BELGIUM CAMPUS iTversity

Master of Information Technology

NQF Level 9 | 180 Credits | Postgraduate Degree

Value Proposition: Research-driven. Industry-aligned. Designed for real impact.

The Master of Information Technology is a research-driven postgraduate degree that equips students to solve complex ICT challenges through advanced analytical capability, technical depth and industry-aligned research. Centred on a full dissertation and supported by expert supervision, the programme enables students to produce impactful, real-world research and prepares them for senior ICT roles or progression to doctoral-level study.

Qualification Overview

The Master of Information Technology develops research-capable ICT professionals who can apply advanced knowledge and technical expertise to address complex digital challenges and drive innovation across industries.

Designed for individuals who want to move beyond theory and create meaningful impact, the programme equips students with advanced analytical, technical and strategic capability through a full research dissertation focused on real-world relevance and emerging ICT domains.

Programme Structure

The programme is structured as a research-focused qualification centred on the successful completion of a full dissertation.

Students are supported through early-stage research preparation, including structured engagement with research theory and methodology to ensure readiness for proposal development and independent study.

Programme Components

The qualification consists of the following components:

- Research Methodology (NQF Level 9, 30 credits).
- Research Project (NQF Level 9, 150 credits).

The research preparation components are completed in the first year and are designed to support the development of a strong research proposal with a solid methodological foundation.

These components are compulsory but not credit-bearing, as the primary focus of the qualification is the successful completion of the research dissertation. The primary focus of the qualification is the research project, which is undertaken over the duration of the programme and represents the core of the qualification.

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Qualification Overview

- Each student will follow a tailored study plan, agreed upon at the start of the programme, to support completion within the minimum timeframe of two years.
- While the programme is designed to enable completion within two years, the actual duration may vary depending on the scope and progression of the research project.
- Where additional time is required beyond the minimum period, continued registration maybe necessary and could be subject to additional registration fees.
- In some cases, external requirements (such as bursary conditions or funding agreements) may influence the expected completion timeline.

Research Journey

- The programme follows a structured research journey designed to guide students from initial concept development through to final submission:
- Proposal Development (up to 6 months): Students refine their research topic, develop a full proposal and present it for academic review and approval.

Each stage is supported by structured supervision and formal academic review to ensure both progress and quality. While the programme follows defined milestones, progression is managed in alignment with the scope and complexity of each student's research.

Key Features

The programme is structured to deliver depth, relevance, and real-world impact through the following key features:

- A research-driven structure centred on a full dissertation.
- Strong alignment with current and emerging ICT domains.
- Opportunity to engage with real-world, industry-relevant challenges.
- Development of advanced research, analytical and problem-solving capability.
- Clear progression pathway to doctoral-level study.

Research Focus Areas

The programme enables students to pursue research within four clearly defined areas of specialisation, supported by strong academic expertise and aligned to industry relevance. These focus areas are structured to support both technical depth and applied impact.

- *Niche 1: Mathematical Modelling and Computational Science*

Focuses on solving complex problems through modelling, simulation and optimisation, forming the foundation for advanced systems and analytical innovation.

- *Niche 2: Software Engineering and Secure Digital Infrastructure*

Centres on the design and development of secure, scalable and high-performance digital systems, including software engineering, infrastructure and cybersecurity

- *Niche 3: Data, Analytics and Intelligent Business Systems*

Focuses on transforming data into actionable insight, enabling improved decision-making, operational efficiency and intelligent system design.

BELGIUM CAMPUS iTversity

- *Niche 4: Emerging Intelligence and Advanced Systems*

Explores next-generation technologies, including artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, simulation and human–technology interaction.

Flexible and Emerging Research Topics

Students are not limited to predefined areas. Research topics may extend beyond the listed niches, provided that the topic:

- Aligns with the broader ICT and digital systems domain.
- Demonstrates academic merit and practical relevance.
- Falls within the scope of available supervision expertise.

The programme remains responsive to developments in the ICT field, allowing for the inclusion of new and evolving areas over time.

Research Contexts and Positioning

Within these focus areas, research may be positioned across different contexts, depending on the intent and application of the study:

- **Fundamental and Technical Research:** Advancing theoretical knowledge and technical depthwithin a specific domain. This includes the development, optimisation, or validation ofalgorithms, models, or systems, contributing to academic scholarship and peer-reviewed outputs.
- **Company-Specific Applied Research:** Solving real organisational challenges with measurable outcomes such as performance improvement or return on investment. Outcomes may include proof of concept, operational improvement, or demonstrated return on investment.
- **Industry Contextual Research:** Exploring sector-wide challenges and opportunities throughthe development of insights, frameworks and knowledge contributions. This may include industry reports, white papers, or position papers that support knowledge sharing and inform practice across sectors.
- **Frontier Innovation Research:** Developing new approaches, systems, or technologies thatextend current boundaries of knowledge. This context supports high-impact research outputs and positions students at the forefront of emerging developments.

Integrated Research Approach & Industry Engagement

The programme follows an integrated research approach that emphasises practical relevance, industry alignment, technical depth and academic rigour, enabling each project to deliver meaningful knowledge development and real-world impact.

Students may pursue self-initiated topics or collaborate with industry partners through commissioned research, where organisations can co-shape the problem, sponsor studies and benefit from applied outcomes. This model ensures research remains academically robust and directly applicable, supported by structured engagement such as masterclasses, roundtables and collaborative platforms.

Key Elements Include:

- Practical relevance and industry alignment.
- Technical depth and academic rigour.
- Innovation and forward-looking application.
- Self-initiated or industry-commissioned research projects.
- Opportunities for organisations to sponsor studies, define research problems and benefit from applied outcomes.

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What Makes This Programme Different

The programme is designed to deliver a focused, relevant and high-impact research experience, supported by the following distinguishing features:

- **Industry-focused research**: Research is grounded in real organisational challenges, enabling the development of solutions with practical application and measurable impact.
- **Expert supervision:** A structured co-supervision model combines academic supervisors within dustry-experienced co-supervisors where appropriate, ensuring both academic rigour and practical relevance.
- **Focused and efficient structure:** The programme removes unnecessary coursework and centres on what matters most - research and its outcomes.
- **Future-relevant specialisation:** Research themes are aligned to high-demand areas shaping the ICT sector, ensuring ongoing relevance and value.
- **Pathway to doctoral study:** The qualification establishes a solid foundation for further academic research and progression to doctoral studies at NQF Level 10.

What You Will Develop

The programme equips graduates with a combination of advanced research capability, technical expertise and strategic thinking required to address complex challenges and deliver meaningful impact in the ICT environment. Graduates will develop:

- The ability to identify and frame complex ICT challenges.
- Advanced research and analytical capability.
- The skills to translate business needs into effective technology solutions.
- Confidence to lead digital initiatives and innovation.
- The ability to communicate insights to both technical and non-technical audiences.

Research Dissemination

Students are encouraged to develop publishable outputs from their research, including academic articles, industry reports, or applied frameworks. This strengthens both academic contribution and professional credibility.

Why Study This Qualification

This qualification offers a tailored research pathway for professionals who want to deepen their expertise, remain relevant in a rapidly evolving ICT environment, and position themselves for future growth.

Key reasons to consider this programme include:

- **Stay relevant in a fast-changing technology landscape:** Engage with emerging technologies and evolving industry demands. Advanced research and analytical capability.
- **Strengthen your professional positioning:** Build credibility through advanced research and specialised expertise.
- **Apply knowledge in meaningful ways:** Focus on research that contributes to real organisational or industry challenges.
- **Respond to critical skills demand:** Develop capabilities aligned to the growing need for highly skilled ICT professionals in South Africa and globally.
- **Flexible and accessible study options:** Blended delivery and Recognition of Prior Learning(RPL) pathways support working professionals.
- **Advance your career or academic journey:** Position yourself for leadership roles or furtherstudy at doctoral level.

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- **Gain a qualification with recognised standing:** Aligned with NQF Level 9 and comparable international standards, supporting academic mobility.
- **Flexible funding models:** The programme supports both self-funded and industry-sponsored students, with structured fee models aligned to the duration of study and completion of the research process.

Who Should Apply and Career Outcomes

This programme is suited to individuals seeking to deepen their expertise and advance into leadership or specialist roles within the ICT sector.

It is particularly relevant for:

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- ICT professionals aiming to specialise or move into leadership roles.
- Mid-career professionals seeking to deepen their expertise.
- Academics and lecturers pursuing postgraduate development.
- Industry specialists looking to formalise their experience through research.

Career Outcomes

Graduates are well positioned to take on senior and specialist roles, supported by strong research capability and the ability to apply technology strategically across organisational and industry contexts, including:

- **Chief Information Officer (CIO).**
- **IT Director / IT Manager.**
- **Data and Analytics Manager.**
- **Systems Architect.**
- **ICT Project Manager.**
- **Research and Innovation Specialist.**
- **Team Lead.**

It enables students to conduct rigorous independent research, translate complex business needs into technology-driven solutions, and contribute to digital transformation within organisational, industry and societal contexts, supported by experienced supervisors who ensure both academic rigour and practical application.

Admission Criteria

Admission to the Master of Information Technology is based on both academic readiness and the applicant's potential to undertake advanced research in the ICT field.

Minimum Academic Requirements

Applicants must hold an NQF Level 8 qualification in Information Technology or a related field such as a:

- **Bachelor Honours Degree, or**
- **480-credit Bachelor's Degree, or**
- **Postgraduate Diploma.**

In addition, applicants must have:

- A minimum overall weighted average of 65%; and
- A completed research component of at least 30 credits.

Applicants who do not meet these requirements may apply through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

Research Readiness

As this is a research-driven qualification, applicants may be required to demonstrate their readiness to undertake independent research. This may include:

- Submission of a brief research concept or area of interest.
- Evidence of prior research experience or capability.
- Alignment between the proposed research area and available supervision capacity.

Additional Considerations

- Admission is selective and based on alignment between the applicant's research interests,academic background and available supervision capacity.
- Admission is subject to supervisor availability within the selected research niche.
- The institution may prescribe additional preparatory work or modules, where required.
- Final admission is subject to approval in accordance with the relevant institutional academic structures and procedures.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Belgium Campus iTversity recognises that applicants may have acquired relevant knowledge and skills through formal, informal, or work-based learning. In line with the policy framework of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and quality assurance requirements of the Council on Higher Education (CHE), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) may be applied in the following ways:

RPL for Access (Admission Equivalence)

Applicants who do not meet the formal NQF Level 8 entry requirements may be considered for admission based on demonstrated equivalence. This process evaluates whether the applicant's prior learning, professional experience and competencies are comparable to the expected outcomes of a relevant NQF Level 8 qualification.

Applicants will be required to submit a portfolio of evidence, which may include:

- Applicants will be required to submit a portfolio of evidence, which may include:
- Academic records and prior learning achievements.
- Evidence of research exposure or analytical capability.
- A motivation and/or preliminary research interest.

Admission through RPL for access is granted only where sufficient evidence demonstrates the applicant's ability to succeed in a research-intensive postgraduate environment.

RPL for Credit (Advanced Standing)

In line with the policy framework of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and institutional guidelines, a maximum of 50% of the total credits for a qualification may be awarded through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), where applicable and academically justifiable.

However, given the research-based nature of this qualification - which is primarily structured around a single integrated research dissertation - opportunities for credit recognition are limited. RPL for credit may only be considered for discrete, formally structured learning components, such as research methodology preparation, where applicable.

BELGIUM CAMPUS iTversity

As this qualification consists primarily of a full research dissertation, no credit or exemption may be granted for the dissertation component. It must be completed in full to meet the qualification's exit level outcomes and to uphold academic integrity.

Assessment Process

All RPL applications are subject to a structured academic review process, which includes:

- Formal academic evaluation of the submitted portfolio of evidence.
- Demonstrated alignment with the programme's learning outcomes and required standards.
- Review and approval by the relevant institutional academic structures.

Admission through RPL is limited to 10% of the cohort.

Application Process

Applications are submitted through the Belgium Campus iTversity online application portal. Applicants are required to submit the following documentation:

Standard Admission Documents

- Certified copy of identification documentation.
- Certified copy of full academic records.

Additional Research Readiness Documents

- Research Concept Note: A brief research concept note outlining the proposed area of study,aligned to the programme's research focus areas and contexts, and demonstrating how theresearch could be applied to address real-world challenges or contribute to industry ororganisational practice. Where the application is supported by an employer or industry partner, applicants may instead submit an organisation-endorsed problem statement or proposed research brief.
- Evidence of prior research experience or capability (where applicable).
- Supporting motivation letter(s).

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- Evidence of prior research experience or capability (where applicable).
- Supporting motivation letter(s).

Admission is based not only on academic eligibility, but also on the alignment between the applicant's proposed research area and available supervision capacity within the programme.

Programme Enquiries

For further information or academic enquiries regarding the Master of Information Technology, please contact:

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