Foundations of Information Technology (FoIT) provides an introduction to a variety of exciting and fast-moving disciplines in Information Systems, Mathematics and Technology. Having successfully completed Foundations of Information Technology you will be able to make a well-informed decision as to where your interests lie.

You might be interested in computer science with the never-ending development of more sophisticated computer technology and information systems. Alternatively you may be attracted to mathematics where you can learn to model and solve problems from the worlds of business, finance and science.

Talented people who have good technical or scientific qualifications, as well as imagination, enthusiasm, communication and organisational skills, are always in great demand. A wide variety of interesting and well-paid career opportunities are available.
Why Brunel?

One of the best maths departments in the UK

The School of Mathematical Sciences, the host department for the Foundation Year, is one of the best for mathematics in the UK and is committed to excellence in research and teaching. It is a vibrant and friendly department for undergraduate, postgraduate and research students with a well-established reputation for student achievement and success.

The department was rated ‘Excellent’ in the most recent assessment of teaching by the Quality Assurance Agency, including a maximum score for the pastoral care and guidance we provide to our students.

We achieved excellent results in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. 57% of the research in the department has been rated “World-Leading” or “Internationally Excellent”. Brunel is one of the top three London institutions for research in Applied Mathematics, while research in Statistics and Operational Research represents the biggest improvement over the last RAE.

Many of the Foundation Year modules are partially delivered and assessed via computers, giving all students the opportunity to learn how to use the very latest software.

A prime location

Based at the heart of Brunel’s campus on the western edge of Greater London, the Department of Mathematical Sciences offers a prime location. It is just a few minutes’ walk from the halls of residence and all facilities are close at hand – library, computer labs, the Students’ Union, sports facilities and, of course, lecture rooms and smaller classrooms. Everything is designed for your convenience.

Careers

As a Brunel graduate, you will have a wide spectrum of careers from which to choose and your career prospects are excellent. You may want to continue your education and gain a postgraduate qualification or study for a professional qualification – a popular route particularly with those seeking careers in fields such as actuarial work or accountancy and finance.

You may want to pursue a career that specifically uses your mathematical, statistical or computing skills, or perhaps you would prefer a more general career, such as management or consultancy.

Our graduates have gone on to teach, work in research organisations or work for the government, in specialist or general management roles. Many are in very senior positions, some become management or financial consultants, marketing or advertising professionals, officers in the armed services and so on.

Professional placements

If you opt for a four-year sandwich degree after your Foundation Year, you will have the opportunity to gain paid professional experience working in prominent companies or organisations. These are high-quality placements with graduate-like responsibilities.
Switch to Information Technology

Foundations of Information Technology was created:

- to enable young people who originally chose another career route – for example, A-levels in arts or humanities – to switch to a challenging and exciting career in Information Technology;
- for mature people wishing to return to study.

FoIT is designed for those who have been successful in another field (for example, in further education or industry) and would like to change to a career in Information Technology. Equally FoIT aims to provide a sound education and to communicate the interest and excitement of a dynamic and exciting field.

After successfully completing FoIT you will progress to Level 1 of a linked degree programme at Brunel University. See page 6 for full details.

Most of these degrees are available in three-year full time or four-year sandwich mode. The sandwich mode includes up to 12 months of relevant paid employment in an industrial placement. See the University prospectus for more details.

As FoIT is an integral part of the degree programme, eligible students will be entitled to funding for both the Foundation Year and their chosen degree course. Consequently you should apply for funding for 5 years if you intend to take a sandwich degree, and 4 years if you intend to do a full time degree.
The Foundation Year has been designed to equip you for a degree course in Information Systems, Mathematics or Computing.

Foundation year programme

- STUDY SKILLS
- DISCRETE MATHEMATICS
- BASIC MATHEMATICAL METHODS
- INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS AND PROGRAMMING
- STATISTICS
After the foundation year

Progression to level 1

Once you have successfully completed the Foundation Year, you progress to Level 1 of one of the linked degree courses. By this stage you will have had a ‘taster’ of several Undergraduate courses, you will know what the courses are like and the careers they lead to. Your lecturers and personal tutor will help you choose a degree that is right for you!

Linked degree programmes

- Computer Science *
- Computer Systems Engineering
- Financial Computing
- Financial Mathematics
- Information Systems **
- Internet Engineering
- Mathematics
- Mathematics and Computing
- Mathematical and Management Studies
- Mathematics and Statistics with Management
- Mathematics with Computer Science
- Mobile Computing

* may be taken with specialism in Artificial Intelligence, Digital Media and Games, Network Computing or Software Engineering.

** may be taken with specialism in Business, eCommerce, Human Computer Interaction or Social Web.
Entry requirements

A2/VCE Levels: 210 points to include at least two subjects at A2, or VCE 12-unit. No preferred subjects. Key Skills are taken into account but not required.

AGNVQ: Merit in any subject.

BTEC: 210 tariff points

Irish: 210 tariff points

Scottish: 210 tariff points.

IB: Full diploma or certificate with 26 points.

Students with non-standard qualifications are particularly encouraged to apply and will be considered individually on merit. In addition, all applications should have GCSE or equivalent in Maths and English at grade C and overseas students should have IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

How to apply

FoIT appears in the UCAS handbook (Code G503) and may be applied for in the same way as any other university course.
Want to know more?

Please contact:
Dr D Cappitt
Admissions Tutor
School of Information Systems,
Computing and Mathematics
Brunel University
Uxbridge
Middx
UB8 3PH
United Kingdom

T +44(0) 1895 265180
E maths.admissions@brunel.ac.uk
W www.brunel.ac.uk/maths

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