Supplementary information
2016-2017

An additional guide for students taking the

MA/MSc
Postgraduate Diploma
Postgraduate Certificate
in
Digital Humanities

COLLEGE TERMS 2016-2017
First Term  Monday 26 September 2016 - Friday 16 December 2016
Second Term Monday 09 January 2017 - Friday 24 March 2017
Third Term Monday 24 April 2017 - Friday 09 June 2017

Department of Information Studies
University College London
Purpose of programme

The Master's degree in Digital Humanities at UCL is a truly interdisciplinary programme, exploring the intersection of digital technologies, humanities scholarship, and cultural heritage. This programme gives students the skills that employers say they are looking for and equally those that support further research within the academy.

The MA/MSc will allow students who have a background in the humanities to acquire necessary skills in digital technologies, and will also make it possible for those with an existing technical background to become practiced in humanities scholarly methods. It is designed to produce students capable of performing the roles of project manager, information specialist, or researcher within the cultural and heritage industry, and also provides relevant skills for publishing, and for those wishing to work in digital environments where they will have to oversee the construction of computational systems for distributing and archiving vast quantities of information. We are getting many applications from students with advanced degrees or who are pursuing their PhD (or indeed have already been awarded their doctorate) and find that they do not have the necessary skills to continue their research.

This Master's degree is the right one for anyone with a background in the humanities and an interest in computing, who wishes to develop and expand their computational skills for the changing information environment. It is also right for those with a background in a technological area with a strong interest in humanities scholarship, who wish to expand their knowledge of how computational tools and techniques can be applied in the cultural heritage domain. It is particularly attractive to anyone interested in developing their computer-related skills with a view to seeking employment in museums, libraries, archives, publishers, and the cultural and heritage industry as well as e-commerce and start-ups. The programme includes a significant amount of practical instruction but in their theoretical work students also reflect on the implications of digital communication and technologies and how they can be applied to different humanities’ environments.

One of the most popular aspects of the Master's in Digital Humanities is the student's work placement with a publisher, museum, new media company, library, school, archive, magazine, or other similar organisation. Our central London location, surrounded by the greatest concentration of libraries and professional bodies in Europe, makes this an ideal base for collaboration with organisations outside UCL. The object of the practical placement is to introduce students to and for them to gain experience of the current working situation in industries related to the Digital Humanities. The placement is the culmination of six months theoretical study and practical instruction.

Aims and objectives

To provide a broad based Master of Arts, or Master of Science (depending on the options chosen) degree in the theory and practice of Digital Humanities.

To develop the skills and knowledge of the student and to explore the possibilities of particular specialist areas in the application of digital technologies to humanities scholarship and cultural heritage. To produce graduates capable of performing the roles of editor, project manager or information specialist in digital cultural and heritage environments. To provide individuals with practical and theoretical skills to enable them to go on to carry out novel research in the interdisciplinary field of the Digital Humanities.
Entry requirements

Applicants are expected to have a first or upper second-class Honours degree in a relevant Humanities or Computing discipline from a UK university, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. We encourage applications from interested international students. Non-native speakers must also satisfy the language requirement.

We do not accept applications from agencies and we will not communicate with an agency regarding an application. We expect all applicants to complete their applications themselves.

Duration and Structure

This is a modular programme, offering considerable flexibility in the manner in which the modules can be taken to support part-time or full-time study. All modules have standard credit values which accrue towards the various possible awards. The basic requirements and the most common alternatives for the programme are shown below, but other formulations are also available: please do not hesitate to discuss with the Programme Director other variations which might better suit your individual needs.

Master’s Level (180 credits)

* Components: 5 compulsory core modules, 3 optional modules, plus a dissertation and work placement (the work placement is optional for part-time students).

* Full-time: 1 calendar year (12 months).

* Part-time / Modular: students may collect credits over a maximum of five academic years.

The award of the MA or MSc is dependent on the range of optional modules taken and the dissertation topic, in consultation with the Programme Director. Please note that all students are automatically registered for the MA. If you wish to graduate with an MSc, please confirm this with the Programme Director as soon as possible in Term One.

Diploma (120 credits)

* Components: 5 compulsory core modules plus 3 optional modules.

* Full-time: 1 academic year (9 months)

* Part-time / Modular: students may collect credits over a maximum of five academic years.

Certificate (60 credits)

* Components: any 4 modules (subject to agreement and module preconditions being satisfied)

* Modules may be taken over a maximum of two academic years.

Individual modules may also be taken as short courses not leading to any specific award.
Contacts

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Information contained here may be subject to change at any time during the year. This is particularly true of timetables and options on offer. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy of the information, the department cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Please note that some modules external to the Department of Information Studies may require a further fee payment to cover additional expenses incurred by that module.
**Compulsory modules (15 credits):**

All in the Department of Information Studies

- **INSTG008 Digital Resources in the Humanities**
- **INSTG017 Internet technologies**
- **INSTG018 Introduction to Programming and Database Querying**
- **INSTG033 Server Programming and Structured Data**
- **INSTG037 XML**

**Optional modules (15 credits unless otherwise stated)**

For an up-to-date list of available optional modules, see the Optional Modules page. A full list of those available will be given to new students during Induction Week.

Whilst every effort will be made to ensure the availability of the optional modules listed below, in some circumstances this may not be possible. Students may also have to meet prerequisite requirements, subject to agreement with the module tutor, before being accepted.

In addition to those listed, one module may be taken from any of those offered in the Faculties of Arts and Humanities, Computer Science, or Social and Historical Studies, subject to any prerequisites and agreement of the module tutor and Programme Directors.

**Note that some modules in other departments have significant prerequisites:**

**COMPGV15 Computational Photography and Capture**

Students are required to have a strong mathematical background of at least A-levels-maths, and basic programming skills in Matlab.

**COMPGC16 Functional Programming**

This module is only suitable for students with substantial programming experience and should be confirmed with the module tutor beforehand.

**COMPGC22 Software Engineering**

This module is suitable for students with general programming experience and would require attendance at an introductory session in Term 1. Suitability should be confirmed with the module tutor beforehand.

**COMPGC26 Artificial Intelligence and Neural Networks**

This module has extensive Computer Science prerequisites and is only available on request from the CS module tutor.
Some modules in other faculties require additional fees:

**BENVGACF Digital Ecology (counts as 2 modules)**
Department: The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment

**BENVGACJ Embodied and Embedded Technologies: Body as Interface**
Department: The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment

**BENVGACK Embodied and Embedded Technologies: City as Interface (30 credits)**
Department: The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment

**Passmarks**

**Postgraduate Diploma & Certificate:** 50% in each of the modules chosen.

**MA/MSc:** 50% overall average. This must include a minimum of 50% in each core module, the dissertation and one of the optional modules. The two other optional modules must be passed at a minimum of 40%.

Marks of Merit may be awarded to Diploma and MA/MSc students if their overall mark is 60% or over, the mark for the dissertation (not for Diploma) is 60% or more, there are no marks below 50% and all are at the first attempt.

Marks of Distinction may be awarded to Diploma and MA/MSc students achieving 70% overall, provided they achieve 70% or more for the dissertation (not for Diploma) there are no marks below 50% and all are at the first attempt.

**Examiners**

All coursework and examination papers, except for those modules offered by other departments, are marked and moderated within the Department of Information Studies, and also made available to the External Examiner. Coursework and examination papers for modules offered by other departments will be marked and moderated by the relevant department.

**Work Placement**

All full-time students must complete a placement of between four (full-time) and six (part-time) weeks, which is undertaken either in Term 3 or during the Summer. The intention is to give students experience of working in the industry on a practical assignment. The department receives requests for placement students from various organisations, but will also support students who choose to find a placement host themselves. At the end of the placement students are required to write a brief report of their experience.