PGD in Information and Communication Technology

The School of Computing and Information Technology (SCIT) is now offering a Postgraduate Diploma in Information and Communication Technology (PGD-ICT), scheduled for implementation in September 2012.

The course targets tertiary degree holders who are in disciplines outside of computing but possess the capacity to innovate and create transformative value in their own organizations though the use of ICT tools and technologies OR who have gained significant experience in computing / ICT but do not possess formal qualifications in this area.

Philosophy Statement

The Postgraduate Diploma in ICT employs an outcomes-based practitioner's approach which focuses on providing the foundation, technical knowledge and transferable skills in order to produce graduates who, will have the requisite ICT skills and competencies directly relevant to any work or entrepreneurial setting; who appreciate the dynamism and cross-sectoral applicability of ICT, and its importance as an engine for economic development and growth; who demonstrates an awareness of the importance of ethics and professionalism in the execution of their jobs; and, who are flexible, well-rounded individuals committed to lifelong learning.

Course Goals

The Postgraduate Diploma in ICT aims to produce graduates who will:

- Exhibit skills and competencies at various levels of their profession to support local human resource needs in the ICT sector.
- Recognize the dynamism of ICT and its role in Jamaica's social and economic growth and development.
- Be well-rounded individuals with the creativity and capacity to use ICT to innovate, transform and create value in organizations.
- Be ethical, flexible and professional and continue on to higher levels of education.

Course of Study Objectives

At the end of the course students will:

- Acquire specialized ICT knowledge and skills relevant to their discipline in order to advance ICT.
- Apply ICT tools and technologies to solve social, economic and business problems.
- Evaluate the role of ICT in driving social and economic growth and the impact it has on national development.
- Use technology concepts to transform an idea into a business opportunity or tool for competitive advantage.
- Keep abreast of cutting-edge and emerging technologies and the continuously evolving ICT environment.
- Implement practical, innovative projects with entrepreneurial potential and evidence of sound research.
- Communicate effectively to technical and non-technical audiences through the presentation of written and verbal ICT-related course material.
- Demonstrate attitudes that honor, protect and enhance the profession's ethical stature and standing.

Course Structure

The structure of the PGD-ICT is as follows:

- Problem Solving & Programming Concepts (3 credits)
- Database Design and Management (3 credits)
- Introduction to Web Technologies (3 credits)
- Systems Analysis and Design (3 credits)
- Introduction to IT Project Management (3 credits)
- Technopreneurship (2 credits)
- Capstone Project (3 credits)
- ICT Seminar (1 credit)

Electives:

E-Business Technologies and Development (3 credits)
Web Applications Development (3 credits)

OR

Network Architecture and Infrastructure (3 credits)
Information Assurance and Security (3 credits)

Plus any one of:

- Mobile Applications Development (3 credits)
- Digital Content Management (3 credits)

Total (30 credits)

Who Can Take This Course?

The PGD-ICT is designed to enrich and broaden your current skill sets, providing you with new ways to add value and innovation to transform organizations through the application of ICT. In this light, persons who can take this course may work in professions/areas such as, but not limited to:

- Health / Medicine / Dentistry
- Law
- Education
- Engineering / Building / Construction
- Non-Government / Community / Social Services
- Government / Military / Law Enforcement
- Service Industries
- Administration
- Business / Finance / Sales / Marketing
- Entrepreneurs

It will also provide an avenue for certification for persons with significant work experience in the computing / ICT industry but who are without formal qualifications. These persons may include, but are not limited to:

- IT Specialists and Consultants
- ICT Entrepreneurs
- Database / Networking / Systems Administration

Delivery Mode

The PGD-ICT course will be delivered in a modular format over a period of 14 months. Modules will be offered per a six-eight week period in a blended (face-to-face plus online) mode. In some instances two modules will be offered simultaneously. Face-to-face classes will be held on one/two week evenings and/or on Saturdays. The online component will require you to access our Internet-based learning management system.

FAQ

Q. Do I need to have a first degree *in* a computer related area in order to do this course?

A. No. The course is designed for first-degree holders in disciplines outside computing who want to create value for their organizations through the use of ICT, as well as for those without formal ICT qualifications who are working within the ICT sector.

Q. What is the duration of the course?

A. The course duration for the PGD-ICT is 14 months.

Q. Can I start classes at any time during the year?

A. No, at this time, the course is slated to begin in September of each year.

Q. Can I use this course as a stepping stone for the M.Sc. in Information Systems Management course offered by UTech?

A. This is currently being looked at. It may mean the undertaking of bridging modules to ensure matriculation.

Q. What if I'm not used to online learning?

A. Prior to the start of the course, all students will pursue an Online Readiness Module that will help assess their personal readiness for online learning.

Q. Will I need a laptop for this course?

A. It is strongly recommended that you possess a laptop or personal computer, or at least have access to one on a regular basis. The blended delivery mode will require you to go online at various times and to use your computer in some of your face-to-face classes.

Q. Will I still need to come on campus for classes?

A. Yes, for some classes. The course is a mixture of both face-to-face and online sessions. Some modules may require more face-to-face classes than others.

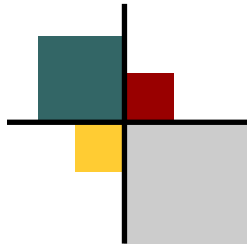**Q. Do you offer flexible tuition payment options?**

A. Yes. You can pay your tuition fee in full per academic year, pay in three installments or pay per set of modules being taken. Ancillary fees are charged separately for each academic year.

Entry Requirements

The minimum requirements for entry are as follows:

- An undergraduate degree in any discipline from a recognized/accredited tertiary institution. Proficiency
- with computers and the internet. Possession of, at
- minimum, a personal computer. Successful
- completion of an online readiness module to assess personal readiness for online learning

Note that an interview may be required.

Application Procedures

- Download and complete *Graduate Application* form from http://www.utech.edu.jm/forms.html
- Submit required documents and pay application fee

Graduate application forms and all supporting documents should be returned no later than **May 31, 2012** to Mrs. Theresa Ramsay at:

University of Technology, Jamaica,
Engineering Building,
Room 1A25

Classes Begin: **September each year**

Why PGD-ICT? So that I can ...

Gain specialized skill sets in ICT even though I work in another field

Obtain academic certification for my years of experience working in ICT

Learn how to use ICT to transform an idea into a business opportunity and to create value for my organization

Increase my marketability and maintain a competitive edge

Effectively balance work and study by pursuing a blended delivery mode (online + face-to-face) within a modular programme design

Benefit from a practical-oriented approach to learning that is strongly focused on relevant, real-world applications and authentic assessments

Manage my tuition with flexible payment options.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTING
School of Computing & Information Technology
237 Old Hope Road
Kingston 6

SCIT Mission Statement

To be the premier tertiary education and training provider in the field of computing & information technology, that offers accredited programmes of study, and professional certification opportunities of Jamaica and the people of the Caribbean region, through traditional and distance learning programmes.

For further information, contact:

Mrs. Theresa Ramsay

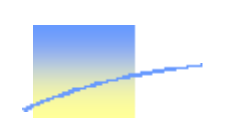Tele: 876-970-5158
Email: tramsay@utech.edu.jm

Visit us at:
http://fenc-utech.net/scit/pgd-ict

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University of Technology, Jamaica

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POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (PGD-ICT)