Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your email and interest in studying MSc Information Security at Royal Holloway, University of London. We have one entry point per year in September each year. Please find below further details about our courses:

**General course, application and fees information for the campus based course**

https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/isg/prospectivestudents/prospectivestudents-msc/home.aspx
http://www.rhul.ac.uk/studyhere/postgraduate/applying/howtoapply.aspx
http://www.rhul.ac.uk/studyhere/postgraduate/feesandfunding/tuitionfees/tuitionfees.aspx

Full-time HEU: £10,050  Full-time Overseas: £17,000

2-year Part-time: The full-time fee is split 50:50 across the two years

CPD Part-time: you pay on a per-module basis (the overall MSc cost is the same as for full-time) For HEU students one module costs 10050/9 = £1,120 and Project costs £3,350

NOTE: Block mode and day-release cost the same amount i.e. attendance mode doesn’t affect the cost

The admissions process should be outlined on the links above. The admissions office can also help you. The admissions office hold a drop in clinic in the Windsor Building on campus at the following times: 11am-1pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 1pm-5pm Wednesday. They can be contacted on study@royalholloway.ac.uk or by phone 01784 414944 if your questions aren’t answered on the website.

**All Enquiries about project**

https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/isg/informationfornewreturningstudents/mscproject/mscprojectguidance.aspx

**How do I prepare for my studies?**

We have put together a reading list to help prepare for your studies, this can be found here:

https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/isg/informationfornewreturningstudents/mscproject/faq2.aspx
When would my timetable be made available?

Your timetable for the 2017/2018 academic year is available and can be found here:
https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/isg/informationfornewreturningstudents/mscdatesandtimetables.aspx

Advice and a timeline for making module choices

Advice on this would be provided in the information packs that are given out to students on induction day.

Is the thesis for students enrolled on the 2 year part-time course (Bock Mode) started and submitted at the same time as the Day Release course? So beginning at the end of the Summer exams in the first year and submitted before the end of the two years?

- The project is usually started in the Autumn Term of your second year (Autumn 2018), then would be handed in the summer of your second year (August 2019).

Is there a possibility of extending the course duration from 2 years part time to three years part-time if I find later that work demands mean that I will need more time to be able to complete the course? If this is possible, how would this work, and is it only possible in certain circumstances?

- If you know in advance that work commitments will prevent you from finishing your course in two years, then it would be an option to change to Continuing Professional Development mode which means you take the modules on an individual basis and complete your MSc in a minimum of three and maximum of five years. However, if you’re not sure yet of your commitments, then being on the part-time course and then either choosing to change to CPD or, if not possible if it’s close to the exams and you’re already registered for your exams, then you may be able to submit an extenuating circumstances request to sit exams in the next academic year.

Should I be seeking to attain a parking permit for just the 3 separate weeks in the year when the block module courses are run, or follow the usual process? Please let me know if it would be better to contact the premises team about this.

- Even though for only three weeks, there may be other times too that you wish to visit campus – so when you have your student details you can register for a student parking permit via the parking administration portal https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/aboutus/ourcampus/parking.aspx
If my first block module is 30 Oct 2017 – 3 Nov 2017, will there be lecture material released before this time which I will be able to look at, or should I just follow the recommended reading material?

- Recommended pre-reading can be found on this page https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/isg/documents/pdf/mscpre-readingssuggestions.pdf - you will receive lecture material during the block mode week itself.

Who to contact for any specific queries

For general enquiries or for further information related to the Information Security Group, please contact Emma Mosley (Senior ISG Administrator) at the school office room 247 McCrea building, ext. or the programme director Chez Ciechanowicz McCrea 341, ext. 3101

Ways of studying

The MSc Information Security course can be studied in a variety of different ways:

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<tr>
<th>MSc Information Security</th>
<th>Campus based – Full Time</th>
<th>1 Year: A one year course which is studied on campus with weekly lectures.</th>
<th>Students complete the course in one academic year (50 weeks). The students attend lectures presented weekly for the first two terms, and complete exams at the start of the summer term. Normal full-time students complete their project during summer. Students study four core modules in the first term and two optional modules in the second term.</th>
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| MSc Information Security | Campus based – Part Time (Day Release – one or more days a week) | 2 Years: A two year course which is studied on campus with weekly lectures (one day per week). | This way of studying is ideal for students in full-time employment who can secure 'day-release'. Students complete the course in two academic years (100 weeks). Part-time students on day release (one or more days per week) attend the same lectures as full-time students; however the lectures are scheduled so that part-time students may only need to attend campus for one or more days per week. Students typically take two of the four core modules in their first term of study, up to two |
optional modules in the second term and sit their first set of exams in their third term. In the second year, they take the remaining two core modules in the first term, up to two optional modules in the second term, and sit their remaining exams in the third term.

Part-time (day release) students typically submit their project in their second year.

| MSc Information Security | Campus based – Part Time (Block Mode – 5 day blocks) | 2 Years: A two year course which is studied on campus, where modules are taught in single week blocks. | Block-mode study is ideal for students in full-time employment who find it easier to take weeks away from work rather than 'day-release'. Block mode study is broadly similar to day release except that each module is taught in a one-week block. Students are therefore only required to be on campus for the specific weeks that each module is run. The student is expected to complete all the required research and revision during the remaining time.

Specific block-mode modules (e.g. Core A and a selection of optional modules) are offered in designated weeks of alternate years, thus allowing a student to complete the full course within two years. |

<p>| MSc Information Security | Campus based – Continuing Professional Development CPD – Part time (weekly lectures or block mode) | 3 to 5 Years: Modules are taken as required (part time day release or part time block mode) and are built up to the MSc. | The CPD course offers a greater level of flexibility in which students can take modules as and when required, building up to the entire MSc. This can be completed in either part time day release or part time block mode. The project is completed in the final year of studies. |</p>
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<tr>
<th>MSc Information Security with a Year in Industry</th>
<th>Campus based – Full Time</th>
<th><strong>2 Years:</strong> A one year course which is studied on campus with weekly lectures, plus a year in industry. You study the taught part of the MSc normally, sit your exams in May and then proceed to your placement. You return to Royal Holloway approximately one year later to continue work on your MSc Project.</th>
<th>Students taking the year in industry take two years to complete their MSc. They complete exams at the start of the summer term and then proceed to their placement, after which they return to Royal Holloway to complete work on their project.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Msc Information Security</td>
<td>Distance Learning - Online</td>
<td><strong>2 to 4 Years:</strong> A two to four year course in which course material is supplied and</td>
<td>The degree is taught exclusively online. Please note that the Distance Learning programme is administered separately by the University of London International Programmes and also has a separate application and fees structure, see <a href="http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/prospective_students/postgraduate/holloway/info_security/index.shtml">http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/prospective_students/postgraduate/holloway/info_security/index.shtml</a></td>
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Syllabus
The course outline can be found here: 
https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/isg/informationfornewreturningstudents/mscsyllabus.asp

Students must study six modules. However, on campus, students can attend ANY of the other modules at no extra cost. Exams are in May and then campus students have all of June July and August to concentrate on projects.

There are two compulsory modules: Introduction to Cryptography and Security Management. Then students must do either Core A (Network Security and Computer Security) or Core B (Security Technologies and Secure Business Architectures). And finally, students choose two optional modules. Core B is not available through Distance Learning or Block Mode.

In Block Mode, students attend a total of six one-week blocks. It is only possible to do Core A in block mode. Block mode operates on a two-year cycle i.e. modules are taught once every two years.

Deadlines
There is no set deadline for the full time and part time campus based courses (although you are encouraged to apply early so your application can be processed in time, this takes approx. 4-6 weeks.

Term Dates
The term dates can be found here:
http://www.rhul.ac.uk/aboutus/collegecalendar/home.aspx

Entry Requirements
The entry requirements can be found here:
https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/isg/prospectivestudents/prospectivestudents-msc/entryrequirements.aspx

Scholarships & Funding Information
Scholarships information can be found here: https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/isg/prospectivestudents/prospectivestudents-msc/scholarships.aspx
Funding information can be found here: https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere/postgraduate/feesandfunding/sourcesoffunding.aspx

Open Days

Please see the Royal Holloway webpage for details of the Open Days: https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere/opendays/home.aspx
Please note that you are welcome to attend the open days, but they are mostly aimed at Undergraduate students (hence we do not have a significant presence at these). Details about Postgraduate Open Evenings will appear on this page: https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere/opendays/postgraduateopenevenings.aspx

Timetable

The timetable can be found here: https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/isg/informationfornewreturningstudents/mscdatesandtimetables.aspx

Studying whilst working / further details about block mode / Continuing professional development:

You can study the MSc in a variety of ways. Regarding juggling your studies and your employment, we have lots of students who study the masters and work at the same time. Those students tend to either do weekly lectures (known as day release) if they can get 1 day a week off work (sometimes employers are supportive of this for training, and for others it’s not feasible) OR you can do block mode (where modules are taught condensed into a week).

An example of block mode is that you would do:
Year 1: Autumn Term (October – December) – 2 x weeks (usually in November and December) for 2 core modules
Year 1: Spring Term (January – March) – 1 x week for 1 option module
Year 1: Summer Term (April – June) – attend 3 x 2 hour exams on 3 separate days for the modules studied in year 1

Year 2: Autumn Term (October – December) – 2 x weeks (usually in November and December) for 2 core modules
Year 2: Spring Term (January – March) – 1 x week for 1 option module
Year 2: Summer Term (April – June) – attend 3 x 2 hour exams on 3 separate days for the modules studied in year 2
You also do your project in the 2nd year, which is worked on independently with supervision from an academic, and this is handed in during August of your 2nd year.

Students already in employment might also consider doing Continuing Professional Development. If you are a regular part time (day release or block mode), then you do your MSc over 2 years. If you are continuing professional development mode part time (day release or block mode), then you study and pay for your modules on a module by module basis. You complete your degree in a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 years.