information and communication technology 17. For those students whose final year project is in management or information systems: extensive knowledge and understanding of organizations or an aspect of an organization or a functional area of management or an Information Systems phenomenon Intellectual

	18. Understand, appraise and interpret quantitative and company material 19. Critically evaluate arguments and evidence 20. Construct and present theoretical and empirical arguments 21. Construct an algorithm that solves an organisational problem Practical 22. Apply quantitative skills to data analysis 23. Make informed decisions 24. Define organisational problems solvable with the deployment of information systems 25. Develop designs to solve such problems; to model organisational data and process structures 26. Code an algorithm into a programming language; design, test and evaluate a programme for an organisational problem 27. Make a reasoned input into the shaping of an organisation's Information Systems Development approaches and methodologies 28. Write a substantial report 29. Describe and justify management and business decisions 30. Search for information 31. Argue a case 32. The ability to define a complex organisational problem, develop models of a candidate solution, a plan of action and a tested implementation of the solution either in a third generation programming language for an Implementation Project or a fourth generation language for an Analysis/Design/Prototype project 33. Appraise and conduct research into business and management 34. For those students whose final year project is in management or information systems: construct and present theoretical and empirical arguments and communicate them to others in a project report. Personal and Social 35. Work under pressure 36. Communicate using appropriate interpersonal skills 37. Work in teams 38. Convince management through a written report 39. Take responsibility for own learning and time management 40. Communicate appropriately with peers and supervisors (oral and written) fostering co-operation, trust and loyalty 41. Orally present ideas to a critical audience

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	Lecturing This is a major vehicle of knowledge transfer. However, most modules mix other activities with lectures on any particular evening. Mature students can be highly interactive and staff are encouraged to obtain student feedback about areas that may need deeper attention. **Group Tutorials** Several modules mix lectures with work in small groups, in which higher levels of student interaction are possible. This works particularly well with complicated topics such as those

	covered in the modules Quantitative Methods and Management Studies. **Written Exercises (Essays)** Feedback from written essays encourages students to develop appropriate formal and precise writing habits. It leads students to express themselves in a structured manner in writing. Major Essays are completed in several Management modules as well in the module Social and Organisational Issues in Computing. **Laboratory Based Exercises** Computing laboratory exercises are used to give the students hands-on experience in developing information systems artifacts such as systems analysis and design models and computer programs. Some of these exercises are assessed. **Group Exercises** Group exercises are used in several modules e.g. Information Systems Concepts. Group exercises improve students' social interactions and their ability to work in teams. **Presentations** Presentations are a powerful learning experience. Students giving presentations develop their powers of information discovery, equip themselves with a deep understanding of the topics to be presented and transfer some of their knowledge to their peers who at the same time acquire skills in verbal academic discourse. Presentations are used for example, in the module Social and Organisational Issues in Computing. **Final Year Project** Projects are of four types, 1) Management; 2) Information Systems Research; 3) Information Systems Development; 4) Computing. All projects require the students to take an integrative approach to a major piece of work. They are required to set a boundary for the work, formulate their aims and objectives, gather information, analyse information, reflect on their work and produce a substantial report. Students must obtain a mark of at least 40% to pass a module. A maximum of three attempts are allowed for any module assessment.

18	**Programme Description**
	The programme consists of modules. The syllabus for each module consists of a closely related set of topics, as indicated by the title of the module. Each module has a level, which indicates the academic level of the module, and a value in credits. Most modules are taught over one term and have a value of 15 credits. Some modules are taught over two terms and have a value of 30 credits. The final year project has a value of 30 credits. In order to graduate it is necessary to accumulate 360 credits. Under normal circumstances the maximum number of credits that can be accumulated in an academic year is 90 credits for the four year part time programme, 120 credits for the three year full time programme and 60 credits for the six years decelerated part time programme. Four years part time programme: all of the modules in years 1 and 2 are compulsory. There is a mix of compulsory and optional modules in years 3 and 4. Modules in year 1 have level 4. Modules in year 2 have level 4 or 5 and modules in years 3 and 4 have either level 5 or level 6. **In order to graduate it is necessary to accumulate at least 120 credits at level 6**. An optional module can be chosen only if its prerequisites are satisfied. The final year project has four

types, of which one must be chosen. The module Research Methods in Management is compulsory for students who choose a final year project of type 1 or type 2, otherwise it is optional.

Three years full time programme: all of the modules in year 1 are compulsory. There is a mix of compulsory and optional modules in years 2 and 3. Modules in year 1 have level 4. Modules in years 2 and 3 have level 5 or 6**. In order to graduate, it is necessary to accumulate at least 120 credits at level 6.**Optional modules can also be chosen in years 2/3. An optional module can be chosen only if its prerequisites are satisfied.

Level 5 ITApps modules such as Web Programming using PHP, JavaScript or Web Data with XML, JSON and AJAX can be chosen as options provided the prerequisites are satisfied. These prerequisites are not included in the BSc in ISM, but they may be met by prior learning acquired, for example, by working as a programmer or from a previous programme of study.

BSc Information Systems and Management with Foundation Year
The BSc Information Systems and Management with Foundation Year provides a perfect route to study for those who do not meet the entry requirements for direct entry to an undergraduate Information Systems and degree, who do not feel they are quite ready for an undergraduate degree, or who are returning to study after a significant break and need extra help and support.

The foundation year helps build confidence and provide skills to study successfully at undergraduate level. It also provides students with a strong foundation in the main subject area of Information Systems and Management.

Upon successful completion of the Foundation Year, students automatically progress to our three-year, full-time evening study BSc Information Systems and Management. The BSc focuses on key software development skills, including algorithms and data structures, systems analysis and design, programming, software testing and project management.

19 **Programme Structure**

4 year part-time programme

Year 1 *(modules prior to 2022 revisions to programme)*

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	BUCI008H4	Introduction to Computer Systems	15	Compulsory
4	BUCI007H4	Introduction to Programming	15	Compulsory
4	COIY016H4	Systems Analysis and Design I	15	Compulsory
4	BUMN149H4	Microeconomics for Business	15	Compulsory
4	BUMN077H4	Management Studies 1	15	Compulsory
4	BUMN078H4	Management Studies 2	15	Compulsory

Year 2 *(modules following 2022 revision)*

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	BUMN131H4	Introduction to Accounting	15	Compulsory
4	BUCI087H4	Software and Programming 1	15	Compulsory
5	BUCI055H5	Computer Organization and Systems Software	15	Compulsory
5	COIY019H5	Systems Analysis and Design II	15	Compulsory
5	COIY042H5	E-Business	15	Compulsory
5	BUMN096H5	Services Marketing	15	Compulsory

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Year 3 *(modules following 2022 revision)*				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
5	BUMN146H5	Research Methods in Management (Compulsory if a Type 1 or Type 2 project is selected, otherwise optional)	15	Compulsory (if type1 or 2 project)
5	BUCI086H5	Professional Issues in Computing	15	Compulsory
5		Option 1	15	Optional
5		Option 2	15	Optional
6	COIY045H6	Information Security	15	Compulsory
6		Option 3	15	Optional
Year 4 *(modules following 2022 revision)*				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
		One of the following:		
6	BUMN062S6 BUCI025S6 BUCI026S6 BUCI027S6	Project in Information Systems Management – Type 1 or BSc Project Type 2 or BSc Project Type 3 or BSc Project Type 4	30	Compulsory
6	MOMN069H6	Strategic Management	15	Compulsory
6		Option 4	15	Optional
6		Option 5	15	Optional
6		Option 6	15	Optional
3 year full-time programme				
Year 1 *(modules prior to 2022 revisions to programme)*				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
4	BUCI008H4	Introduction to Computer Systems	15	Compulsory
4	BUCI007H4	Introduction to Programming	15	Compulsory
4	COIY016H4	Systems Analysis and Design I	15	Compulsory
4	MOMN022H4	Quantitative Methods	15	Compulsory
4	BUMN077H4	Management Studies 1	15	Compulsory
4	BUMN078H4	Management Studies 2	15	Compulsory
4	BUMN131H4	Introduction to Accounting	15	Compulsory
4	BUMN149H4	Microeconomics for Business	15	Compulsory
Year 2 *(modules following 2022 revision)*				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
5	BUCI055H5	Computer Organization and Systems Software	15	Compulsory
5	COIY019H5	Systems Analysis and Design II	15	Compulsory
5	BUMN096H5	Services Marketing	15	Compulsory
5	COIY042H5	E-Business	15	Compulsory
5	BUCI086H5	Professional Issues in Computing	15	Compulsory
6	COIY045H6	Information Security	15	Compulsory
5	BUMN146H5	Research Methods in Management (Compulsory if a Type 1 or 2 project is selected, otherwise optional)	15	Compulsory (if type1/2 project)
5		Option 1 (level 5)	15	Optional

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Year 3 *(modules following 2022 revision)*				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
5		Option 2 (level 5)	15	Optional
6	MOMN069H6	Strategic Management	15	Compulsory
		One of the following:		
6	BUMN062S6 BUCI025S6 BUCI026S6 BUCI027S6	Project, Information Systems and Management – Type 1 or BSc Project Type 2 or BSc Project Type 3 or BSc Project Type 4	30	Compulsory
6		Option 3 (level 6)	15	Optional
6		Option 4 (level 6)	15	Optional
6		Option 5 (level 6)	15	Optional
6		Option 6 (level 6)	15	Optional

4-year Full Time BSc Information Systems and Management with Foundation year				
Foundation: Year 0 *(modules prior to 2022 revisions to programme)*				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
4	COIY067H4	Fundamentals of IT	15	Compulsory
3	BUCI084H3	IT Tools and Techniques	15	Compulsory
4	BUCI085H3	Programming Logic	15	Compulsory
3	BUMN166H3	Mathematics for Business	15	Compulsory
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Compulsory
3	BUCI075H3	Teamwork	15	Compulsory
3	BUCI076H3	Computing Foundation Year Project	15	Compulsory
BSc: Year 1 *(modules following 2022 revision)*				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
4	BUCI008H4	Introduction to Computer Systems	15	Compulsory
4	BUCI007H4	Introduction to Programming	15	Compulsory
4	COIY016H4	Systems Analysis and Design I	15	Compulsory
4	MOMN022H4	Quantitative Methods	15	Compulsory
4	BUMN077H4	Management Studies I	15	Compulsory
4	BUMN078H4	Management Studies II	15	Compulsory
4	BUMN131H4	Introduction to Accounting	15	Compulsory
4	BUCI087H4	Software and Programming I	15	Compulsory
BSc: Year 2 *(modules following 2022 revision)*				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
5	BUCI055H5	Computer Organization and Systems Software	15	Compulsory
5	COIY019H5	Systems Analysis and Design II	15	Compulsory
5	BUMN096H5	Services Marketing	15	Compulsory
5	COIY042H5	E-Business	15	Compulsory
5	BUCI086H5	Professional Issues in Computing	15	Compulsory
5	BUMN146H5	Research Methods in Management (Compulsory if a Type 1 or 2 project is selected, otherwise optional)	15	Compulsory
6	COIY045H6	Information Security	15	Compulsory
5		Option 1	15	Optional

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BSc: Year 3 *(modules following 2022 revision)*				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
5		Option 2	15	Optional
6	MOMN069H6	Strategic Management	15	Compulsory
6	BUMN062S6 BUCI025S6 BUCI026S6 BUCI027S6	Project, Information Systems and Management – Type 1 or BSc Project Type 2 or BSc Project Type 3 or BSc Project Type 4	30	Compulsory
6		Option 3	15	Optional
6		Option 4	15	Optional
6		Option 5	15	Optional
6		Option 6	15	Optional
Indicative list of options:				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
5	BUMN147H5	Management of Innovation	15	Optional
5	MOMN033H5	Macroeconomics for Business	15	Optional
5	BUCI030H5	Data Structures and Algorithms	15	Optional
5	BUMN145S5	Financial Management	30	Optional
5	BUCI088H5	Software and Programming II	15	Optional
5	BUCI066H5	Software Engineering I	15	Optional
5	MOMN047H5	Organizational Behaviour	15	Optional
5	BUCI036H5	Computer Networking	15	Optional
5	BUMN150H5	Critical Perspectives on People Management	15	Optional
5	MOMN019H5	Operations Management	15	Optional
5	BUMN151H5	International Business	15	Optional
5	MOMN018H5	Commercial Law for Business	15	Optional
6	BUMN057H6	Entrepreneurship and Small Business	15	Optional
6	BUCI046H6	Wireless and Mobile Computing	15	Optional
6	BUMN111S6	International Financial Management	15	Optional
6	BUCI045H6	Introduction to Data Analytics Using R	15	Optional
6	GGPH036S6	Principles of Geographic Information Systems	30	Optional
6	COIY028H6	Database Management	15	Optional
6	BUMN143H6	Introduction to Corporate Responsibility	15	Optional
6	BUCI056H6	Software and Programming III	15	Optional
6	MOMN084H6	Introduction to Corporate Governance and Ethics	15	Optional
6	BUCI034H6	Concepts of Machine Learning	15	Optional
6	BUCI028H6	Cloud Computing Concepts	15	Optional
6	BUCI067H6	Software Engineering II	15	Optional
6	BUMN136H6	Project Management	15	Optional

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

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24	**Programme Director**	Professor S.J. Maybank/ Gordon McIntyre (Foundation Year)
25	**Start Date (term/year)**	October 2012
26	**Date approved by TQEC**	Autumn 2011
27	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Spring 2012
28	**Date(s) updated/amended**	21 February 2022 (for 2022/3)