Course Structure and Background Knowledge

1. Do I need to have a background in information technology (IT) to successfully complete the MIT?

No. The MIT has been designed to cater for students who come from a variety of backgrounds, including students with a background in IT, information systems (IS) or a non-IT area.

For students without undergraduate experience of IT, you will complete a semester of ‘foundation’ units that give you the necessary knowledge to be able to complete the rest of the course. These units are roughly equivalent to undergraduate study in terms of knowledge gained.

The four foundation units for the MIT are:

- FIT9131 Programming foundations in Java
- FIT9132 Introduction to databases
- FIT9134 Computer architecture and operating systems
- FIT9135 Data communications

2. Where do I get information about units and the course structure?

The first place you should look for information about the course and units is the Monash Handbook:

The course page in the handbook describes the course structure and which units you need to study. The unit pages provide a brief summary of the unit, as well as specifying any pre-requisite requirements that you need to meet before enrolling.

The Faculty of Information Technology website also has links to more detailed unit guides for each unit that outlines assessment requirements, lecture topics, and other detailed information.

3. Do I have to study the course in any particular order?

There is a general structure to the course that you should follow. The course has three parts: A, B and C and you should generally follow them in order.

Part A is consists of the four foundation units. You might receive credit or exemptions for some or all of these units if you have a background in information technology. They should be completed first if you need to study them.

Part B consists of:

Two core units:

- FIT5057 Project management
• FIT5136 Software engineering
• Six MIT elective units.

Most students should study these eight units after completing Part A.

Part C is the final part of the course.

There are two options: the industry experience program or the minor thesis research program.

For students doing the industry experience program, this must be completed in the final semester, after Parts A and B.

For students doing the research program, though, this will be completed over the final two semesters, which means that the final four units in Part B will be completed at the same time as the Part C units (ie. in your final two semesters).

You can, in theory, complete Part A and B units at any stage prior to Part C. However, it is VERY strongly recommended that you complete Part A first. Note the pre-requisite requirements for elective units, and also note that Part A units are compulsory: you have to pass them or receive credit/exemption for them. The earlier you attempt them, the less likely you will run into problems with enrolment if something goes wrong and you have to repeat units.

4. What happens if I need to leave the course early?

Depending on how much of the course you’ve completed, you may qualify for a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma in Information Technology. Further information can be found at the Alternative exits section on the Master of Information Technology course handbook entry.

Unit Selection, Study Mode and External Electives

1. Which units should I enrol in first?

In your first two semesters, you should have the four foundation units for the first semester, and FIT5057 Project management, FIT5136 Software engineering and two MIT elective units.

If you’ve been granted credit or exemption for any of these units, replace them with either an MIT elective units. If appropriate, move FIT5057 and FIT5136 from your second semester to your first, so that you complete it as soon as possible.

2. Which MIT electives should I choose?

The MIT elective list provides a broad range of units covering information technology fields such:

• Web development
• Mobile systems
• Data management and processing
• Software engineering

There are some introductory units on machine learning/artificial intelligence and network/security. If you find any of these areas (machine learning or security) to be very interesting and want to study in more depth, you should consider studying the Master of Data Science or the Master of Network.
You can to some degree study these areas further in the MIT by choosing the MIT free electives from the list of units available from these degrees.

You should choose electives that you find interesting – no one unit will give you a particular advantage over another in terms of finding work after you graduate, unless you’re intending to target a specific area of the IT industry. If you choose units that are interesting to you, you’ll be more motivated and find the study easier. This should be a higher priority than what your friends have studied, or the kind of assessment used in the unit.

3. Can I study part time?
   If you’re a domestic student, yes you can. You can enrol in 1, 2, 3 or 4 units per semester. Note that you have a maximum of 6 years to complete the course, though.
   If you’re studying on an international student visa, you are required to be enrolled in full-time study.

4. Can I overload (study more than a full-time load)?
   Generally, no. In some circumstances, you can apply to overload and study five units in a semester. Overloading is to enrol in more than the standard number of units in each year. It is usually limited to students who have: completed 48 credit points in one calendar year and achieved a 60% credit average or higher in the previous year.

5. Can I study electives from outside of the course?
   Yes, you are permitted to study 12 credit points (two units) from outside of the course in Part B. The unit must be at level 5 (the first numeral of the unit code, eg. FIT5147).
   If the unit is from outside of the Faculty of Information Technology, you must obtain permission from the other faculty first, then permission from your course director. Do not enrol in these units directly yourself as they may not count towards your degree. You may enrol in FIT units without course director approval.
   You may also study any FIT level 5 unit as part of the industry experience program in Part C of the course.
   Your have to meet the normal pre-requisite requirements for any unit that you wish to enrol in.

Professional Accreditation

1. Which professional bodies accredit the MIT?
   The MIT is accredited as an Information Technology degree by the Australian Computer Society. This is the peak industry body for the IT industry in Australia, and all graduates from the course can be recognised as IT professionals.

Credit and Exemptions for Previous Study

1. What is the difference between credit and exemption?
   Credit and exemption are similar concepts and are assessed in exactly the same way. The purpose of credit is to use previous study to contribute to your completion of the MIT, where that study covers the same material as material in the MIT. If you are granted credit for a unit, you will receive 6 credit points towards the course, the same as if you had studied and passed the unit at Monash. This reduces the amount of study you need to complete to finish the course (a total of 96 credit points is required for the MIT).
   The purpose of exemption is to free you from the requirement to complete a specific unit in the MIT, and replace it with an elective unit that will be of more interest to you. Exemptions, therefore, only apply to mandatory units within the course: the four foundation units in Part A of the course, and FIT5057 Project management and FIT5136 Software engineering in Part B of the course.
   With an exemption, you are given 0 credit points, but are free to study an elective unit instead. You can enrol in any unit that has the exempted unit as a pre-requisite requirement, too.
   Credit or exemption cannot be used for Part C.
2. I've completed an undergraduate degree in IT. What credit or exemption can I apply for?
In general, you cannot use undergraduate study for credit in a postgraduate course. The exception is the foundation units, which are equivalent to undergraduate knowledge. This means that if you’ve studied material that covers one or more of the four foundation units, you can apply for credit or exemption even if your study was at an undergraduate level.

3. I've completed a postgraduate degree. What credit or exemption can I apply for?
You can apply for credit or exemption for the foundation units, as well as FIT5057 Project management and FIT5136 Software engineering. You can apply for credit for any unit in Parts A or B of the course.

4. I’ve completed study that’s not a Bachelor or Masters degree (eg. a diploma, or other course). Can I apply for credit or exemption?
In most cases, no. You can’t generally use diploma or certificate study at a TAFE or polytechnic college, or similar, for credit in a postgraduate course. Similarly, professional education courses, or other non-university education is ineligible.

The exception is in the case of diplomas or graduate certificates/diplomas where the course is a subset of a broader Bachelors or Masters-level course. If the subjects/units are the same as those studied by Bachelors or Masters students, then we can consider an application based on that study.

5. I completed my previous study more than 10 years ago. Can I use it for credit or exemption?
Usually no. If, however, you’ve been actively employed in the area since graduation and can demonstrate that you’ve used the knowledge in a professional setting, ensuring that the knowledge is up to date and fresh in your mind, then we may grant an exemption to the 10-year limitation.

6. Which parts of the course can I use credit or exemption for?
Credit can be granted for any units in Parts A or B of the course, for previous postgraduate study. Undergraduate study can be used for Part A. Exemption only applies to mandatory units in Parts A or B. This means the four foundation units, or FIT5057 Project management and FIT5136 Software engineering.

7. Can I change my credit to an exemption (or vice versa)?
Yes. Talk to the administration staff at the Faculty of IT reception desk, level 6, Building H, Caulfield Campus.

8. How similar to the Monash unit does my previous study need to be?
You need to be roughly as familiar with the Monash unit material as someone who has just studied and passed the unit. Units studied at different institutions differ, though, so the general rule of thumb we use is that the previous study should cover 80% of the content of the Monash unit.

This coverage can be based on more than one unit. For example, you might have completed two different programming units, and you can demonstrate coverage of 80% of FIT9131 by including both previously studied units in your application.

9. What documents do I need to provide for a credit/exemption application?
You need to provide documentation that proves you successfully completed the previous study. This means an original or certified copy of your testamur and transcript (list of subjects or units completed and your mark/grade).

You also need to provide documentation that allows us to compare the content of the subjects or units that you studied and the Monash unit. The documentation can be a copy of a subject description web page, or similar, that outlines the topics covered by the subject or unit. A lecture schedule or weekly topic list would be ideal.

You should read the detailed unit guide for the unit(s) for which you are applying for credit or exemption. Make sure that the documentation for your previous study addresses the learning outcomes or weekly topics covered in the Monash unit. Do not include previous study in your application that doesn’t directly address the Monash unit.