IT systems: planning for success TM353

Presentation pattern *October to June*

Module description

IT systems are a critical part of our world, in business, public sector and voluntary sector environments, and are often highly complex and interconnected combinations of technology, organisations and people. Yet they frequently fail, often spectacularly. This module teaches students the skills to enable them to contribute towards successful IT systems. It draws on techniques from systems theory, software engineering and management to: understand the nature of success and failure, design IT systems to enable success, and ensure that IT systems are robust in the face of future changes. Students will also learn skills in project management and will cover legal, social, ethical and professional issues.

Person specification

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the generic person specification for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- a degree or equivalent professional experience in an information systems, systems or ICT-related field
- up to date experience of working with or researching complex information/ICT systems, understood as sociotechnical systems
- experience of teaching information systems (or a related field such as social informatics) at undergraduate or postgraduate level
- commitment to taking a broad view of teaching information systems and willingness to engage with a number of disciplines
- experience of supporting students or other individuals in project management
- experience of, and enthusiasm for, the use of online tools for communication and teaching, including audio-conferencing and other media
- a commitment to work creatively within the OU online teaching environment using the OU technologies that are an integral part of this module
- experience of using and/or teaching a range of systems approaches and techniques including one or more of: soft systems methodology, diagramming techniques and basic system dynamics.

It would be an advantage to have:

- practical experience in analysing socio-technical problems in complex, messy areas using systems ideas and techniques.

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:	30
Number of assignments submitted by the student:	3
Method of submission for assignments:	1a
Level of ICT requirements:	2
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	20
Salary band:	3
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	3.5