**ASSESSMENT METHODS**

Students are assessed on component courses by a mixture of exams and coursework. The MSc project is assessed by a MSc dissertation and a poster presentation.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants require for admission a first or second class honours degree or its equivalent with evidence of numeracy. Candidates holding a little less than this may be admitted to the Postgraduate Diploma programme. If their performance is satisfactory at MSc level, they may then be recommended for transfer to the MSc.

**FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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**LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

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- 2 semesters English (for IELTS 4.5-5.0)
- 12 weeks English (for IELTS 5.5)

Further details can be found at www.english.hw.ac.uk

**HOW TO APPLY**

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You must also provide a copy of your degree certificate and relevant academic transcripts, references from two academic sources and evidence of your English language ability. You can attach documents to the online application using the document upload facility. If you are an applicant from outside the European Union and require a visa for entry to the UK, please provide a copy of the photograph page of your current passport.

There is no official deadline for applying to the programme. However it is always better to submit your completed application as early as possible to have a good chance of securing a place and for overseas applicants to obtain their Tier 4 student visa in sufficient time.

**GOOD REASONS**

1. **Research Quality**
   - We are part of world class SICSA research cluster

2. **Teaching Quality**
   - We score well for student satisfaction

3. **Employability**
   - We are in top 10% of UK universities for employment

4. **Professionalism**
   - British Computer Society accredits our specialist MSc degrees

5. **Prime Location**
   - We have a green campus on the edge of the historic city of Edinburgh
Your University
an overview

Your University

Your University

Your University

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Heriot-Watt University offers a superb environment for postgraduate study. We are one of the UK’s leading universities, recognised internationally for excellent teaching and research in our specialist areas of science, engineering, business management, languages and textile design.

Our community of postgraduate students is made up of bright, highly imaginative and self-motivated individuals, who work closely with our forward-looking and energetic research-active academic staff. This collaborative atmosphere is fundamental to Heriot-Watt’s enviable academic and research reputation.

Those of you who choose to study with us will discover high quality taught and research programmes, flexible student-centred delivery, unrivalled facilities and pioneering research.

www.macs.hw.ac.uk

www.postgraduate.hw.ac.uk/apply/

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND
The full-time MSc programme starts in mid-September and lasts 1 year. The 8-taught courses can also be studied over 9 months as part of a Postgraduate Diploma programme with the same title. Students who perform at MSc level on the Postgraduate Diploma programme may transfer when it ends to the MSc programme and complete their project for an MSc degree.

Part-time study for the MSc over two years is also possible by special arrangement with the programme director. A typical arrangement would be for students to take 2 courses in semesters 1 and 2 in the first year, 2 courses in semesters 1 and 2 in the second year and split the research and implementation of the MSc project over 2 years.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES
This programme aims to impart understanding and skills in key business management and IT subjects at Masters level. It covers the design and development of IT systems, the management of IT, starting and developing businesses, and e-commerce. Business courses aim to stimulate business ideas and encourage entrepreneurship.

The MSc project is carried out under the supervision of an individual academic who is an expert in the field. In some cases the project can be carried out in collaboration with an outside industrial or academic organisation.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE
The first two semesters (September-May) are spent studying taught courses in this field. At the same time research skills are developed as a preliminary for work on an MSc project. Exams take place at the end of each semester.

Full time students take 4 courses in semester 1 and 4 courses in semester 2 and must normally take courses in bold.

Semester 1
- Databases & Information Systems
- Design for Online Learning
- Information Systems Methodologies
- Software Engineering Foundations
- Strategic Project Management
- Work, Culture and Organisation

Semester 2
- Advanced Software Engineering
- e-Commerce Technology
- Integrated Online Learning Environments
- Network Applications
- Project Management
- Research Methods & Project Planning

Advanced Software Engineering
- advanced OOP design in Java, data structures, threads, patterns, software engineering methodologies and project planning

Databases & Information Systems
- IS types, DB & DB management systems, data modelling, DB design, relational DBs, SQL, SQL-programming, XML, other DB types

Design for Online Learning
- online learning theories & models, conversational frameworks, computer mediated communication, training needs, design guidelines

e-Commerce Technology
- online business models, e-marketing, e-payment, security, software architectures, ethical & legal issues, development methodologies

Information Systems Methodologies
- systems principles and classification, IS life cycle, NIMSAD and Fitzgerald IS methodologies, process improvement models

Integrated Online Learning Environments
- standards, virtual & managed learning environment, CBL evaluation, e-assessment, simulation, authoring aid, management

Network Applications
- Internet organisation & transports, client and server web technologies, web protocols, email standards and protocols, security technologies

Project Management
- project definition, estimating time & costs, planning, managing risk, scheduling resources, progress control, auditing, team leadership

Research Methods & Project Planning
- critical thinking, doing research, academic writing, experimental design, project planning, career planning, normative issues

Software Engineering Foundations
- object oriented design and programming in Java for programmers in another language, Java GUIs, software engineering - UML

Strategic Project Management
- stakeholders, managing expectations, leadership, project life cycle, governance regimes, organisation strategies, investment pipeline

Work, Culture and Organisation
- scientific management vs human relations school, power, politics, influence, leadership, group dynamics, HRM, organisation culture

In the third semester (May-August) students undertake a specialist MSc project which is written up as a 15000 word dissertation. This project enables further development and consolidation of skills introduced in the taught courses, applying them to a challenging practical problem in this subject area.

INDUSTRY LINKS
We have good links with industry and MSc students may opt to do an industrially sponsored MSc project.

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES
Graduates from the programme would be suitable for employment with IT companies, company R&D divisions, financial services organisations, defence contractors or government IT agencies or could register for a PhD.
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