

# MSc in Human-centred Systems

## Duration

Full time: 12 months

Part time: up to 28 months  
(mainly daytime / some evenings)

## Entrance requirements

The usual minimum entry requirement is a good second-class honours degree from a UK university, a recognised equivalent from an accredited overseas institution or an equivalent professional qualification. Applicants should have a background in computing. They should also have basic competence and familiarity with mathematics and good professional English. For students whose first language is not English, an IELTS score of 6.5 or TOEFL score of 600 (250 computer-based version) is required. Previous academic and commercial experience will also be considered.

The course is assessed by a mixture of coursework and examination, plus a project dissertation.



## The course aims to develop:

- skills in implementing a user-centred design approach to developing computer-based systems, from discovering the requirements for and analysing the system, to prototyping, implementing and evaluating it once developed
- skills in designing interactive systems for the elderly and people with disabilities
- skills in determining requirements for and designing socio-technical systems

## Professional recognition

The British Computer Society recognises this course for exemption from the BCS Certificate, Diploma and Diploma Project.

## Internships

This course offers an optional internship: six months of professional IT industry experience as part of your postgraduate degree (page 4).

## Overview

This course is delivered by the internationally renowned Centre for Human Computer Interaction Design (HCID) – London's largest research group in human-computer interaction – and is suitable for those with a background in computing or programming. No prior exposure to the topics of human-computer interaction (HCI) or user-centred design (UCD) is necessary.

The course provides you with skills in designing and evaluating interactive systems and other types of computer-based systems in which people are a major element. Skills range from advanced human-computer interaction design skills, requirement analysis and design, and designing and conducting complex evaluations of new or existing software computing systems, to unique expertise in designing and evaluating systems for people with disabilities and the elderly.

Students benefit from being able to use the new HCID Interaction Lab, established with the support of the Vodafone UK Foundation and equipped with the latest high-tech technology.

Graduates of the course will be equipped for careers as usability and accessibility specialists, interaction designers and information architects. The course is also excellent preparation for doctoral (PhD) study.

## Course content

The course comprises seven core modules:

- advanced topics in human-computer interaction
- evaluation of systems
- human-computer interaction design
- inclusive design
- requirements engineering
- research, evaluation and communication skills
- systems specification

Students also choose one elective module from:

- multimedia
- visualising information\*

\* This module will be taught at City by academics from the Human-Computer Interaction Group at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. The Group specialises in research into Information Visualization.



The new HCID Interaction Lab, established with the support of the Vodafone UK Foundation, is equipped with the latest high-tech technology to assist us with our research in the design of interactive systems, especially for the elderly and the disabled and supports our existing usability, accessibility and requirements engineering research and services.