

Study Pathways - Master of Information Technology (MIT)

The Master of Information Technology (MIT) requires the successful completion of 180 credits from level 8 and level 9 courses. There are three pathways to completing the MIT at the Whitireia/WelTec School of Innovation, Design and Technology.

Pathway One: IT9502 - 90-credit Thesis

This pathway provides in-depth knowledge of a topic in Information Technology and serves as strong groundwork for higher studies at the PhD level in New Zealand or overseas. The research produced can lead to a scientific publication. The thesis enables the student to undertake significant independent research.

Two supervisors and two examiners are assigned to the 90-credit thesis, with one examiner external to Whitireia/WelTec. Full-time students must complete their thesis within 12 months of the start date.

To enrol in IT9502 (Thesis, 90 credits), students must achieve a minimum grade of B in IT8501 (Research in Information Technology) AND IT8502 (Research Proposal).

Pathway two: IT9501 - 45-credit Applied Research Project (ARP)

The Applied Research Project (ARP) requires a shorter research report than a thesis but follows the same research process and final report structure. The time allocated for the ARP is considerably shorter, with completion usually expected within one trimester (17 weeks). Students can undertake the ARP through two pathways, as detailed in Tables 3 and 4.

The ARP is usually supervised by one academic staff member and assessed by one examiner, who is generally an internal examiner at Whitireia/WelTec.

To enrol in IT9501, students must achieve a minimum B grade in IT8501 (Research in Information Technology) AND IT8502 (Research Proposal).

Master of Information Technology study pathways and FAQs

School of Innovation, Design and Technology

Pathway Three: Coursework-only Option

The coursework-only pathway provides students with an opportunity to broaden their knowledge in Information Technology by completing taught courses rather than undertaking a research project.

This option is ideal for students who prefer a balance of practical and theoretical coursework over independent research, as it allows them to engage with advanced IT topics without requiring a thesis or an applied research project.

Students following this pathway must complete a total of 180 credits, selecting Level 8 and Level 9 courses to tailor their study plan according to their career aspirations. Tables 5 and 6 outline potential study plans for students undertaking the coursework-only option at MIT.

To graduate from MIT with the coursework pathway, students must complete a minimum of 45 credits at Level 9.

MIT Study Pathways at a Glance				
Quick reference guide for students choosing an MIT study pathway				
Pathway	Study balance	Research component	Best suited for	Possible next steps
Pathway One Thesis Pathway	50% thesis, 50% coursework	Substantial independent research thesis	Students interested in developing advanced research skills and completing a substantial research project	May support a future application for doctoral study, subject to meeting the relevant entry requirements
Pathway Two: Applied Research Project Pathway	25% Applied Research Project, 75% coursework	Applied research project focused on an industry or professional practice problem	Students wanting to apply research skills to a practical IT problem	May support career development in specialist, analytical, advisory, or technical roles
Pathway Three Coursework Only Pathway	100% coursework	No thesis or Applied Research Project	Students wanting to develop advanced IT knowledge through taught courses	May support career development in technical, leadership, or management roles

Sample Pathway Trimester Detail:

Pathway One: IT9502 Thesis (90 credits)

Recommended for full-time students taking the 90-credit IT9502 thesis pathway.

Table 1: IT9502 Thesis (Option A)

1 st Trimester of study	Credits	2 nd Trimester of study	Credits	3 rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	Research Proposal *	15	Thesis* continues	60
Elective	15	Thesis * begins	30		
Elective	15	Elective	15		
Elective	15				
	60		60		60

Table 2: IT9502 Thesis (Option B)

1 st Trimester of study	Credits	2 nd Trimester of study	Credits	3 rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	Research Proposal *	15	Thesis* continues	60
Elective	15	Thesis * begins	30		
Elective (Internship)	30	Elective	15		
	60		60		60

* Compulsory courses

Note: Enrolment in IT8524 Internship and IT9506 Integrated Industry Project requires Programme Manager approval.

Pathway Two: 45-credit IT9501 (ARP)

Recommended for full-time students taking the 45-credit IT9501 (ARP) pathway.

Table 3: Pathway two, IT9501 ARP Option A

1 st Trimester of study	Credits	2 nd Trimester of study	Credits	3 rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	Research Proposal *	15	ARP *	45
Elective	15	Elective	15	Elective	15
Elective	15	Elective	15		
Elective	15	Elective	15		
	60		60		60

Table 4: Pathway two, IT9501 ARP Option B

1 st Trimester of study	Credits	2 nd Trimester of study	Credits	3 rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	Research Proposal *	15	ARP *	45
Elective	15	Elective	15	Elective	15
Elective	15	Elective (Internship)	30		
Elective	15				
	60		60		60

* Compulsory courses

Note: Enrolment in IT8524 Internship and IT9506 Integrated Industry Project requires Programme Manager approval.

Pathway Three: Coursework Only

Recommended for full-time students taking the coursework-only pathway.

Table 5: Coursework Only Pathway, Option A

1 st Trimester of study	Credits	2 nd Trimester of study	Credits	3 rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	Level 8 Elective	15	Level 8 Elective	15
Level 8 Elective	15	Level 8 Elective	15	Level 8 Elective	15
Level 8 Elective	15	Level 9 Elective	15	Level 8 Elective	15
Level 8 Elective	15	Level 9 Elective	15	Level 9 Elective	15
	60		60		60

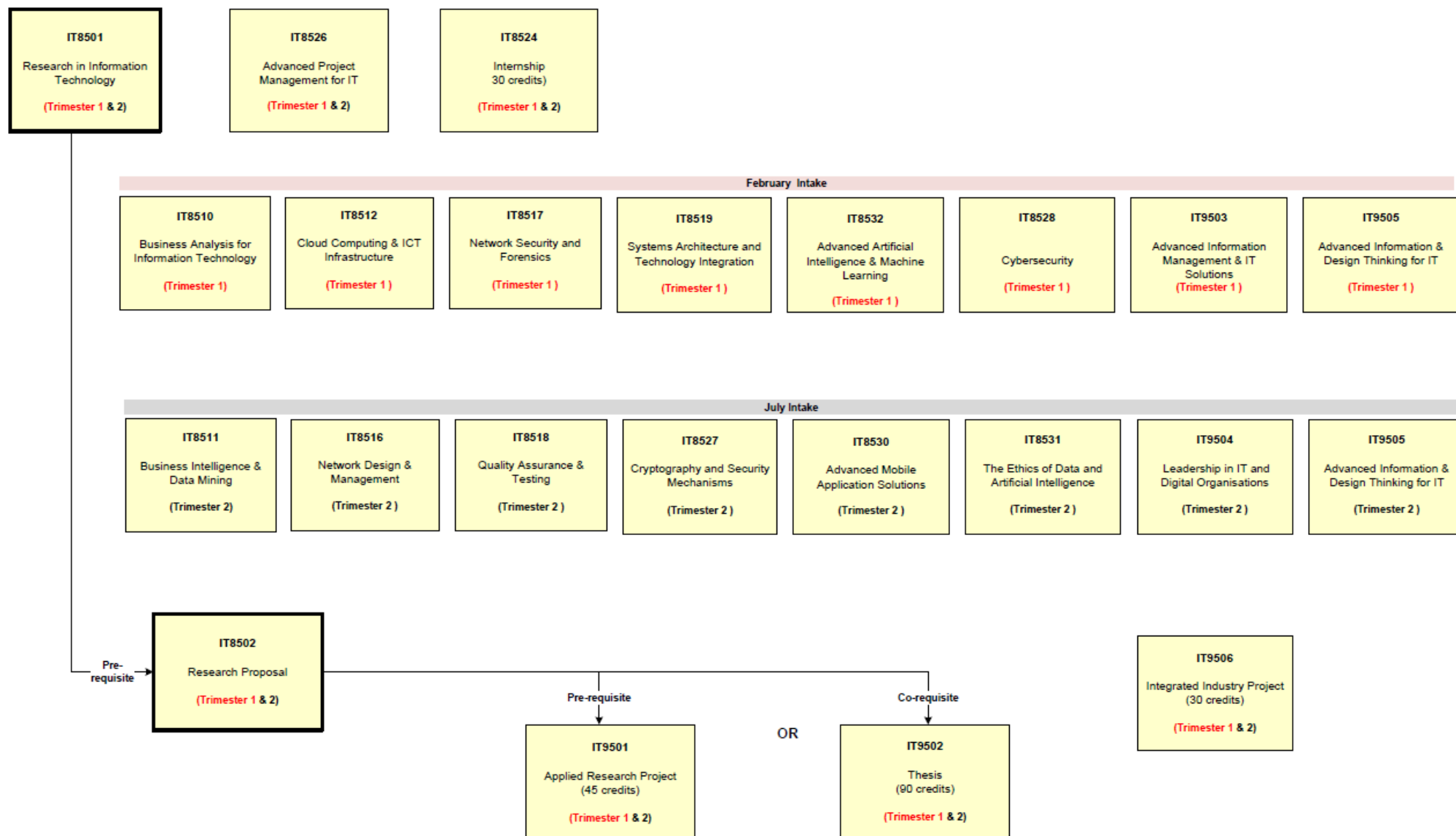
Table 6: Coursework Only Pathway, Option B

1 st Trimester of study	Credits	2 nd Trimester of study	Credits	3 rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	Level 8 Elective	15	Level 8 Elective	15
Level 8 Elective	15	Level 8 Internship	30	Level 9 Elective	15
Level 8 Elective	15	Level 9 Elective	15	Level 9 industry project	30
Level 8 Elective	15				
	60		60		60

* Compulsory courses

Note: Enrolment in IT8524 Internship and IT9506 Integrated Industry Project requires Programme Manager approval.

Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma and the Master of Information Technology (MIT)



FAQs for the MIT Programme

1: What elective courses can I choose in the MIT Programme?

The MIT qualification consists of Level 8 and Level 9 courses. A full list of available electives can be found in the Programme Handbook or from this link ([Master of Information Technology](#)) on the Whitireia/WelTec website.

2: Can I cross-credit courses from the Postgraduate Certificate (PGCertIT) or the Diploma (PGDipIT) to the MIT Programme?

Yes, students progressing from PGCert IT or PGDipIT can credit transfer Level 8 courses from these qualifications to the MIT Programme, subject to approval.

3: How can I confirm my study plan and options before enrolment?

MIT students can consult the School of Innovation, Design and Technology Programme Manager (Tony Assadi) or the Postgraduate Research Coordinator (Dr Marta Vos) to confirm their study plans and course options.

4: How do I gain approval for my research proposal?

Approval is obtained during the 15-credit compulsory Research Proposal course (IT8502). IT8502 must be completed before enrolling in IT9501 Applied Research Project. For IT9502 Thesis, IT8502 must be completed before enrolment or taken concurrently with IT9502.

5: How do I pick a research topic?

Research topics are typically selected towards the end of the first trimester or during the trimester break. Students may propose their own topics, or they will be matched with a research area and supervisor based on their interests and expertise.

6: Does the MIT programme provide additional Industry-based courses or internships?

Yes, MIT students may enrol in IT8524 Internship (30 credits), IT9506 Integrated Industry Project (30 credits), or both courses, depending on their approved study plan.

7: What is the estimated time commitment required for the 90-credit thesis and the 45-credit ARP projects?

The 45-credit Applied Research Project (ARP) must be completed within one trimester (approximately 15 weeks). Students are expected to dedicate approximately 25 hours per week to research over a 14-week period. The 90-credit thesis requires 12 months to complete, with students allocating at least 22 hours per week over 40 weeks.

8: What is the suggested word limit for the ARP and thesis?

The suggested word limit for the 45-credit Applied Research Project (ARP) (IT9501) is 15,000 to 20,000 words, excluding the abstract, acknowledgements, references, and appendices. The 90-credit thesis (IT9502) should not exceed 40,000 words.

9: What are the submission and examination processes for the thesis and ARP?

Details of the submission and examination process for both the thesis and the ARP are available in the MIT Handbook and on Moodle. A copy of the handbook is available on Moodle under the PostGradIT site. Students should note that thesis examination can take four to six weeks after submission, and this process cannot be expedited.

10: When can I get my results?

Once a student submits their thesis or ARP for examination, the result is normally available within four weeks. An official course completion letter and academic record will be available once the examination process has been finalised.

11: What structure and template do I need to use for the final submission of my thesis or ARP report?

The report structure and formatting guidelines for the thesis and ARP are outlined in the MIT Handbook. Students can also access the required templates and instructions on the ARP/Thesis page in Moodle.

12: What is the timeline for the 90-credit thesis and the 45-credit ARP projects?

For the latest deadlines and due dates for submission, examination, and final approvals for each trimester, please refer to the Postgraduate IT site on Moodle.

13: Can I take a mix of coursework and research to graduate from MIT?

Yes, students can combine coursework with either the 45-credit Applied Research Project (ARP) or the 90-credit thesis, depending on their study plan. However, students who wish to complete the coursework-only pathway must complete at least 45 credits at Level 9.

14: Can I change my study pathway after enrolment?

Yes, students may switch from one pathway to another (e.g., from the coursework-only pathway to the ARP or thesis pathway) provided they meet the necessary prerequisites and obtain approval from the school. However, switching pathways may impact the overall duration of the MIT programme.

15: Can I work while studying?

Yes, but students should be aware of the estimated time commitment. Full-time students are expected to dedicate at least 25 hours per week to their research project (ARP) or at least 22 hours per week to their thesis. Part-time study options are available, but students should consult the Programme Manager to determine an appropriate balance of workload.

16: What resources are available to support my research?

Students have access to research supervision, online learning resources via Moodle, library services, Turnitin for originality checks, and postgraduate student seminars. Ethical approval and research methods training are also provided through the IT8501 (Research in IT) and IT8502 (Research Proposal) courses.

17: What support is available for selecting a research topic?

Students will have opportunities to discuss research topics with potential supervisors and may either propose their own topic or be matched with a research area that aligns with their interests. Topic selection is typically finalised towards the end of the first trimester or during the trimester break.

18: What happens if I don't complete my ARP or thesis within the required time?

If students do not complete their ARP or thesis within the expected timeframe (one trimester for ARP and one year for the thesis), they must apply for an extension. Extensions require Programme Manager approval and may incur additional enrolment fees. In some cases, students may also need to re-enrol.