Birkbeck, University of London

Birkbeck is a world-class research and teaching institution, a vibrant centre of academic excellence and London’s only specialist provider of evening higher education. We encourage applications from students without traditional qualifications and we have a wide range of programmes to suit every entry level. Our academic reputation also attracts many full-time postgraduate students.

Recognised as a global elite university, Birkbeck is in the top 200 universities in the world in the Times Higher Education World Rankings 2012. Over 90 per cent of Birkbeck academics are research-active and many are renowned experts in their fields. In the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008), Birkbeck ranked in the top 25 per cent of UK multi-faculty institutions.

Birkbeck is recognised for providing the highest quality teaching, which is informed by our outstanding research excellence. This is proven by our number one position in the National Student Surveys*.

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* National Student Surveys 2006–2012

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Department of Computer Science
and Information Systems

Learning Technologies

MSc

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www.dcs.bbk.ac.uk/courses/msclt
Learning Technologies

Aims

The aim of this programme is to provide academic grounding for the profession of learning technologist. It is targeted at those with a background in computing who wish to gain specialist knowledge of developing and evaluating learning technologies. There is also a route for those without a computing background. The programme focuses on issues in the design of learning technologies, the relationships between pedagogy and technology, and practical aspects of developing and evaluating learning systems. Students who complete the programme successfully will have gained the ability to design and develop learning systems, analyse problems arising in the use of learning technologies, and evaluate emerging technologies. The programme provides a sound foundation for entry to a career in the learning technologies sector, or for a research degree in the subject.

Target audience

- Those with a Computing background who wish to move into a career in developing learning systems.
- Those already working in the learning technologies sector who wish to increase their pedagogical and technical knowledge.
- Teachers, learning technologists and IT staff working in the education sector.

Duration and attendance

Two years part-time, up to four evenings a week. One year full-time, up to four days a week.

Special features

The programme is unique in its twin focus on both the computer science and the learning theory that together underpin the optimal development of learning technologies. It is taught by staff from the London Knowledge Lab, a multi-disciplinary research centre of Birkbeck and the Institute of Education.

Programme contents

For the taught part of the programme students follow a selection of specialist modules, such as:

- Pedagogy, Technology and Adaptivity
- Research Methods in Learning Technologies
- Intelligent Technologies
- Internet and Web Technologies
- Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing
- Programming in Java
- Object-Oriented Design and Programming
- Semantic Web
- Learning and Teaching with Technologies.

Students also undertake an individual project which aims to design and develop a software system targeted at a specific learning setting. Through their project, students are able to explore the relationship of the topics covered on the programme to their previous study or experience, and to explore new interests.

Entry requirements

A 2nd class Bachelor’s or postgraduate degree in computing or in another scientific, mathematical or engineering subject provided that a significant part of the degree included object-orientated programming and the fundamentals of computing; or equivalent professional experience. Graduates in other subjects are also welcome to apply; such applicants may be required to demonstrate aptitude for programming prior to admission. The programme can be followed either full-time in 1 year, or part-time over 2 years by students who work during the day. You must be an EU citizen or otherwise have the right to work full-time in the UK in order to enrol in a part-time course.

More information

For more information and the online application form please visit www.dcs.bbk.ac.uk/courses/msclt