

University of Sussex
Department of Informatics

Information Technology for E-Commerce



University of Sussex
School of Science & Technology

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The University

Research of national and international excellence

Sussex is a leading research university, as confirmed in the Higher Education Funding Council's (HEFCE) 2001 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). Every one of our subject areas was judged to produce research of national or international excellence.

We have an enviable international reputation for award-winning research. Our Science faculty have included 3 Nobel Prize winners and a large number of Fellows of the Royal Society. We attract a high level of funding from industry, the research councils, foundations, government agencies, the European Union and other international bodies.

Sussex has a proud tradition of inter-disciplinary study and teaching, cutting across traditional boundaries to produce pioneering research and innovative thinking. One notable example of this distinctive approach is the Centre for Research in Cognitive Science (formerly the internationally renowned School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences – COGS). The Centre provides a shared focus for students from disciplines such as artificial intelligence, linguistics, philosophy and psychology.

At Sussex we actively encourage international students, mature applicants and students from families with no history of university attendance. This diverse student population enriches the experience of all who study here.



The campus and the city of Brighton

A vibrant, eclectic and cosmopolitan community

The University of Sussex is set in rolling green parkland just on the edge of Brighton, and is the only university in England with the whole of its campus situated in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It combines award-winning architecture with green open spaces yet is less than an hour away from London and good transport links to Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

The campus is like a large village where thousands of researchers, students, and staff work, study and relax. It is home to researchers and students from over 120 countries, creating a vibrant, eclectic and cosmopolitan community.

One of the biggest advantages of the Sussex campus is that everything is close to hand: lecture theatres, laboratories, restaurants, bars, sports facilities and accommodation are all within walking distance. Just about every amenity is available: a launderette, bookshop, radio station, health centre, dentist, pharmacy, two small food stores, two banks, two sports centres, a nightclub and numerous cafes, bars and restaurants. We also have a Muslim Centre and an inter-denominational Meeting House.



There is an excellent Library with over half a million books and journals as well as documents, microform and audiovisual collections and a wide range of online journals and ebooks. The Library provides special services for research students, including group introductions and individual surgeries to support your research.

In addition to the Informatics Department's computing facilities, there are approximately 450 computers across campus, many available 24 hours a day. There is also a wireless 'roaming' network facility, allowing free email and internet access across campus and assistive PCs for students with disabilities and additional learning needs.



Postgraduate study can be challenging but Brighton has plenty on offer to help maintain a healthy and enjoyable work-life balance. The friendly and informal campus life at Sussex is a reflection of the community at large: Brighton is a cosmopolitan, lively and exciting place to study and live.

Often referred to as 'London by the sea', Brighton has everything – sun, sea, great places to eat, fabulous shops, a cutting-edge club scene and thriving artistic and cultural communities. And, since students form 10 per cent of the city's population, you can be confident that you'll find plenty to satisfy your needs and interests.

The highlight of the cultural year is the Brighton Festival. Held in May, it's England's biggest arts festival and your chance to catch internationally



renowned musicians, dancers, poets and writers. A fringe festival complements the mainstream event with a mix of comedians, artists, speakers and street performers. There's also the London to Brighton Bike Ride, Burning the Clocks, Veteran Car Run and Pride... In fact you'll struggle to find a weekend when there isn't something going on.

The University campus is surrounded by the beautiful South Downs countryside. These, and the nearby coastline, provide great opportunities for outdoor activities such as walking, mountain bike riding, paragliding and a wide range of watersports. Situated four miles from Brighton, the campus has excellent bus and train links with the city centre and has its own railway station at Falmer. Gatwick airport is 25 miles (40km) to the north and a regular train service links London.



MSc in Information Technology for E-Commerce

Overview

Information Technology forms the bedrock of our E-commerce and E-business systems. The successful implementation of IT systems to enact E-commerce transactions, i.e. convert, store, process, transmit and retrieve business information, anywhere, anytime is crucial to the future growth of our European and world economies. Organisations dependent on these IT systems for their E-commerce and E-business operations need to know how to specify, design and implement the hardware and software of such systems effectively. Therefore, these organisations need to understand how their IT systems operate in information, social and cultural environments, and how they can manage technology and innovation to support to support development of their new products, implement new processes and create new businesses in the electronic market place.

Typical application areas for new products and business in the E-market that exploit E-commerce transactions are far ranging, but the classical example is Amazon.com, while others include: Dell, Expedia, eBay, Yahoo and Disney, which are all profitable E-commerce companies with powerful brand names. The term E-commerce and E-business is often used interchangeably, but really E-commerce is concerned with on-line selling, while

E-business a larger entity and is more concerned with making that online trade more efficient (an example might be Amazon's follow up services such as E-tracking, or some other supply chain management technology) by using appropriate IT systems including the Internet.

On this programme a successful student will be able to appreciate the difference between E-commerce and E-business from a technology, economic and a management perspective, you will understand issues focused around technology innovation in IT and put into practice newly acquired IT skills that enable you to understand, specify, design and build E-commerce and E-business systems utilising innovative IT solutions.

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of this programme a successful student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a firm understanding of Information Technology
- Demonstrate a firm understanding of E-Commerce focused on Technology and Innovation Management
- Apply Information Technology and E-Commerce skills needed to build E-Commerce businesses
- Produce a portfolio of completed work at the end of the degree

- Demonstrate practical skills required to develop a career in IT and Technology Innovation and Management

If your first language is not English, you will normally be expected to have a score of 6 in each section of IELTS or equivalent.

Entry Requirements

A good background in computing, information technology or any engineering discipline with a reasonable programming context. Students with a business-related degree may be accepted provided they have some programming experience. Applicants are expected to have at least a good undergraduate honours degree or other professional qualification or experience of equivalent standing.

Workload

As a general guideline, we are expecting full-time students to be devoting up to 40 hours per week and part-time students up to 20 hours per week. Study workload may be unevenly spread throughout the academic year depending on course weighting and programme route chosen.



Assessment

Each course on the degree programme is assessed by one of the University-approved assessment modes, which can be either unseen exam, programming project, web pages, coursework, essay or other mode. All courses are not necessarily equally weighted, and some are double weighted.

Each course has a pass mark of 40 per cent. To achieve the degree award, a student must obtain an overall weighted mean mark at or above 40 per cent, a pass at or above 40 per cent in the dissertation or project and no more than 30 failed credits. This programme is also offered as a Postgraduate Diploma, which excludes the dissertation.

A merit will be awarded to a student who obtains an overall weighted mean mark of 60 per cent or more in the whole programme, including a pass at or above 60 per cent for the dissertation or project and no fail marks.

A distinction will be awarded to a student who obtains an overall weighted mean mark of 70 per cent or more in the whole programme, including a pass at or above 70 per cent for the dissertation or project and no fail marks.

Funding

A groundbreaking partnership with American Express offers up to 30 postgraduates (depending on American Express requirements) on the MSc in Information Technology for E-Commerce or the MSc in Human Centred Computer Systems the chance to study part time while gaining work experience with the financial services company. For further information, see www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/pgrad/amex/

Programme structure

The MSc consists of a programme of full-time study running from October in one year to the following September, or part-time study over two years. This course is also offered as a Postgraduate Diploma. Teaching is shared between Informatics and SPRU – Sussex’s world leading institute in research, consultancy and teaching in science, technology and innovation policy.

Brief details of each course on the MSc degree are presented on the following pages. These descriptions are intended

as a guide only. The precise content of a course may differ from year to year. Full details are distributed at the start of each course. Further information on the courses can be found at www.informatics.sussex.ac.uk/admissions/ and www.sussex.ac.uk/Informatics/teaching

Full-time structure

Autumn term

Two compulsory courses:

- Object Oriented Programming [Informatics]
- Internet Technologies [Informatics]

And two options from the following:

- Organisation of Innovation + Managing Innovation [SPRU]
- Management for E-Commerce [Informatics]
- Human Computer Interaction [Informatics]

Plus a short course on Academic Development



Spring Term

One compulsory course:

- ICT Policy and Strategy [SPRU]

And two options from:

- Artificial Intelligence Programming [Informatics]
- Data Mining [Informatics]
- Information Technology Systems [Informatics]
- Web-Based Commerce [Informatics]
- Software Design and Evaluation [Informatics]
- E-Business [Informatics]

Or choose the following double option:

- Managing Innovation in Complex Product Systems [SPRU]

Further options may become available, some options may not be available in some years.



Summer Term

Supervised work for the MSc dissertation, which is based on a substantial research project based in Informatics or SPRU.

Part-time structure

The part-time version of the degree has the same set of courses as the full-time version; spread over two years, to enable students to support themselves with part-time work. The amount of work required of a part-time student is roughly half that of a full-time student depending on the route taken through the programme, nominally 200 hours per term. Attendance requirements will depend on course timetables and courses chosen. While we will try to cluster teaching sessions as much as possible, this cannot be guaranteed.

Autumn term year 1

Two compulsory courses:

- Object-Oriented Programming [Informatics]
- Internet Technologies [Informatics]

Plus a short course on Academic Development

Spring term year 1

One compulsory course:

- ICT Policy and Strategy [SPRU]

Summer term year 1

Start of supervised work for the MSc dissertation, which is based on a substantial research project or thesis based in Informatics or SPRU.

Autumn term year 2

Two options from:

- Managing Innovation [SPRU]
- Management for E-Commerce [Informatics]
- Human Computer Interaction [Informatics]

Spring term year 2

Two options from:

- Artificial Intelligence Programming [Informatics]
- Data Mining [Informatics]
- Web-Based Commerce [Informatics]
- Information Technology Systems [Informatics]
- E-Business [Informatics]
- Software Design and Evaluation [Informatics]

Or choose the following double option:

- Managing Innovation in Complex Product Systems [SPRU]

Summer term year 2

Continue supervised project work or dissertation based in Informatics or SPRU.

The part-time ITEC programme also

operates in collaboration with American Express (see <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/pgrad/amex/>)

Postgraduate Diploma

The full-time and part-time structure is identical to that of the MSc in the Autumn and Spring terms. Students undertaking the Diploma do not submit a dissertation. Entry requirements are the same as for the MSc. A Diploma is of great value to someone who has limited time available and wishes just to undertake the taught part of a Masters programme without committing to the dissertation element.

Course contents

Brief details of each course on The MSc degree are presented on the following pages.

The course descriptions are intended as a guide only. The precise content of a course may differ from year to year. Each course leader will provide a more precise Course Information Sheet (CIS), which includes updated reading lists, teaching modes, assessment modes, syllabus, and learning outcomes. Further information on the courses can be found at: www.sussex.ac.uk/informatics/admissions and www.sussex.ac.uk/Informatics/teaching



including XHTML and XSLT, client-side programming (embedded scripting languages, style sheets), server-side programming (Java Servlets, JDOM, SAX), database interfaces; email technologies and mime.

Object Oriented Programming

The course provides an introduction to object oriented programming using Java. The student will be introduced to programming assuming no previous programming experience. This will equip the student with the knowledge needed for subsequent programming based courses. For students with reasonable programming experience this will provide both a refresher course, and the opportunity to further develop their skills through a term project.

Internet Technologies

The course provides an introduction to the models and technologies used to provide services over the internet. Topics covered include: XML,

Suggested reading:

Deitel, H.M. et al. XML : How to Program. Prentice Hall. 2001

The Organization of Innovation + Managing Innovation

This course aims to equip you with the knowledge to understand and the skills to manage technology and innovation at the organizational level. Specifically, it aims to integrate the management of technological, organisational and market change to support the development of new products, implementation of new processes and creation of new businesses.

Topics include:

- Innovation and organizational competitiveness
- Building the Innovative Organization
- Creativity and problem-solving
- Implementing innovation
- Exploiting Intellectual property
- Anticipating emerging technology and markets
- Developing innovative new products and services
- Entrepreneurship and new ventures
- Managing alliances and innovation networks
- Group presentations assessing an innovation.

Suggested reading:

Tidd, J. Bessant, J. & Pavitt, K.

Managing Innovation: integrating technological market and organizational change. Wiley. 2001

Management for E-Commerce

This course is designed to provide a pathway for those students more interested in management issues focused on E-Commerce. This course may change from year to year as issues focused on management for E-Commerce evolves. The first part of the course will provide students with an understanding of the problems involved in planning and managing E-commerce

organisations. The second part of the course will introduce students to other topics that impact on E-commerce, such as marketing, financial planning and strategic business planning. These topics will vary depending on current issues in E-commerce.

Topics may include:

- Management for E-commerce:
- Environmental consideration
- Marketing ethics
- Industry competition
- Global political and legal environments for E-commerce
- E-commerce technological environments
- Organizational structures and global competition
- Budget cash flow analysis

Depending on availability some of the following modules will be taught:

- Marketing analysis and ethics
- Financial planning and control
- Strategic Business Planning
- Working capital management, including cash management
- Dividends and dividend decisions
- The stock exchange and its efficiency

Suggested reading:

Davies, M. Understanding Marketing. Prentice Hall. 1998

Barnes, S. and Hunt, B. E-Commerce & V-Commerce. Butterworth Heinemann. 2001

Watson, D. and Head, T. Corporate Finance. FT Publishing, 2 ED. 2001

Turbane, King D et al, Electronic Commerce. Prentice Hall. 2002

Human Computer Interaction

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) is a rapidly expanding field. The aim of this course is to give an introduction to the key areas and approaches.

Topics include:

- systems and interface features, communication and interaction
- approaches to design and evaluation
- cognitive aspects of HCI
- social and organisational aspects
- design support tools

Suggested reading:

Rogers, Y. Preece, J. Sharp, H. Interaction Design: beyond Human-Computer Interaction. Wiley, 2001



ICT Policy and Strategy

The course examines the evolution of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as technological artefacts and the evolution of the idea of an 'information market' as well as other means of organising the supply of information and the design of information technologies. It is also centrally concerned with the social and cultural influences of ICTs and the evolution of ICT 'governance' – the ways in which ICT is enabled and managed through interactions between public policies and corporate strategies at national, regional and international levels.

Suggested reading:

Duff, A.S. Information Society Studies. London: Routledge. 2000

Sharipo, C. and Varian, H. Information Rules : A Strategic Guide to the Network Economy. Harvard Business school. 1999

Winograd, T. and Flores, F. Understanding Computers and Cognition: A New Foundation for Design. Addison's Wesley. 1987

Mansell, R. and Steinmueller, W.E. Mobilizing the Information Society. Oxford University Press. 2000

Artificial Intelligence Programming

This course covers basic AI programming and some fundamental AI theory such as search. It is designed to cater for students both with and without previous programming experience.

The course introduces various aspects of the logic programming language, Prolog.

Suggested reading:

Bratko, I. Prolog Programming for Artificial Intelligence, 3rd ed., Pearson Education, 2001

Russell, S. and Norvig, P. AI: A Modern Approach, 2nd ed., Pearson Education, 2003

Data Mining

This course covers common methods of data mining and machine learning. It looks at symbolic methods (such as decision-trees), connectionist methods (such as back propagation) and evolutionary methods (genetic algorithms). It also looks at research on learning and acquisition currently being carried out in the department. Students need some Java programming skills/Object Oriented Programming.

Suggested reading:

Tan, Steinbech and Kumar, Introduction to Data Mining, MIT Press. 2006

Information Technology Systems

The course provides a technical understanding of the major issues for all large-scale commercial IT environments. It covers the standard methods for large-scale data storage, data movement, transformation, and application integration, together with the fundamentals of application architecture. Examples focus on the most recent IT developments including business-to-business E-commerce and peer-to-peer computing.

Suggested reading:

Umar A. E-Business and Distribution Systems

Turban E, Rainer RK, Potter RE. Introduction to Information Technology

Checkland P, Holwell S. Information, Systems and Information Systems

Pearlson KE. Managing and using information systems: a strategic approach

Web-Based Commerce

The course provides technical understanding and experience of the architectures, technologies and practices that have emerged in response to the new information technology and business arrangements. The course emphasise the role of Internet technologies in providing the principal means of access to commercial IT systems. Practical work focuses on the creation of a working E-commerce application using the latest industry-standard tools and methodologies.

Topics include:

- E-Commerce related technologies
- Client-side programming
- large-scale application development
- Visual Declarative Programming: UML
- Server-side programming
- Basic Internet security concepts

Suggested reading:

Chan, H. Lee, R. Dillin, T. and Chang, E. E-Commerce. Fundamentals and Applications. Wiley. 2001

Alhir, S. UML in a Nutshell. O'Reilly. 1998

Cassel, L.N. and Austing, R.H. Computer Networks and Open Systems. Jones and Bartlett. 2000

Singh, I. Stearns, B. Johnson, M. and Enterprise Team. Designing Enterprise Applications with the J2EEtm Platform, Second Edition. The Java Series. Addison-Wesley. 2002

Timmers, P. Electronic Commerce. Wiley. 2000.

Software Design and Evaluation

The course will introduce students to the full range of activities involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of a large software system. The course will be based on a group project, which will build and test a working system addressing an application area of particular importance to Human Computer Interaction (HCI), for example, a tutoring system, or a groupware application. Over the term, the project will move through the phases of the development process, from the requirements definition, through specification, design, implementation, testing and system evaluation. Each of these phases will be used to introduce the issues involved in that phase of development, as well as consideration of the appropriateness of a phased model of system design.

Suggested reading:

Newman, W.M. and Lamming, M.G.

Interactive system Design. Addison-Wesley. 1995

Managing Innovation in Complex Product Systems

The course aims to introduce students to a range of issues concerned with how innovation is managed in the supply of complex products and systems (CoPS). These high-cost software-intensive capital goods include a range of products, systems, networks, infrastructure, constructs and services. Examples include aircraft, aero-engines, IT systems, telecommunication networks, flight simulators, high-speed trains, air-traffic control systems and intelligent buildings. In contrast to mass-produced consumer goods, CoPS are produced on a project basis as one-offs or in small tailored batches for large businesses or government customers.

Topics Include:

- Product complexity, innovation and industrial organization
- Life cycles, firm strategies and industrial evolution
- Managing systems integration
- Project-based organizations

- Managing knowledge in the project-based firm
- Managing complex software development
- Changing policies and market structures
- The challenge of integrated solutions
- Building capabilities in new markets

Suggested reading:

Reading list supplied with Course Information Sheet.



E-Business

The aim of the course is to enable students to play a more useful part in IT-based commercial or business initiatives (ranging from dotcom start ups to business process re-engineering projects within established companies) by giving an awareness of the various ways in which informatics is changing commercial and business processes and trading relationships, and of the considerations which are seen by investors and senior managers as potentially relevant to the success of such initiatives.

Topics include:

- Elementary economic theory and its interaction with E-business
- Alternative E-business strategies, as theories and as case studies
- Legal and behavioural issues
- Marketing, branding, and customer relationship issues
- Software systems for E-business and E-commerce
- Commercial website management



Resources

Computing

Members of the Department of Informatics have access to excellent facilities, including a resource centre and up-to-date computing labs.

A brand-new computing lab was recently opened for students. This is equipped with 81 of the latest Dell PCs with flat panel monitors. Additionally the Department has suites of PCs, Apple Macintoshes and Unix machines and includes a dedicated MSc computing laboratory. Full multimedia and Internet facilities are available to students; this includes software such as Macromedia Dreamweaver, Flash, Director, 3D Studio Max, Adobe Audition, Premiere etc. Other resources include professional Java (J2SE and J2EE) development environment (JBuilder Enterprise Edition), Matlab, Microsoft Visual Studio and many other utilities running on PC compatible computers running Microsoft Windows. Students also have access to multimedia labs equipped with various hardware and software for project work.

All suites are networked using the Department's 100Mb LAN and have a high speed gateway to the Internet. Students are encouraged to use the internet for email communication and research. Students have access to a computing lab reserved for MSc students in the department as well as to the resources of the central

Computing Service. The Computing Service provides a campus-wide service with a large number of 24-hour access computers, including PC compatible computers running Microsoft Windows and a number of Apple Macintosh Power PC computers, some of which are adapted for the students with special needs. Files can be rapidly transferred between Computing Service computers and the departments' computers as all sets of machines are connected to the campus network.



Library

The Department of Informatics has its own library, which houses a large collection of technical reports from Sussex and other institutions, as well as many books and conference

proceedings. The main University of Sussex library holds copies of books and journals needed for the MSc and has an extensive collection of digital resources.

Department of Informatics

Informatics is an interdisciplinary computer science, artificial intelligence and information technology department, merged from subject disciplines that achieved grade 5 in the last UK government Research Assessment Exercise indicating its national and international research excellence. This research excellence filters down into our postgraduate and undergraduate degree programmes, which are largely taught by active research staff. The department offers one of the few opportunities in UK universities for the study of information technology, human computer interaction, computer science and artificial intelligence.

Informatics offers undergraduate degree programmes leading to a BSc and postgraduate degree programmes leading to an Msc, MPhil or DPhil.

The department of Informatics is an internationally renowned centre for research in many fields of Computer Science and Information Technology including: Information Technology,

Computer Science, Multimedia, Computer graphics and Virtual Reality; Space science; VSLI and Digital Electronics; Network Communications; Cognitive Science; Foundations of Computing; Natural Language Processing; Human-Centred Computing Technology; Evolutionary and Adaptive systems; Computer Vision and Medical Imaging; Software Systems; Bioinformatics and Machine Learning. For further details see www.sussex.ac.uk/informatics/



Science and Technology Policy Research

Science and Technology Policy Research (SPRU) is one of the world leaders in policy research on science, technology and innovation (STI) and its wider economic, social and environmental implications. SPRU's mission is to deepen understanding of the place of science, technology and innovation in the global economy for the benefit of government, business and society.

SPRU has a team of 40 researchers from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds in the social and natural sciences and engineering. SPRU's research is organised around three principal themes, which often cut across sectors and geographical boundaries: firm and industry innovation in new technologies; systems of scientific and technological innovation in a modern world; markets, governance and sustainability.

SPRU research engages directly with issues that fall within the 'mainstream' of current science and technology policy research and studies of the management of technological innovation. Its work also provides a critique of the mainstream by generating new ideas, methodologies and insights into policy and innovation management processes and outcomes.

Approximately two-thirds of SPRU's £3 million annual budget derives from grants and contracts from research councils, foundations, government, business and international bodies.



Further information and how to apply

Application forms can be downloaded from
www.sussex.ac.uk/pgapplication

Fees

Details of fees and financial support can be found at
www.sussex.ac.uk/scitech/fees-finance

Finding out more

Details of other MSc programmes and research degrees in the department of Informatics can be found at
www.sussex.ac.uk/Informatics/admissions

The University of Sussex Postgraduate Prospectus can be viewed, downloaded and ordered from
www.sussex.ac.uk/pgstudy

If you have specific questions about this MSc, contact the Postgraduate Coordinator by emailing to
infopgadmiss@sussex.ac.uk

or at the following address:

The Postgraduate Coordinator
(Informatics)
School of Science and Technology
University of Sussex
Brighton BN1 9QJ
UK
T: +44 1273 678108
F: +44 1273 877873



How to apply

We will need the following information to make a decision on your admission:

- the Sussex application form completed with your personal details and contact information;
- a transcript of marks from your first degree if you are not a graduate of a UK university;
- if English is not your first language, evidence of proficiency in English;
- two letters of reference, preferably from academic referees, but industrial/commercial references are also welcome.

You can either apply online or by post

Application online

Scan in your documents for uploading and follow the application process found here:

www.sussex.ac.uk/pgapplication

Application by post

Send your application documents, including the completed application form, to:

The Postgraduate Office,
Sussex House,
University of Sussex,
Brighton
BN1 9RH,
UK

A paper application form is available from the postgraduate coordinator at the contact address given above. Alternatively, a printable application form can be downloaded from **www.sussex.ac.uk/pgapplication**

Checking on progress of your application

We will automatically inform you by email when your application is received here, and again when a decision has been made. If you apply online you can view the progress of your application at each stage. If you applied by post, contact the postgraduate coordinator at **infopgadmiss@sussex.ac.uk** or at the address given.



The Students' Union

When you join Sussex, you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Union provides a range of entertainments and social events—on and off campus—and also supports a large number of student clubs and societies. Sussex has a long and proud history of campaigning, both on local issues affecting students and wider international issues. In addition to this, the Union runs shops, bars and a nightclub; provides advice on issues including student loans, welfare and academic studies and represents its members on University committees.

Every year a postgraduate officer is elected to represent the interests of graduate students at Sussex and promote their involvement in all aspects of Union activities.

Housing

The Housing Office can help you find suitable accommodation and offer a guarantee of housing for all new full-time research students in their first year of study, and for non-EU Masters degree students registering in October who apply before 1 August. This housing may be on campus, or in nearby Brighton and Hove. The rental periods can be up to 49 weeks, meaning you do not need to move out in vacations.

The University manages a limited amount of small family flats, but these are in very high demand so therefore only let to students with accompanying children. Students with disabilities requiring adapted accommodation are advised to contact the Disability Coordinator at an early stage to discuss their needs, to ensure they are met before starting their studies.

For students who prefer to rent in the private sector, an up-to-date register of accommodation in the local area is available.



Terms and conditions

The small print

Enrolment conditions

All students are required as a condition of enrolment to pay all fees due from them to the University, and to abide by, and to submit to, the requirements of the University's Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations, as amended from time to time. Copies of the current Charter and Statutes, and Ordinances and Regulations are available, on request, from the University or may be inspected at the Postgraduate Admissions Office or the University Library. These documents are also posted on the University website www.sussex.ac.uk/secretariat/docs

Withdrawal or variation of programmes

The University will use all reasonable endeavours to deliver programmes and courses in accordance with the descriptions available at the time of application (the most up-to-date descriptions are at www.sussex.ac.uk). However, the University keeps its programmes under review with the aim of enhancing quality. Some changes may therefore be made to the form or content of programmes or courses described in this prospectus.

The University is largely dependent upon public and charitable funds, which it has to manage in a way that is efficient and cost effective, in order to provide a diverse range of programmes and courses to a large number of students. Many graduate courses and programmes are also dependent upon the designation of an appropriate supervisor or tutor.

The University therefore reserves the right, where it reasonably considers that such action is necessary, to withdraw programmes of study, or to make variations to the content or method of delivery of programmes. Such circumstances would include situations where enrolments are not at a viable level or the fact that expert research supervision becomes unavailable. Prior to registration, should the University withdraw a programme for which you have accepted an offer, you may be able to transfer to a suitable alternative programme or research topic (for which you are qualified). If you are not able to transfer to another programme, there will

be no liability for tuition fees and any deposits paid will be refunded to you.

Once you have registered, should the University take the exceptional step of withdrawing or substantially varying your programme then the University shall explore with you the possibilities for a suitable alternative programme (for which you are qualified). If a suitable alternative programme is not available or acceptable to you, the University may make an appropriate refund of tuition fees.

The University welcomes comments on its programmes and courses from students' parents and sponsors. However, the University's contracts with its students do not confer rights on third parties for the purposes of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

Distance contracts regulations

The admissions process falls under legislation which regulates 'contracts formed at a distance'. The contract that is created when you accept an offer is binding on the University (ie the University must admit you if you satisfy the conditions specified). After accepting an offer, you can withdraw at any time up to enrolment without penalty, except on programmes where a deposit is payable.

The same regulations also require us to clarify that the services with which we will provide you, should you accept an offer from us, are as set out in the sections of this prospectus that detail the content and duration of our academic programmes (subject to the caveats above regarding withdrawal or variation of programmes and courses).

Facilities and services

The University endeavours to provide the best possible equipment and facilities for all programmes and courses, and provides a wide range of support services (for example, library, media, catering and student services, and computing facilities).

The University endeavours to ensure that the facilities, services and equipment provided for the purpose of programmes and courses are of a proper standard. Such facilities, services and equipment may, however, be provided by third parties and not by the University (for example the Health Centre or any periods spent at other

universities). In that case, the University will endeavour to ensure that proper facilities and equipment are provided for the programme or course, to be delivered to a reasonable standard, but it can ultimately accept no responsibility.

Force majeure

The University cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage or expense resulting from any delay, variation or failure in the provision of services or facilities relating to any programme or course arising from circumstances beyond the University's reasonable control, including (but not limited to) earthquake, fire, flood, storm, Act of God, or of public enemies, national emergency, war, insurrection, riots, industrial disputes (including disputes involving the University's employees), boycott, telecommunications failure, interruption of services rendered by any public utility, or interference from any local, national or supranational government agency or official. The above limitations will not apply insofar as any liability may not be excluded under the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977.

Students' property

While the University takes all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety and security of students on the University campus, or when occupying University managed accommodation, the University cannot accept responsibility, and expressly excludes liability, for loss or damage to students' personal property (including computer equipment and software), including any financial or other consequential loss, where such loss or damage is a result of theft, fire, flood, computer virus or any cause related to University computer facilities, or any other cause, except where such loss or damage is caused by the University's negligence. It is recommended that students insure personal property against the risk of loss and damage.

Car parking

Parking on campus is restricted. Charges apply to all students (and staff) who are allowed to park on campus, except those with disabled parking permits. Students living on campus are not allowed to park on campus unless they have disabled parking permits or families living on campus. For more information see www.sussex.ac.uk/efm/

parking Acts by other students and nonemployees of the University. The University cannot be held responsible for any injury to a student, or financial or other loss or damage resulting from such injury, or for damage to property, caused by any other student, or by any person who is not an employee or authorised agent of the University.

Financial or other loss

The University cannot accept responsibility for any financial or other loss suffered by a student as a consequence of any of the matters in respect of which liability is excluded within these terms and conditions.

Fees

The University reserves the right routinely to increase fees from year to year, and in general to review and change fees without notice. If you are in doubt about the fee liability for your intended programme, please contact Postgraduate Admissions (E pg.applicants@sussex.ac.uk) for clarification. Fees for postgraduate programmes are generally due a year in advance, although options to pay by instalments may be available.

Fee refunds

New students: no fees are charged when a new student decides to withdraw from their degree programme and notifies the University in writing of their intention to do so before the end of October in their first year of study. After 31 October the procedures for returning students apply. Returning students: fees are due for each full term (part of term is charged at the full term rate) of attendance. Any overpayment is refunded subject to the submission of a written request to Financial Services.

Data protection

Should you decide to apply to Sussex, we will use the information you provide to administer your application. To support you during the admissions process, you may be contacted by the University and its alumni representatives. Should you be admitted to the University, the information you provide will be carried forward to your formal student record, which holds data in electronic and paper form on your personal details, academic and administrative history and on relevant financial transactions. Otherwise, your application details will be used to produce

anonymous statistical data and thereafter will be destroyed. Once you register as a student here, we are also required by law to collect and provide information to certain external agencies, including the Higher Education Statistics Agency. After you leave, parts of your student record (eg basic registration details, your results, your address, and any papers which may be required in relation to unfinished business) will be archived and the remaining information destroyed. Throughout, your personal data will be held in accordance with current data protection legislation.

Publishing statement

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this prospectus at the time of going to press (January 2008), but the University cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions.



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