Module Descriptor

Title	Governance, Risk Management and Compliance		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	Published
Code	COMP11081	**SCQF Level**	11
Credit Points	10	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	5
School	**Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	Tony Gurney		

Summary of Module

An increasing reliance on computer systems in all areas of business implies an imperative to certify that the systems are used in a way that ensures proper appreciation of potential risk, the management of that risk, the implementation of standard security protocols, and compliance with legislation, all in order to ensure proper business controls.

This module will address and examine those areas in order to manage information assurance within an organisation, ensuring information is collected, stored and processed legally and securely through risk-based decision-making.

Topics include essential frameworks, international standards and best practices involved in risk assessment and management, business impact analysis, asset identification, business continuity and disaster recovery.

This module will work to develop a number of the key 'I am UWS' Graduate Attributes to make those who complete this module:

Universal

- Critical Thinker
- Ethically-minded
- Research-minded

Work Ready

- Problem-Solver
- Effective Communicator
- Ambitious

Successful

- Autonomous
- Resilient
- Driven

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☒	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☒ Lanarkshire ☒ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the theories, concepts and principles of governance, risk and compliance management.
L2	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding to design an information security strategy.
L3	Analyse and critically evaluate an organisation's approach to information security, risk and governance.
L4	N/A
L5	N/A

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 11** Governance models and frameworks, Information Assurance Methods; Related International Standards; Scottish, UK, EU and other International laws that relate to data privacy and protection, obligations of organisations for the management of data and communications; computer misuse and surveillance, elements of contractual and employment law.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** Each student in each group will be responsible for finding and summarizing information about the assigned task in their laboratory

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

	tasks. Students will elect a coordinator and develop a sense of accountability to the group members.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** Logical assessment of open ended problems; distill and synthesise a variety of knowledge from external sources; development of an argument to articulate a case for the findings.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** Professional report writing and presentation skills.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**Please select SCQF Level** Build effective client relationships.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours. The module will be delivered by means of lectures and supervised hands-on lab work. Lectures will cover the theoretical background and practical applicability in real life problems. Concepts will be introduced by posing a practical problem and working out the needed theoretical knowledge to solve them. The delivery will encourage student participation to ensure an active learning experience. Group discussions will be held to promote critical thinking and boost informed decisions on the suitability of different state-of-the-art methods. Lab exercises will help student develop their knowledge in incremental fashion using a learning-by-doing approach. This will support the development of knowledge and understanding of the topics.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	6
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	6
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	12
Independent Study	76
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	100

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Trim, P.R.J., and Lee, Y-I. (2014). Cyber Security Management: A Governance, Risk and Compliance Framework. Gower Publishing

Schaub, G. (2018) Understanding Cybersecurity: Emerging Governance and Strategy. Rowman & Littlefield International

Kolah, A. (2018) The GDPR Handbook: A Guide to Implementing the EU General Data Protection Regulation. Kogan Page

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

The School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences considers attendance and engagement to mean a commitment to attending, and engaging in, timetabled sessions. You will scan your attendance via the scanners each time you are on-campus and you will login to the VLE several times per week. Where you are unable to attend a timetabled learning session due to illness or other circumstance, you should notify the Programme Leader that you cannot attend. Across the School an 80% attendance threshold is set. If you fall below this, you will be referred to the Student Success Team to see how we can best support your studies.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

Aligned with the University's commitment to equality and diversity, this module supports equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds and learning needs. Using the VLE, material will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and manipulation of content. This module complies with University regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. This module has lab-based teaching and as such you are advised to speak to the Module Co-ordinator to ensure that specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice can be put in place, in accordance with the University's policies and regulations.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Computing**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**

Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Business & Applied Computing
Moderator	TBC
External Examiner	A Esfahani
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1.05

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Coursework (100%)
Assessment 2
Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Dissertation/ Project report/ Thesis	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	100	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**

	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Attendance Update & EDI Update	20/01/2025	A Adamson
External Examiner Updated	22/01/2025	A Adamson