

MODULE 4	BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS	
COURSE CODE	BSCH-1-1-09	
STATUS	Core	
ASSESSMENT	Continuous Assessment	60%
	Examination	40%

Aims

In this module you will be introduced to the concept of a computerised information system requiring recognition of people, processes and procedures as well as hardware and software. The module will provoke appreciation of the need to manage people and financial resources within an information systems project and also the information technology funding within the organisation.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, you should be able to:

1. explain the hardware and software components of an information system
2. discuss the need for information systems to incorporate consideration of people processes and procedures
3. explain the reasons organisations may initiate information systems developments
4. discuss the various means to finance development of information systems within organisations
5. describe how information systems projects may be monitored for performance against resource usage

Indicative Content

Topic	Description
Hardware and software components	The history of hardware in computer systems and the issues that result from advances in technology The issues that should be considered when making a decision about hardware acquisition

	<p>The internal and external threats that may affect information systems</p> <p>Good practise in separation of the build and use of systems</p>
Types of information systems	<p>Continue the consideration of Information Systems types from Computing and Business 1 to consider data warehousing, data marts and enterprise resource planning systems</p>
People, processes and procedures	<p>Why organisations use information systems</p> <p>Develop a realisation that system failures are partly accounted for mismatches between technical designs and the way end users work</p> <p>Contrast traditional and eCommerce modes of trade and the matches and mismatches with strategic objectives of the organisation</p> <p>eCommerce sectors</p> <p>Issues with website development</p>
Information systems initiation	<p>The reasons why new systems are proposed and the various options that senior managers may use to acquire information systems, with discussion of the constraints that affect final choice</p>
Information systems financing	<p>Information systems departments funded as a traditional central resource - a "free" resource to organisation members</p> <p>Information systems departments funded in non-traditional manner and the issues and benefits that may accrue from both strategies</p>
Monitoring project progress	<p>Reasons for monitoring projects for time, quality and resource usage</p> <p>Issues of time management</p> <p>Techniques to assess resource usage and the establishment of baselines for monitoring</p>