A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you for your interest in the graduate programme, Master of Science in Computer-Based Management Information Systems (CBMIS) at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. The University is desirous of enrolling students whose goal is to pursue the highest quality education, and with the objective of developing both personally and academically.

Since its inception in 1993, the CBMIS programme has sought to train and educate students to have a positive impact in various organisations, both regionally and globally. The purpose of the programme continues to be one of meeting the demand for the management of information.

If you believe in discipline and hard work, and wish to enrol in a programme that will challenge your creative energies in Information Technology, this is the best programme for you. Choosing a graduate programme requires careful research and evaluation; please take the time to evaluate the CBMIS programme and discover why it has been an excellent career choice for so many business professionals.

The programme was established in response to the rapidly growing demand for a new type of graduate student with an in-depth knowledge in management information systems and computer science. This demand arises from the increased use of computer-based systems in the financial, manufacturing, mining and retail sectors, as well as in the government sectors. Up to 1993, this demand was filled by graduates either in Management Studies, or in Computer Sciences, at least as far as junior positions were concerned.

For the first five years of the programme, most of the students came in with either a Computer Science or a Management Studies degree. However, the popularity and high utility of the CBMIS degree have resulted in a high percentage of our students coming from a more eclectic pool of students. This development over the years demanded a response; and consistent with the disciplines of management and information systems, we have sought to address the needs of the students and the organisations that they serve. Thus, we have conducted the requisite review of the CBMIS programme. This review has resulted in what we believe is a better fit for both students and the various organisations in which they work. The changes that came out of this review are reflected in the detailed programme overview.

This programme will not only equip Jamaican nationals to fill these positions, but will also continue to educate a new generation of Information Systems Analysts and Managers who will spearhead the thrust by Jamaican firms to establish a sustainable competitive position in the critically important information service sector.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The CBMIS is open to candidates with Bachelor’s degrees in any field. However, the programme is designed for students with Bachelor’s degrees in Computer Sciences or Management Studies. All applicants must meet the academic requirements of a masters degree at the University of the West Indies.

All graduate applications are processed by the Graduate Studies and Research office. Only completed files are evaluated. Applicants meeting the initial selection criteria will be contacted by April. Some candidates may be invited to attend an on-campus interview. Final decisions will be made in May.

All applicants are encouraged to apply early, and to avoid presenting an incomplete package for evaluation. An application is considered complete when the following documents have been received by the Graduate Studies & Research office:

- Completed application form.
- Application fee.
- Two Referee Reports (academic and professional).
- Official Transcripts from all colleges/ universities attended.

Candidates are required to have at least two years work experience. However, candidates with at least a strong upper
second class honours degree maybe accepted without this work experience.

**FEES**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>J$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>J$715,000(^1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost to repeat a course</td>
<td>J$12,000</td>
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**TRANSCRIPTS**

Applicants who did not get their degrees from UWI, must arrange to have sent to the UWI, official copies of transcripts from all colleges or universities attended, whether or not a degree was earned from an institution.

**FURTHER QUESTIONS**

If you have questions about application instructions or about the Master of Science in Computer-Based Management Information Systems programme, please do not hesitate to contact:

**THE CBMIS PROGRAMME COORDINATOR:**

Mona School of Business and Management (South)
UWI, Mona, Kingston 7
Telephone: (876) 977-3775/ 3808
Fax: (876) 977-3829
e-mail: msc.cbmis@uwimona.edu.jm

**OVERVIEW AND COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Master of Science in Computer-Based Management Information Systems programme is offered on a Part-time basis, with students attending classes for the equivalent of two full days per week. Classes are usually scheduled as follows\(^2\):

- Mondays & Wednesdays: 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- OR
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- AND
- Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Note: Attendance at classes, including Saturdays, is compulsory.)

\(^1\) Books not included

\(^2\) If there is the need to make changes to this schedule; every effort will be made to communicate this to students with enough time to effect the necessary adjustments.

The programme duration is **24 months** and is divided into three sections; plus the preliminaries for students without the required core courses:

**Preliminary Core Courses**

Students who do not have any of the four courses listed below, or their equivalent versions\(^3\), will be required to do two of them during the summer prior to entering the programme in September; and the other two the following summer. These courses will be offered by the programme during the months of June and July. However, students can do the required courses at approved educational institutions. The student will meet the costs for these courses. These are non-credit courses; however, students must pass these courses as part of the requirements to graduate.

- CS51T(COMP5730) - Database Management Systems
- CS51Q(COMP5710) - Introduction to Programming
- MS60R(MGMT6015) - Basic Statistics
- MS61Q (MGMT6016) - Fundamentals of Accounting

**Courses**

The following courses will be offered over two years (24 months). Courses will be offered in modular format; usually two (2) courses over a six-week period, followed by a two weeks break.

**YEAR I**

**Management Courses**

- MS60Q(MISY6110): Information Systems in Organizations
- MS61R(MGMT6017): Organizational Theory and Behaviour
- MS61S(MGMT6018): Marketing
- MS61T(MGMT6019): Finance
- MS62Q(MGMT6020): Decision Models for Managers

\(^3\) Please check with the programme’s coordinator to ensure that the contents of the equivalent versions are consistent with what is required.
Computer Science Courses
- CS52Q(COMP5110): Software Engineering
- CS69X(MISY6113): Decision Support Systems
- CS69Y(MISY6114): E-Commerce

**YEAR II**

Management Courses
**Elective:**
- MS62T(MGMT6023): International Business
- **OR**
- MS62R(MGMT6021): Production and Operations Management 4
- MS63T(MISY6116): Governance and Policies
- MS63S(MISY6117): IT Project Management

Computer Science Courses
- CS69Z(MISY6115): IT Economics
- CS54U(COMP5740): Data Warehousing and Mining

**Final Project**
- MS63R(MGMT6031): Final Project

**Course Details**

**Management Courses**

**MS60Q (MISY6110): Information Systems in Organizations**
This course establishes a foundation for understanding and analysing information in organizations, and its role in creating strategic advantage in companies. It examines the factors which underlie the evolution of Information Technology with the rapid convergence of voice, text, graphics and video technologies with traditional technologies for data processing. The goal is to introduce students to some of the basic concepts and current developments in IT and to examine successful applications of IT to business problems in order to understand how to improve their awareness of the managerial issues raised by IT and its use in inspiring organizational effectiveness.

**MS61R (MGMT6017): Organizational Theory and Behaviour**
This course introduces the basic concepts in social psychology relevant to the study and understanding of individual and group behaviour in an organizational setting. It shows the information system manager and analyst how interpersonal and structural variables influence job and task performance, individual and group productivity and their impact on the achievement of consistent quality in organizational outputs.

**MS61S (MGMT6018): Marketing**
This course provides managers with an understanding of marketing concepts, methods and techniques and how these are used to achieve organizational goals. It examines the marketing mix and its application in planning and decision making in private and public enterprises. An emphasis is placed on the design and use of information systems for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of sales, distribution and marketing programmes.

**MS61T (MGMT6019): Finance**
This course provides managers with the basic tools for efficiently using the financial resources of an organization and understanding the objectives of financial management. It focuses on the factors which govern the financial structure, cost of capital, market valuation, sourcing of short and long term funds and dividend, working capital policies of the firm and methods of capital budgeting. The course will also examine the use of financial databases.

**MS62Q (MGMT6020): Decision Models for Managers**
This course examines how formal analytic tools and quantitative techniques are used for managerial decision making. It examines the application of statistical concepts and models to decision making under uncertainty and linear programming and simulation models under conditional or relatively more certainty. An emphasis is placed on the development of computer based decision aids for managers.

**MS62T (MGMT6023): International Business**
The purpose of this course is to examine how international trade and competition affect competitive strategy. Students are provided with techniques for assessing when and how to enter foreign markets and how firms compete when they have no competitive advantage. In addition the course delves into the role and management of intermediaries (trading firms) as well as exploring how the interaction of firms and governments can affect the terms of international trade.

**MS62R (MGMT6021): Production and Operations Management**
This course introduces managerial concepts and techniques that can be used to achieve flexibility, reliability, efficiency and total quality in operations. Specific attention is paid to the role

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4 The option will be available when at least 20 students are registered for each of the courses (MS62T & MS62R).
of forecasting, systems design production planning and scheduling and materials management. The use of information systems in planning, design and control of manufacturing and service organizations is emphasized.

**MS63T (MISY6116): Governance and Policies**
The course will enable students to gain an understanding of IT Governance, policy frameworks and Corporate Governance and how to utilize these strategies to meet key objectives, manage risks, deliver value and measure performance in an organization. Students will also be introduced to the organizational interventions required to cultivate and sustain an effective, business-specific IT governance model which is an essential tool for deriving benefits and meeting business objectives.

**MS63S (MISY6117): IT Project Management**
The course introduces students to the defining characteristics of IT projects, a variety of project management techniques, the challenges involved in executing IT projects, how to recognize warning signs associated with failing projects and how best to avoid them. The course will also cover management issues associated with different alternatives for sourcing information systems and acquiring infrastructure components.

**Computer Science Courses**

**CS52Q (COMP5110): Software Engineering**
This course examines some of the different approaches to software construction including object-oriented approaches, formal specification techniques, and prototyping. The various stages in the life cycle of a piece of software, and the tools available for supporting the activities taking place in the different stages of the life cycle, as projects, will be examined.

**CS69X (MISY6113): Decision Support Systems**
The course is divided into two sections. The first section will discuss organizational decision-making within a problem-solving framework and examine the role of computer-based models in supporting the various stages of the decision-making process. It presents an organizing framework for classifying various types of organizational problems. Then Simon's model is used to illustrate a normative approach to the problem-solving/decision-making process. The second section of the course discusses knowledge-based decision support systems, with a particular emphasis on Expert Systems. We introduce students to Expert Systems as they offer an alternative solution to solving problems for which traditional solutions do not exist. The different stages involved in the development of expert systems and their relevance to real world applications will be discussed.

**CS69Y (MISY6114): E-Commerce**
The purpose of this course is to provide students with a solid understanding of eCommerce principles, strategy and business application in order to enable them to identify opportunities and articulate strategies for employing eCommerce initiatives within their own organizations.

**CS69Z (MISY6115): IT Economics**
The primary aim of the course is to introduce students to the importance of financial considerations in making decisions related to software; both in firms that develop software and in firms that use software to help them better achieve their strategic objectives. It will provide students with an introduction to the fields of software economics and IT business value analysis, and expose them to some of the tools that they can use to help firms make financially more responsible software related decisions.

**CS54U (COMP5740): Data Warehousing and Mining**
The primary goal of Data Mining and Data Warehousing are to integrate heterogeneous data stores into one large repository of data which can then be mined to discover patterns and trends which would otherwise go undetected. Because of this emphasis will be placed on the steps involved in building a Data Warehouse and the benefits they can provide to an organisation. Various Data Mining techniques will be studied, in terms of the algorithms used and the benefits they can provide to an organisation.

**MS63R (MGMT6031): Project**
In lieu of a thesis, each participant in the programme will be required to undertake a project which will entail defining and developing a software system which has real potential for solving a practical problem of significance to managers. The system will require students to draw on their capacity to analyse business problems as well as on their ability to implement the software development tools, techniques and concepts learned throughout the programme.