Admission - Honours (Information Systems)

A bachelor degree in Information Systems or equivalent three-year degree.

Qualifications in other disciplines will also be considered if there is a strong business background. As a general rule a person will not be admitted as a candidate for the Honours course unless he/she has obtained at least 65% in the final undergraduate Information Systems course.

Application

Applications are open and close 31 October 2014 (30 August 2014 for International students). The Information Systems Division will interview all short listed applicants in November/December 2014.

If you are or have been registered as a student at another South African university, you will be required to submit an academic essay (in softcopy) with your application on one of the following topics:

- Measuring and managing IS performance
- Determinants of software piracy
- Reactions of managers to the introduction of an IS based MIS
- The Digital economy – how do we respond?

The paper must pay careful attention to referencing style, should be 1200 words in length and should be submitted with your application form.

Degree Overview

The purpose of the degree is to enable candidates to become well informed about issues pertinent to the management of information systems and emerging trends in information technology. The foundation knowledge for academic research will be covered. The degree is offered as a one year full time or two year part time program.

Programme Objectives

- Further develop student competence in systems development and project management
- To enable students to explore emerging trends in IS
- To introduce students to high level management issues in IS
• Provide the students with a knowledge base for carrying out academic research
• To develop student ability to communicate clearly in both written and verbal form
• To develop students ability to work together in a team environment
• To develop student ability to apply theoretical knowledge to case studies

Programme Structure
In order for a student to graduate with an Honours degree in Information Systems, it is necessary to accumulate a total of 150 points at honours level. The points are made up as follows:

Advanced Systems Development Practice (INFO4011)
Information Systems Management (INFO4012)*
Research Methods (INFO4013)
Research Paper in Information Systems
Selected Topics in Information Systems*

Subject to the approval by Head of School a student may, if eligible, apply to attend and complete ONE course of 30 points from another division within the School of Economics and Business Sciences or other relevant discipline to replace ONE of the two courses indicated with a * above. The student will still receive an Honours Degree in Information Systems.

The student may only take another course from outside of the IS Division if the lectures do not clash with the scheduled IS lectures or tutorials. The onus is also on the student to apply and receive permission for this from the relevant Head of School and to inform the IS Honours coordinator.

Points are accumulated by attending and passing all the above courses as mentioned above.

Students in the full time program are required to complete the entire 150 points in 1 year.

Students in the part time program are required to complete INFO4011, INFO4012, INFO4015 in the 1st year. INFO4013 (Research Methods) and INFO4014 (Research Paper in Information Systems) must be completed in the 2nd year.
Lectures will be based on a block release system, in which all candidates (both full time and part time in their 1st year) will be required to attend approximately 6 weeks of lectures over the 2015 academic year. Part time students are required to attend approximately 2 weeks of lectures in their 2nd year of study.

The students are required to take all the courses.

**Each course must be passed with a minimum of 50% being achieved in order to attain the Honours degree.**

All full time students are required to complete the entire 150 points in one year. Part time students must complete 100 points to be allowed entry into the 2nd year.

**Programme Details**

Points are accumulated by attending and passing the above mentioned courses.

Candidates in the full time program are required to complete the entire 150 points in 1 year.

Candidates in the part time program are required to complete all the coursework modules in the 1st year and the project and research report in their 2nd year.

Lectures will be based on a block release system, in which all candidates (both full time and part time in their 1st year) will be required to attend 6 to 8 weeks of lectures over the academic year. Part time students are required to attend 2 weeks of lectures in their 2nd year of study. The candidates are required to take all the courses. Each course must be passed in order to attain the Honours degree.

**Delivery**

The honours programme makes use discussion seminars, case analysis and formal lectures. Small class sizes allow students to engage with one another and the lecturers. Team based work, as well as a system development project, allow students to learn how to work with other students. Written assignments and presentations develop a student’s ability to argue soundly and communicate clearly in both and oral and written form.
**Tutoring**
All full time candidates are required to tutor undergraduate candidates in the department. This will involve tutoring first, second and third year students.

**Internship**
During the Honours year all full time Information Systems students are required to take part in the vacation internship program. This is a 4 week program with leading companies in the ICT Arena. The companies are representative of the broad spectrum of ICT employers with vendors, consultants and users of ICT being included. Standard Bank, FNB, KPMG, and BSG are some of the companies to which the fulltime students will be assigned.

The internship program provides the full time students with insight into the working world, and many of the past honour students have felt that they have made better choices on employment after this program, as they have more of an understanding as to what the different ICT careers have to offer.

The students work on real live projects and are provided mentoring while on the program. The students are also nominally remunerated for their time during the internship.

**Deadline Dates**
Applications and transcripts (with entrance essay if required) are to be submitted by 31 October 2014

**Further Information**
**Student Enrolment Centre**
For completing and sending applications forms:
Mr Ryan Giannone
Tel: 27 11 717 1158
E-mail: Ryan.Giannone@wits.ac.za

**School Postgraduate Administrator (School of Economics and Business Sciences)**
Ms Irma Cheval Dube
Tel: 27 11 717 8095
E-mail: Irma.Cheval@wits.ac.za

**Programme Coordinator**
Mr Jean-Marie Bancilhon
Course Details

INFO4011: Advanced Systems Development Project
**NQF Level: 8; Wits points: 30; NQF credits: 30; Unit taken towards:** BComHons(Info. Systems)

This course extends student knowledge of business, project management and systems analysis, design and development practices. Students gain further hands on experience with real-world practitioners for whom they will develop a new IS application in a group project. The course will consolidate undergraduate skills in all aspects of the development process but will further extend students' understanding of business analysis and the need to deliver business value from IS applications. Through the project, students will also have an opportunity to engage with real-world practitioners to assess aspects of their IS management programmes.

INFO4012: Information Systems Management
**NQF Level: 8; Wits points: 30; NQF credits: 30; Unit taken towards:** BComHons(Info. Systems)

This course introduces students to different areas of management within the discipline of Information systems. The student will be able to explore different angles and approaches to areas of Information systems management theories of change management and concentrates on factors that cause change and how people respond, including resistance to change and how it can be addressed. The consultants’ role in the change management process is also explored. Students' understanding of higher level principles of IS project management. The courses focuses on project management methodologies; project success and failure; project risk management; alternate development methodologies; and project planning, costing and scheduling. Introduces students to concepts and theories in IS strategy. Students learn about the role of IS within organisations, the need for IS strategy and the need to link between business strategy, organisational strategy and IS strategy. Students also learn about IS and competitive advantage; IS and business processes; the IS strategy planning process; and information architecture.

INFO4013: Research Methods
**NQF Level: 8; Wits points: 30; NQF credits: 30; Unit taken towards:** BComHons(Info. Systems)

This course introduces students to the academic research process and to academic research in the field of information systems. Specifically the course explores: what is research, why is it necessary, and how to execute it; how to find literature electronically and in paper sources;
standards of referencing and issues in academic plagiarism; how to select a topic and plan a research project; how to identify the research problem, questions and hypotheses; how to select data, sources and methods; how to apply various approaches to data collection and analysis; how to apply methods of logical and statistical inference; how to write and complete a comprehensive research report. Students then carry out an empirical research study on an approved topic and present an academic research report for examination.

INFO4014: Research Paper in Information Systems  
**NQF Level: 8; Wits points: 30; NQF credits: 30; Unit taken towards: BComHons(Info. Systems)**

Students apply what has been learned in the research methods courses and carry out a supervised empirical research study on an approved topic. The study may be of an exploratory (hypothesis generation) or confirmatory (hypothesis testing) nature. Students present an academic research report in the approved style for examination.

INFO4015: Selected Topics in Information Systems  
**NQF Level: 8; Wits points: 30; NQF credits: 30; Unit taken towards: BComHons(Info. Systems)**

This course introduces students to selected topics in the use, development and management of information systems, as well as their underlying technologies. Students are also exposed to the impacts of IS on individuals, organisations and society; and issues that confront IS professionals in the field.