

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Context and rationale

The largest growth in many economies nowadays comes from “information” industries and the success of such knowledge-based organisations lies in the power of their information systems and ability to manage their information effectively. Thus, information management is becoming recognised as a key discipline in profit as well as non-profit organisations. Graduates with IM knowledge and skills are employable in a wide variety of professions, such as Information Officer, IT Specialist, KM Executive and librarian.

The BSc(IM) programme is professionally accredited by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals ([CILIP](#)) of the UK and the accreditation assures that our programme provides excellent preparation for professional practice and will be a strong foundation for anybody entering the library, data, information, and knowledge sectors.

The Faculty is a member of the [iSchools](#). We are recognised as the information professional who possesses the expertise of understanding of the users and users of information, the nature of information itself, as well as information technologies and their applications. We are the only institution in Hong Kong that joined the iSchools as a member, along with other top-tier members such as University of California-Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Syracuse University.

Aims and objectives

The BSc(IM) Programme seeks to sustain and enhance its commitment in outstanding teaching and research so as to produce well-rounded graduates with lifelong abilities to provide leadership in the field of information management. It aims to:

- provide students with a thorough understanding of the roles of information and information management in various organisational settings and societies;
- help student acquire the knowledge of information management theories, methods, skills, and technologies, and apply the knowledge into real world situations;
- foster a comprehensive education, providing a mix of knowledge and skills in library science, IT, business, and knowledge management;
- enable students to develop capabilities in collaboration and communication with peers, professionals, and the community in application and dissemination of knowledge for information management;
- produce graduates of distinction committed to lifelong learning, ethical behavior and information professionalism, capable of being responsive leaders and communicators in the information society.

Learning outcomes

The following Programme Learning Outcomes align with the University’s Educational Aims at <https://tl.hku.hk/tl/#aimsug>, to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of IKM theories, concepts and principles.
2. identify social, organisational, ethical and policy issues in IKM and evaluate their effects on IKM activities and services.

3. analyze information flows, work processes, and application of ICTs in various organisational contexts such as companies, government, schools, libraries, and non-profit organisations.
4. design technology-based solutions and services for IKM.
5. demonstrate leadership in IKM related activities.

(IKM: information and knowledge management)

Course delivery

Innovative teaching methods help students enhance career possibilities by building knowledge of the latest developments in information-related industries. Classes are mainly conducted as lectures except for core courses which also include tutorials and practical sessions where students may be divided into groups. Moodle is used for students to access course materials, announcements and resources. Electronic activities that capitalise on the latest technology will be used to enrich the learning experience, support knowledge sharing and community building among students.

General requirement

You are required to complete courses totalling not fewer than 120 credits. As a general guideline, a **6-credit course** involves students in about **150 hours** of timetabled classes, tutorials, practical sessions, online interaction, reading, practical work, researching & writing assignments.

All HKU undergraduate programmes include common core courses that provide you with perspectives beyond your major fields of study. Some of these courses will be taught outside the Faculty of Education. Details of these courses (and all BSc(IM) courses) are in the *Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Course Descriptions* on the University website at <https://www4.hku.hk/pubunit/drcd/>.

Students are required to complete courses totalling not fewer than 120 credits. The distribution of credits in each area, year by year, is as follows:

First Year of the curriculum

- 42 credits in the Major in Information Management
- a 6-credit course in the Common Core Curriculum
- a 6-credit English in the Discipline course
- 6 credits in elective courses
- a non-credit bearing compulsory English course

Second Year of the curriculum

- 30 credits in the Major in Information Management
- a 6-credit course in the Common Core Curriculum
- 24 credits in elective courses

The courses offered in these areas are as follows:

Major in Information Management (72 credits)

- Core courses (60 credits)
- Elective courses (12 credits)

Code	Course Name	Credits	Core/ Elective
BSIM3001	Information management foundations	6	Core
BSIM3004	Information retrieval	6	Core
BSIM3006	Knowledge management	6	Elective
BSIM3010	Digital libraries: principles and applications	6	Elective
BSIM3014	User-based systems analysis	6	Elective
BSIM3017	Database systems	6	Core
BSIM3021	Web development, users and management	6	Elective
BSIM3023	Information organisation and content management	6	Core
BSIM3025	Multimedia and human-computer interaction	6	Elective
BSIM3998	Professional practices in information management	6	Core
BSIM3999	Internship	6	Core
BSIM4011	Project management	6	Core
BSIM4012	Records management	6	Elective
BSIM4018	Data warehousing and data mining	6	Elective
BSIM4019	Electronic commerce	6	Elective
BSIM4020	Information society issues and policy	6	Core
BSIM4022	Management information systems	6	Elective
BSIM4024	Fundamentals of object-oriented programming	6	Elective
BSIM4026	Introduction to statistics and quantitative data analysis	6	Core
BSIM4027	Selected topics in information management	6	Elective
BSIM4999	Project (A capstone requirement)	6	Core

The elective courses* fall into two specialist strands:

1. Librarianship and Knowledge Management: BSIM3006, BSIM3010, BSIM4012, BSIM4018, BSIM4027
2. Business Information Technology: BSIM3014, BSIM3021, BSIM3025, BSIM4019, BSIM4022, BSIM4024, BSIM4027

* *Not all elective courses will necessarily be offered every year.*

English in the Discipline course (6 credits)

Code	Course Name	Credits
CAES9420	Academic English for information management and social data science students	6

Common Core courses (12 credits)

Students are required to take 12 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum in different Areas of Inquiry (AoI).

Compulsory English course (Non-credit bearing)

In order to enhance the academic literacy skill for students, all BSc(IM) new students are required to attend a non-credit bearing compulsory English course in Semester 1 of their first year of study. Class schedule can be found in the timetable.

Programme structure

	<u>Semester 1</u>	<u>Semester 2</u>
Year 3	5 IM Major Courses <i>30 credits</i>	1 IM Elective Course <i>6 credits</i>
	Compulsory English course <i>Non-credit bearing</i>	1 English in the Discipline course <i>6 credits</i>
		1 Common Core Course <i>6 credits</i>
		Internship (to be conducted in Summer) <i>6 credits</i>
		1 Free Elective Course <i>6 credits</i>
<u>Total 30 credits</u>	<u>Total 30 credits</u>	

Year 4	Project (with 12 hours research elements in Semester 1) <i>6 credits</i>	
	3 IM Major Courses <i>18 credits</i>	
	1 IM Elective Course <i>6 credits</i>	
	4 Free Elective Courses <i>24 credits</i>	
	1 Common Core Course <i>6 credits</i>	
	<u>Total 30 credits</u>	<u>Total 30 credits</u>

Notes:

1. Students shall normally take 60 credits in a year and are required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.
2. Students may, of their volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year.
3. Students are required to take 12 credits in IM major elective courses and are advised to take one course in Year 3 and the other one in Year 4. Over enrollment is NOT allowed.
4. Students who wish to select a minor are advised to plan ahead as they may be required to take additional study load so as to fulfill the minor requirements. Please refer to page 21 of this handbook for details.
5. Some courses of the Master of Science in Library and Information Management (MSc(LIM)) are open for BSc(IM) Year 4 students as free elective courses. BSc(IM) graduates who have successfully completed these MSc(LIM) courses can apply for advanced standing when they are admitted to MSc(LIM) programme in the future, in accordance with MSc(LIM) regulations of the admitted cohort.
6. Some elective courses may not be offered every year. Please refer to the updated course schedules available to students in due course.