

Customise  
your curriculum.  
Flexible Learning  
at Southampton





Study with peers from other disciplines: take a Curriculum Innovation module

# Customise your degree by choosing from the list of interdisciplinary, language and other disciplinary modules available to you.

For most degree programmes you take eight modules (120 CATS) in each year of your degree. Some of these will be compulsory modules that you must take, but in most cases you also take some optional modules alongside these. You can choose to use these modules to:

- Deepen your knowledge by taking more modules in your home discipline
- Broaden your studies by taking interdisciplinary modules, languages or other modules outside of your home discipline.

## What is Flexible Learning?

In February 2011, a number of interdisciplinary modules were introduced which were designed to give you new perspectives and access to innovative approaches to teaching and assessment.

By taking one of these interdisciplinary modules, you can develop transferable skills for your future, whatever you go on to do.

The list of these modules evolves and develops each year and includes modules such as Global Health, The Human Brain and Society, Life in the Cosmos and many more.

## What are the details?

Places on these interdisciplinary modules are allocated on a first come, first served basis as numbers have been capped to provide you with the best possible experience.

If your programme is eligible, you will be able to select these modules via the Online Option Choice System. All modules are treated the same as other optional modules within the University and are subject to the same regulatory requirements.

Some other modules, including languages, from across the University have been opened up to students from other disciplines.

For the latest and up to date information please visit [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip)

## Top five things you should know

1. You must check which modules are available on your programme. You can do this by visiting the website: [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip)
2. All modules are subject to timetabling. If your chosen optional module clashes with a core/ compulsory one from your main programme, the latter will take precedence.
3. The interdisciplinary modules are set at second year level to allow for forward and backtracking for first and third years where appropriate.
4. Studying with students from other disciplines gives you new perspectives.
5. Taking a module from outside of your main discipline will broaden your studies.

# Interdisciplinary modules\*



## Business Skills for Employability

This module aims to help you to promote yourself to prospective employers and to understand the issues that drive success in business. Using a tried and tested interactive computer simulation, that has been used to train managers in international companies such as Tesco and Mars, students will practice managing a business and learn what effective management practice is.



## Global Health

This module presents an exciting opportunity to study situations, such as the outbreak of swine flu in Mexico in 2009 that quickly spread around the world, and risk factors, such as smoking and sedentary lifestyles, that lead to chronic diseases like cancer and diabetes. Students will review the varied global impacts of these diseases and be asked to provide and discuss policies and other activities that could address them.



## Living and Working on the Web

This module aims to introduce students to the key concepts of digital literacy that will help them achieve their full potential both academically and in the job market beyond university. It focuses on how we can best live, learn and work in an increasingly digital society.



## Ethics in a Complex World

This module will help students grapple with difficult questions, as well as explore complex ethical concepts. Using a variety of collaborative technology and social media, students will investigate a contemporary subject in real depth, and gain an insight into practical problem solving based on theoretical perspectives.



## Global Challenges

The Earth's population is estimated to be 8 billion by 2050. This will drive a perfect storm of rising food and energy costs, increased migration and conflict. Arguably the greatest challenge we face is how to survive, one that will require trans-disciplinary responses - work that crosses disciplinary boundaries and is conducted in groups that could include: scientists, economists, philosophers, politicians and poets.



## The Management of Risk and Uncertainty

Effective risk management practice begins with uncertainty management. Through this module students will explore this idea, and consider how current risk management practices can be critiqued and improved. Students will study the philosophical and conceptual underpinning for effective risk management practice across a wide variety of organisational contexts, and look at how risk management can integrate with other organisational practices.

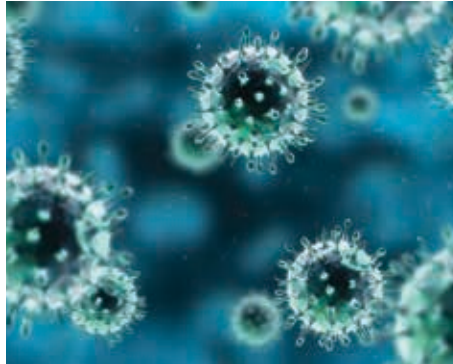
\*Please check the website for a full list of modules available to your programme:  
[www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/interdisciplinary/index.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/interdisciplinary/index.page)





### Online Social Networks

This module aims to develop understanding of the emergent interdisciplinary area of online social network analysis by drawing upon technological, social, network science and organisational perspectives.



### Pathological Mechanisms of Disease

Pathology is the study of disease processes such as inflammation, cell death, and the development of cancer. It explains disease in a mechanistic way. Students will study a number of topics including: disease and its effects on evolution (and vice versa), and the relationship between disease mechanisms and the global impact of disease.



### Piracy, Security and Maritime Space

Who owns the oceans and under what authority are they policed? How do we define piracy? What do we mean by 'maritime security', and is it possible to attain it globally? This module takes piracy as a core theme and offers students the opportunity to study the increasingly fraught global debates about the security and ownership of maritime space.



### Sustainability in the Local and Global Environment

The environment is in a constant state of change, whether by nature or human led processes. Sustainability is about trying to manage this change through balancing social, economic and environmental needs, both locally and globally for present and future generations. Students will study sustainability in the context of different disciplines, utilising the University's world class research, and investigating different perspectives on the issues facing us in the future.



### The Human Brain and Society

The aim of this module is to provide tomorrow's leaders and policy makers with a basic understanding of how the human brain functions and an appreciation of the importance of mental health for 21st century society. Topics will be delivered by senior academics of the Southampton Neuroscience Group (SoNG).



### Intercultural Communication in a Global World

We are increasingly working and studying alongside people from different cultures and linguistic backgrounds. Misunderstandings and miscommunication can and do arise, but the benefits of such encounters are many. We gain from these experiences, grow as individuals, develop new relationships and enhance employability through the intercultural competence we acquire.



### Understanding Modern China

China is now the second largest economy in the world and is predicted to catch up to the United States within 10 years. This module will introduce students to key aspects of Chinese economy, culture and society and provide opportunities for exploring and analysing contemporary issues including those arising from China's ascendancy as a world power.



### Economics with Experiments

The objective of this module is to teach students the principles of economics with experiments that are effective and enjoyable. You will learn by being participants in the experiments, not by sitting and listening.



### More or Less

This module is driven by the use that is made of mathematical/statistical ideas and results in the media, advertising and politics. It aims to provide a framework for active citizens to understand, manipulate and respond to this data which they encounter every day. You do not have to be a mathematician to follow this module.



### Social Enterprise

This is an interactive and practical module aiming to inspire students to social entrepreneurship by providing a comprehensive introduction to the social enterprise sector. The emphasis in this module is the translation of knowledge into action, and to raise an awareness of the support available to students for social enterprise activities at the University.



### The Portus Field School

The Portus Field School provides a novel learning experience by offering the opportunity to work for three weeks on an archaeological excavation in Italy. You will be joining the international team of the Portus Project in their study of the maritime port of Imperial Rome, Portus, located at the mouth of the Tiber. This provides a challenging and engaging learning environment, with the ability to learn interdisciplinary and teambased skills.

NB – this module takes place in the summer vacation and will incur additional costs.



### The Arab World in and Beyond the Headlines

Since early 2011 and the beginning of what has come to be known as 'the Arab Spring', the Arab world has rarely been out of the headlines. The region is an important global player, though one that is subject to frequent misunderstanding and stereotyping. This module will introduce students to key themes of relevance to contemporary life in the Arab world in order to go beyond the headlines.



### Ethics in Science, Engineering and Technology: Jekyll and Hyde

This module will consider how science shapes society and how society reacts to the process of discovery. This module will give students the intellectual tools to debate relevant issues and will enhance their ability to communicate their conclusions to a particular target audience.



### Health Policy and Economics

The module will introduce students to the use of economic concepts and theory when talking and thinking about health, health care and health care systems. The importance of health for any human being, the size of the health sector, the limited resources available to meet the needs of an ageing population (with higher levels of chronic disease) make health economics an important aspect of everyday life.



### How Musical Instruments Work

This module describes and discusses the physical concepts of science and music, such as wave motion, resonance and sound radiation, making use of animation, simulation and visualisation technologies to make the concepts accessible to students without a background in maths or physics.



### Life in the Cosmos

Perhaps one of the biggest questions facing humanity now is the possibility of life existing elsewhere in the universe. This module is aimed specifically at the non-scientist and it will look at the ways we are seeking extra-terrestrial life through observations and debate. We will explore the concepts behind star and planet formation, as well as looking in detail at the extreme forms of life on our own planet.



### Body and Society

This module brings together Archaeology, Anatomy and Anthropology to explore a range of different disciplinary approaches to the human body in the past and present. It examines how the body has been perceived as a physical object and a social construction. Through the study of the human body, you will study issues of contemporary relevance within an interdisciplinary framework.



### Engineering Replacement Body Parts

This module will introduce you to some of the current, cutting-edge research on the use of tissue engineering, stem cells and bionic implanted devices in medicine. It will also encourage you to think about the ethical and societal implications of these technologies now and in the future.





### **Making Sense out of the Senses: How the Brain Works**

This module provides an introduction to how the brain works and how it makes sense out of sensory input. Functional neuroscience is fundamentally an interdisciplinary subject that links neuroscience, cognitive science, psychology, electrical engineering, computer science, maths and physics. You will be introduced to the goals and methods of neuroscience, covering the architecture, function and properties of basic classes of neurons, neural networks and learning.



### **Securities, Emergencies and Technologies of Control**

How are different emergencies acted upon, responded to and governed by authorities? How have digital technologies changed the way emergencies are thought of and how we are secured against them? By taking this module, you will examine these questions and more. You will explore and critically assess security and emergency governance in a way that is relevant across Faculties.



### **Valuing Nature**

Given the importance of nature to human wellbeing, the current period of global change is exacerbating a disconnect between people and the natural world. The combination of local cause and global effect leads us to ask what we understand by nature and how we value it. This module considers values of nature and develops your skills to quantify values of local nature and natural capital and to track the value chain through to human wellbeing.



### **Topics in Economic History**

This module aims to introduce you to the study of economic history. It will investigate how past societies faced economic issues and how economics can help us understand social history. Topics covered include the global trade in luxury goods, slavery, crime statistics and economic change over the long run. Students will be able to use archival material and original documents. No special knowledge of economics or statistics is required.



### **Women and Gender in the Arab and Muslim World**

This module encourages you to reflect on your own ideas about gender roles and the preconceptions and stereotypes that dominate Western portrayals of women and gender in the Arab and Muslim world. The module will give you the opportunity to embark on an in-depth exploration of the topic through discussion of key themes of relevance to women's lives in the Arab and Muslim world today.





# Language modules

Languages form an integral part of today's job market and the ability to speak another language will give you the edge in an increasingly competitive job market. Businesses in the UK are expanding globally at a rapid rate and with over 200 countries trading with the UK worldwide, they need employees who can speak multiple languages.

The Modern Languages Department offers 12 different languages:

Ancient Greek	Italian
Arabic	Japanese
Chinese	Latin
English for non-native speakers	Russian
French	Portuguese
German	Spanish

All languages start from Stage 1 up to Stage 7. These Stages are dependent on your ability and experience. For further information visit the Centre for Language Studies website:

[www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/undergraduate/language\\_modules.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/undergraduate/language_modules.page)

Further information can also be found at [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip)

# Next Steps...

## Important information to note

- Most Curriculum Innovation modules are first available to select in the first year
- Please ensure that you are able to take interdisciplinary modules on the programme you are studying by visiting:  
<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip/interdisciplinary/find-your-degree.page>
- On this page you can link through to check the Programme Catalogue to decide which module(s) you wish/ are able to take
- You are advised to discuss your options with your academic advisor
- Use the Online Option Choice System (during open periods) to select the module(s)
- Module availability is on a first come first served basis
- As with all module choices, interdisciplinary, language and other modules are subject to timetabling
- Due to timetabling demands, it cannot be guaranteed that you will be allocated your first choice module(s)
- You can usually forward and backtrack onto your choice of module by one year. Therefore if you are unable to select your first choice you may have the opportunity to choose the module in your continuing year.

## Further information

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You can find detailed information about Curriculum Innovation at [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip)

To view your timetable please login to SUSSED  
<https://sused.soton.ac.uk/>

For timetabling queries please email  
[timetabling@southampton.ac.uk](mailto:timetabling@southampton.ac.uk)

For general queries about Flexible Learning please contact either your Student Office or email  
[cip@southampton.ac.uk](mailto:cip@southampton.ac.uk)

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Please visit our website for the latest information about Flexible Learning: [www.southampton.ac.uk/cip](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cip)





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