

# Internet Communications: Guide for graduate students

The Master of Internet Communications (and the embedded Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate) provide students with a degree in another field the chance to get both a fast update for their skills and to extend their undergraduate education by undertaking advanced research work at a level consistent with an undergraduate honours degree.

Because of the variety of backgrounds and interests of students studying these courses there are no fixed study patterns: students must individually craft their correct study sequence of units to suit their needs, in consultation with the Course Coordinator. We have deliberately not attached pre-requisites to any unit to empower to make the right choices, based on your existing knowledge.

In some cases, student choice will also be limited by the availability of units and the semesters in which they are offered. Full-time students may find that they have to study certain units in a particular semester regardless of their choice. The information below will guide you in making the right choices.

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## **Discussion of units**

### **Web Communications 501**

This unit also serves as an introductory unit. However, in almost all cases, we find students - even quite innovative and experienced Internet users – lack the conceptual foundations which the unit provides. We strongly recommend that all students do this unit as their *first* in the course.

### **Internet and Everyday Life 502**

This unit is an important introductory unit but, in light of the fact many students will have background knowledge of the Internet and how to critically analyse it, and study at university, we recommend students normally would not do this unit. Only do Internet and Everyday Life 502 if you are completely new to the study or use of the Internet at an advanced level.

All the other units in the course (except those described below) are recommended for students. The units fall into two groups.

Four units are conceptual and analytical. While you will do practical work in these units, the main focus is on thinking, reading, analysing and understanding, utilising the technologies to assist in that process.

- Internet Communities and Social Networks 504
- Internet Commerce and Consumers 505
- Internet Collaboration and Organisation 508
- Internet Politics and Power 503

Two units are applied. While you will do engage with concepts as well in these units, the main focus is on producing media content for the Internet.

- Web Media 507
- Web Publishing 506

Note that these latter two units are essential preliminary work for the two most advanced units in the degree, as described below.

### **Web Production 500**

You *must* have done Web Media 507 before completing Web Production 500 unless you already have a strong background in web design, screen media production or other online graphic design (e.g. multimedia). Web Production 500 should be done as one of the last units in your course.

### **Web Presence 509**

You *must* have done Web Publishing 506 before completing Web Presence 509 unless you already have a strong background in social media, blogging and online content creation; we recommend Web Presence be done as one of the last units in your course.

### **Internet Studies Project 590**

This unit is a double-credit unit, worth two normal units. It is *not* part of the Masters project units (see below). It is available to students in the Graduate Certificate or Diploma as a way of doing an independently supervised, individual research / creative production project as part of those two coursework degrees. In most cases, you should *not* choose this unit unless you have a particular project in mind and have discussed it with the Course Coordinator. In particular, Graduate Certificate student should only do the project in exceptional circumstances. Masters students may, with the approval of the Course Coordinator, also do this unit prior to their main project as a separate piece of research / production. Normally students will only undertake this project after completing most other units in their course.

### **Internet Studies Project 691 and 692**

These two double-credit units are only available to students in the Master of Internet Communications. While separated into two units, the project you do will extend across both and you should consider them as a single coherent block of study. Students should, in most cases, take these units *sequentially*, in two semesters. Only students who, by circumstance, cannot complete the in two semesters will be allowed to enrol in them at the same time. If they do so, assessment patterns and deadlines will be different.

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## **General advice for the three courses**

### **Graduate Certificate**

Because the Graduate Certificate is only four units in size, you must make clear choices. As noted, we recommend all students complete Web Communications 501. We would then recommend that students *either* do 3 more 'Web' units (Web Publishing 506, Web Media 507, and one of Web Production 500 or Web Presence 509) *or* they do 3 of the Internet units (501, 503, 504, 505, 508). Note, however, that you remain in control – you can choose what units you like, subject to availability and timing.

### **Graduate Diploma**

Because the Graduate Diploma is eight units in size, you have much less choice to make and it is more about timing than which units you do. You can choose five of the 'internet' units, and three 'web', or four of each, or three 'internet' and five 'web'. Students who wish to specialise in analysis and ideas and research should do as many Internet units as possible, perhaps also the Internet Studies 590 Project; students with a stronger focus on

web media production should do all five web units. They may, with permission, use Internet Studies Project 590 to complete a mixed research and production project.

## **Masters**

A similar choice needs to be made in the Master of Internet Communications as in the Diploma since there are eight taught units to be taken (from the available 10) as well as the project. We recommend that students take four of the five internet units so as to boost their research and analytical skills.

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## **Examples**

### **Part-time study plan for Masters**

In this example, I assume student commences in semester 1 and does 2 units / semester. A usual sequence would be:

*Year 1*

S1 Web Communications 501 and Internet Communities and Social Networks 504

S2 Web Publishing 506 and Internet Commerce and Consumers 505

*Year 2*

S1 Web Media 507 and Internet Collaboration and Organisation 508

S2 Web Presences 509 and Internet Politics and Power 503

*Year 3*

S1 Internet Studies Project 691

S2 Internet Studies Project 692

### **Full-time study plan for Graduate Diploma**

In this example, I assume student commences in semester 2 and does 4 units / semester. A usual sequence would be:

*Year 1*

S2 Web Publishing 506; Web Communications 501; Internet Commerce and Consumers 505; Internet Politics and Power 503

*Year 2*

S1 Web Media 507; Internet Collaboration and Organisation 508; Internet Communities and Social Networks 504; Web Presence 509

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## **Advice and support**

You should contact the Course Coordinator via email if you need advice or are having problems enrolling. You should always stay in touch with the Coordinator if you need assistance or wish to discuss options in study. When planning your reenrolment in second and third years, and need detailed advice on electives, please also email us.

Email: [internetstudies@curtin.edu.au](mailto:internetstudies@curtin.edu.au)

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