With the explosive presence of Big Data in modern business, a specialist in data analytics is essential for success. This course will prepare you with the relevant skills to maximise the opportunities that Big Data now offers. Learning to apply the principles of data handling to inform decision making will make you the glue that aligns information systems in your organisation to business strategies.

**Modules are:**

**Data Design**
How can data be useful for a business? How do you collect data? Do you know how to approach it?

Through this module you will gain a solid understanding of how to approach data analytics by starting with these key questions about intended outcomes for your business. From this, selecting the most appropriate data collection method will help you to develop skills in designing deployment approaches, implementing data collection approaches and revising instruments and systems to achieve valuable outcomes.

**Data Handling and Decision Making**
Modern businesses have access to more data than ever. People armed with the skills to handle that data - and who can use it to make informed business decisions - add real value to their workplace.

This module focuses on teaching you how to do an analysis of the data environment in an organisation, and crucially once you have that data, how you handle it and what you can do with it - whether that is to make the business more efficient, or lead it in a fresh direction. The key is not just to interpret and understand the data, but to make knowledge driven decisions. We test this through a case study driven task that allows students to apply what they have learnt to a real business scenario.

**Data Visualisation and Interpretation**
The volume of data held by organisations has grown massively in recent years and is generated at an ever-increasing rate. Data has the power to give businesses significant competitive advantage - if used effectively. This means there is a need for the data that is generated and analysed to be presented in a manner that is universally engaging and understood - for
example across departmental boundaries or by non-specialists.

IS and Business Strategy Alignment
This module provides an opportunity for you to develop a critical understanding of the design, application and enhancement of IT systems and how they support the attainment of other strategic goals. Effective IT systems are a critical component of business strategy and a thorough understanding of their strategic implications is essential. The process of aligning overall business and information systems strategy is complex and this module will provide opportunities to explore how this is achieved and then propose and present methods of enhancing it.

Technology and Trend Monitoring
The rapidly changing technological environment means that staying abreast of changes and developments is essential for anyone working within a strategic IT role. In this module, you will evaluate emerging technologies and investigate their application within current business practice. We will develop approaches that can be applied to future assessments of environmental change. The outcome of this module is an evaluation of an emerging IT trend and assessment of the feasibility of implementing it to generate an innovative solution within current business practice.

Project & Portfolio Management
The purpose of this module is to give you an appreciation of the various techniques available for managers to effectively manage projects and portfolios in the IT environment. Effective project management is key to the successful implementation of any strategic plan, and is therefore central to the delivery of this qualification. The module emphasises the application of real experience to develop confident and competent project managers. The outcome is a practical evaluation of project management approaches and monitoring tools.
Research Project
The research project is a vital part of achieving Masters’ level - and it is your chance to undertake research into an area of your choosing, related to the programme theme.

We’ll support you through the first stage with six weeks of sessions to help you create your research proposal - and you can choose from a conventional dissertation or an academic article and presentation. You will develop your critical abilities and produce a piece of work that’s relevant in practice and meets the academic standards needed at masters level, and just as importantly, add value to your organisation and career.

Course duration and hours of study
This varies depending on the course you’re studying but you can access modules at a pace that is convenient for you. Once you have accessed a module, there is a minimum and maximum time that you will need to finish the module within.

You can find out more information on the course page, visit www.arden.ac.uk. Alternatively, please call our admissions team on +44 (0) 2476 515700 or 0800 268 7737 for more details.
MSC DATA ANALYTICS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

Entry requirements
To be eligible for this course you must normally have:

A UK honours degree at a minimum of second class (2.2) or equivalent.

For students whose prior learning was not taught in English:

IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.

Please be aware that this course will require you to handle numbers. We recommend that you hold a minimum of GCSE standard maths to succeed. Please speak to a member of our admissions team for more information.

If you don’t have academic qualifications
We’re more than happy to consider, and positively encourage, an application from you if you have substantial management experience (typically 5 years) and can show us that you have the motivation to study the programme.