

# BN1160 – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN BUSINESS

**Module Number:** BN1160

**Module Title:** Information Technology in Business

**Number of Aston Credits:** 10

**Total Number of ECTS Credits:** 5  
(European Credit Transfer)

## **Staff Member Responsible for the Module:**

**Mr Paul Bocij**  
Operations & Information Management Group

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Availability: Please see WASS ([wass.aston.ac.uk](http://wass.aston.ac.uk)) or group administrator, John Morley, ABS266, Extension 3236

**Other Staff Contributing to the Module:** TBC

**Pre-Requisite(s) for the Module:** None

## **Module Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to:

1. Describe how information systems are used in business for the input, storage, analysis, communication and presentation of information.
2. Appreciate the issues involved in developing and running business information systems.
3. Utilise “hands-on” skills up to the point where they are able to use spreadsheet packages for the modelling and analysis of simple management decisions.

## **Module Content:**

How does switching off your computer at the end of the day result in huge maintenance costs?

How does throwing away an old monitor contribute to the death of a child thousands of miles away?

Why should the staff in my company be prevented from using the latest technology?

These are some of the questions that this module will help you to answer. Although we will be covering a great deal of theoretical material, everything

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discussed will be related to the real world. Moreover, everything we cover will draw upon your own personal experience/knowledge and will be illustrated further through the use of genuine business examples.

Following an introduction to the module you will look at a wide variety of contemporary issues related to the way in which businesses make use of technology. Among the topics covered will be environmentally friendly computing, ethics, legislation, computer crime and mobile communications. We will also consider more abstract topics, such as the nature of information and its value to an organisation.

The practical part of the module will seek to equip you with a range of practical skills. The skills gained will not only be useful throughout the rest of the course but will also help you to develop further an understanding/appreciation of the material covered in lectures and within the reading. From using spreadsheets to help make decisions to writing and uploading your own webpage, you will learn to tackle a wide variety of business problems and tasks.

## **International Dimensions:**

The use of European case studies will be used, drawn from the set text to put the use of IT systems in a European context.

## **Corporate Connections:**

The lecturers will draw on their experience as consultants for manufacturing and service organisations to outline the business use of IT systems.

## **Links with Research:**

Research is ongoing in support of the set text co-authored by the module leader.

## **Learning and Teaching Rationale and Methods:**

Compulsory “Task orientated” tutorials (alternate weeks) to develop students’ learning ability to tackle specific IT problems using Excel.

Contact and directed learning	
Lectures	10 hours
Tutorials	5 hours
Examination	2 hours
Indirect learning	
Exam revision	35 hours
Reading	48 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 hours</b>

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### **Ethical Approval:**

This module does not require any primary research and no ethical approval will be necessary.

### **Assessment and Feedback Rationale and Methods:**

#### *Examination (100%)*

The module is assessed by an open book examination at the end of the teaching period. Further details of the examination, together with comprehensive revision support, will be provided over the course of the module.

There will be opportunities to gain formative feedback from a number of sources, including directly from teaching staff.

Students are encouraged to make use of office hours to obtain help, guidance and advice from teaching staff.