

Master of Information Science Program for Chinese Students

1. Responsible Unit

Department of Information Science, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University

2. Backgrounds and Rationale

The current Master of Information Science program (academic year 2021) is an updated curriculum approved by Khon Kaen University's Council. The program is designed with the philosophy of producing graduates with advanced competencies in information management and knowledge within the digital ecosystem. This aligns with the national development strategies and the workforce requirements of digital-era organizations. The program represents a new paradigm in educational management systems, developed to accommodate a diverse target audience, including undergraduate students, recent graduates, working professionals in various organizations or businesses, international students, and individuals interested in furthering their knowledge in emerging information science fields. It is the first of its kind in Thailand within the field of information science and follows the new policy framework of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation.

The structure and instructional system of the Master of Information Science program are designed as modular courses that integrate contemporary knowledge and skills essential for working in information and knowledge management within the digital ecosystem. The teaching and learning approach in each module places a strong emphasis on developing learners' competencies in terms of knowledge, skills, and personal attributes, aligning with the objectives and learning outcomes of each module. The instructional format focuses on facilitating learning through research and inquiry processes, experiential learning, and creating a digital learning environment suitable for the current context.

However, over the past five years, the Master of Information Science program has encountered challenges with a decreasing number of enrolled students each year. This may be attributed to several factors, similar to other graduate-level programs in general. These factors include reduced demand for master's level education, economic conditions that prioritize securing employment and income for undergraduate degree holders, limited funding for graduate-level education with a focus on advanced research, as well as the availability of short-term training programs, online courses, and a plethora of independent learning resources. Therefore, in order to attract and maintain an appropriate number of students while preserving quality and standards, a different strategy is necessary for student recruitment. This strategy should aim to create opportunities and a positive reputation for the university.

The Department of Information Science at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, is a globally recognized and reputable field of study. This program has been selected as a member of the iSchools Organization, which is a collaborative organization of institutions that offer information-related programs up to the doctoral level. It is the first iSchool in Thailand and the 100th in the world. Membership in the iSchools Organization requires having faculty members with continuous international-level academic qualifications and research funding from external sources. It also involves having international faculty and students and maintaining up-to-date curricula and a learning environment that emphasizes the development of students' competencies. This aligns with the evolving landscape of information and knowledge management in response to global changes.

Based on the experience of collaborating with members of the iSchools Organization, particularly with educational institutions in the People's Republic of China, it has been observed that there is a significant demand among Chinese students for studying Information Science at the master's level. This demand arises from the recognition that pursuing advanced education in this field is essential for enhancing competencies in information management and knowledge for the digital era. This need is relevant to individuals who have completed undergraduate degrees in various disciplines. However, iSchools typically have limited enrollment capacity. Therefore, Chinese students represent a target group with substantial potential, both in terms of their knowledge and abilities at the undergraduate level, their desire to pursue master's-level programs, and their willingness to invest in education. In light of this, the Information Science program sees the collaboration with universities in China for the management of the Master of Information Science program as an opportunity to increase international student admissions, expand education on an international scale, and enhance the university's reputation.

The collaboration project for managing the Master of Information Science program with universities in the People's Republic of China will initially be established through a memorandum of understanding between the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Khon Kaen University and the Faculty of [University Name] in China. There is also potential to expand this cooperation to other universities in China. The project will require a mutually agreed-upon memorandum of understanding that has received approval from Khon Kaen University. The project will be conducted in accordance with the regulations of Khon Kaen University, specifically those pertaining to graduate-level education in the academic year 2022. It will also adhere to the regulations concerning lifelong learning and other relevant announcements and practices of Khon Kaen University and the Graduate School of Khon Kaen University. The anticipated outcomes of this collaborative project include an increase in the number of international students, high-quality research and inquiry work in the field of Information Science that may connect the contexts of Thailand and China, expansion of education to an international level, and enhancement of the university's reputation.

3. Objectives

- 4.1 To establish collaboration for managing the Master of Information Science program for Chinese students in partnership with universities in the People's Republic of China.
- 4.2 To expand the target audience for student admissions into the Master of Information Science program, which will subsequently increase the overall number of international students at the university.
- 4.3 To promote the development of the Master of Information Science program according to the principles of new educational management and lifelong learning, suitable for collaborative efforts with foreign universities.

4. Details of Collaborations

4.1 Program and Degree Name

Program name: Master of Information Science

Degree name: Master of Information Science (M.I.S.)

4.2 MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with universities in China is an agreement made by authorized representatives of the collaborating universities. This agreement is based on the principles of non-profit management, mutual benefit, and the commitment to uphold the quality and standards of education for both institutions.

4.3 Collaborative Format

This is the management of the Master of Information Science program (Revised curriculum, B.E. 2564) under Plan B, which is structured as a special program. The program is conducted in English and spans a duration of 2 academic years (4 semesters), with the following format:

Semester/ Year	Module and Credits	Teaching and Learning Management	Outcomes
1/1	Module 1: Information and Graduate Learning Literacies 8 credits**	<p>-The teaching and learning management for students who are currently in the final semester of their undergraduate programs at Chinese universities will be conducted within a single academic semester.</p> <p>-The instruction will be delivered through an online platform, and there may be synchronous components as needed.</p> <p>-The courses will be taught by the regular faculty members of the Master of Information Science program and faculty members from Khon Kaen University. There may also be adjunct faculty members with the necessary qualifications and expertise teaching certain subjects.</p> <p>-Chinese students will not yet have official student status at Khon Kaen University but will enrol in the specified set of courses in a non-degree capacity.</p>	<p>Chinese students who successfully complete the modular courses in Information Science and Lifelong Learning at the graduate level will receive:</p> <p>-A Certificate of Modular Course.</p> <p>-8 academic credits from the modular course, which can be accumulated and transferred into the Master of Information Science program.</p> <p>-Consideration for admission into the Master of Information Science program.</p> <p>-The requirement to meet the English language proficiency standard (KKU-AELT) for graduate-level students. Intensive KKU-AELT training will be provided according to the Graduate School's criteria as part of the modular course in Information Science and Lifelong Learning.</p>
1/2, 2/1, 2/2	<p>- Choose three additional modular courses as specified in the curriculum, each comprising 8 credits, totalling 24 credits.</p> <p>Register for and complete individual courses for independent study as</p>	<p>-The teaching and learning management will take place at the Department of Information Science, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, and will span a duration of one and a half years (3 academic semesters).</p>	<p>Chinese students who successfully complete each modular course will receive a Certificate of Modular Course.</p> <p>-Chinese students who register for and successfully complete all the modular courses as per the curriculum, meet the requirements including</p>

Semester/ Year	Module and Credits	Teaching and Learning Management	Outcomes
	required for the Master's degree program, Plan B, with a total of 4 credits.	-The instruction will be delivered through an online platform, and there may be synchronous components as needed. -The courses will be taught by the regular faculty members of the Master of Information Science program, as well as adjunct or special faculty members as stipulated by the program. -Chinese students will have official student status at Khon Kaen University.	knowledge integration, pass the comprehensive examination, and fulfil the research dissemination criteria according to Khon Kaen University regulations, will be awarded the degree of Master of Information Science.
Total credits for completion 36 credits, duration at least 2 years			

*Details of program structure, modular courses are accordance with the Master of Information Science Program (Revised edition, B.E. 2564)

**This module will be offered for this project.

5. Program Learning Outcome

- 5.1 Core Competencies: The ability to manage information and digital knowledge in innovative and adaptive ways that stay current with changes and developments.
- 5.2 Soft Skills: Proficiency in analytical thinking, creative problem-solving, systems thinking, teamwork, and effective communication.
- 5.3 Hard Skills: Proficiency in information and digital knowledge management, as well as the use of digital technologies to design and develop processes in digital environments. The ability to conduct research and create valuable information and digital knowledge assets that contribute to problem-solving and practical applications.

6. Expenses for the whole program (Approx.)

- 6.1 Educational fee 76,000 Baht (19,000 Baht/semester, totally 4 semesters)
- 6.2 Oversea fee 60,000 Baht (15,000 Baht/semester, totally 4 semesters)
- 6.3 Comprehensive examination 2,000 Baht
- 6.4 Independent study examination 4,000 Baht
- 6.5 Totally (for 2 years): 142,000 Baht

7. Language of Instruction: English

8. Study Plan

Year 1 ; First semester in China (Online)	credit
HS 247718 Information and Graduate Learning Literacies	8
- KKU-AELT	3
- Research in Information Science	3

- Information & Digital Literacy	2
Year 1; Second semester (KKU)	
HS 247712 Digital Information Management	8
HS 247713 Digital Informatics	8
Year 2 ; First semester (KKU)	
HS 247714 Digital Design Management	8
HS 248 897 Independent Study	1
Year 2 ; Second semester (KKU)	
HS 248 897 Independent study	3
Total credits	36

9. Modular Courses

10.1 Information and Graduate Learning Literacies

Academic English skill development including academic writing and reading ; principle of research in Information science ; definition; research design and methodology ; writing and evaluating research proposals and research articles ; academic and research ethics and code of conduct; information and digital literacy.

10.2 Digital Information Management

Concepts of digital content, digital content management, digital content management system, the design and development of digital content management systems, and project development or research related to digital information management.

10.3 Digital Informatics

Principles and theories of digital informatics and digital data application in the world context, digital content management system, the design and developing digital content management systems, development of a project or research on digital informatics topic.

10.4 Digital Design management

Principles and processes of creative thinking and service design, analysis of customer experiences and in-dept needs, principles of digital marketing and service design, fundamental economics, cost and resources for service design, processes, tools and techniques for service design and development, management of service design in digital environment, and development of a project or research on digital design.

10. Area of research topics

- 11.1 Data analytics
- 11.2 Machine learning
- 11.3 Digital Archive
- 11.4 Digital collection
- 11.5 Content management
- 11.6 Social media & Content creation
- 11.7 Digital library
- 11.8 Digital service
- 11.9 Information Behavior
- 11.10 Information management

12. Criteria for Completion

12.1 Proficiency in the English language, meeting the standard criteria as set forth by the Graduate School.

12.2 Successful completion of the program, including the following:

- Registration for and successful completion of a minimum of 4 course modules with a cumulative GPA of not less than 3.00.
- Passing the comprehensive knowledge examination.
- Presenting and defending an independent research study, which includes a final oral defense. Part or the entirety of the research work must be accepted for publication in a recognized journal or be presented at an academic conference with reputable proceedings.