The University of the West Indies (UWI)

Since its inception in 1948, The University of the West Indies (UWI) has evolved from a fledgling college in Jamaica with 33 students to a fully-fledged, regional University with close to 50,000 students. Today, The UWI is the largest, most longstanding higher education provider in the Commonwealth Caribbean, with three physical campuses in Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and an Open Campus, which altogether serves 17 English-speaking territories in the Caribbean: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, The British Virgin Islands, The Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos. The UWI's faculty and students come from more than 40 countries and the University has collaborative links with 160 universities globally; it offers undergraduate and postgraduate degree options in Food and Agriculture, Engineering, Humanities and Education, Law, Medical Sciences, Science and Technology and Social Sciences. The UWI's priority focal areas are linked closely to the priorities identified by CARICOM and overall development of the Caribbean region.

The introduction of this new BSc Software Engineering (Mobile Application Technologies) is envisioned as the launch pad for Caribbean technology innovation and entrepreneurship, and directly aligned to The UWI's mission of supporting Caribbean development.

The Global Institute of Software Technology (GIST)

The Global Institute of Software Technology (GIST) is a Jiangsu government approved IT specialist college in China. Its IT syllabus was set up in conjunction with Microsoft (China) Co Ltd and with Suzhou Science City in the Hi-Tech Park. In June 2016, Wuzhong Group, one of the top 500 enterprises in China, participated in the collaboration and became a new host of GIST. GIST has two campuses. The Suzhou New District (SND) campus is located in Suzhou Hi-Tech park area in the western part of Suzhou, with a 10,000 student capacity. GIST also offers educational programmes at its SIP campus located within the Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP).

GIST enrolled its first batch of 1,800 students in September 2007. Today the College has over 4,700 students pursuing courses in software engineering and information technology. GIST's operating philosophy is to combine theory and practice, and expose software graduates to international standards. Hence, "International Cooperation, Production-Study-Research Integration" are combined into practice in its unique education model of "Classroom-Teaching-Project Simulation-Paid Practicum", covering both the teaching of software technology and foreign languages (English and Japanese). GIST's vision is to prepare students with world-class professional competence for successful careers in a global society.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Bringing Innovation to the Caribbean's Development Agenda

Linking the East & the West

New BSc Software Engineering (Mobile Application Technologies)

The UWI China Institute of Information Technology (UWICIIT), was formed through an agreement between The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Suzhou Global Institute of Software Technology (GIST) and was officially opened in September of 2016. Both universities have come together to pave 'a silk road for education', linking China to the Caribbean and the rest of the western world.

The UWICIIT is the first institute of its kind in the hemisphere, which aims to foster collaboration between the Caribbean and China. It has the endorsements of regional governments, CARICOM and the Chinese Government.

The Institute offers state-of-the-art software engineering training, development, research and services. It will have its main offices in Barbados, with additional sites across the Caribbean.

About the BSc Software Engineering

In the first instance, The UWICIIT offers a BSc Software Engineering programme with a major in Mobile Application Technologies.

The programme is offered as a 2+2 programme, with students spending the first two years at The University of the West Indies and the succeeding two years at GIST in China. Students then have an opportunity to complete a six-month, paid internship at an IT company in the Suzhou Industrial Park (the "Silicon Valley" of China).

While English is the primary language of instruction for the programme, Chinese language and cultural training are also provided as a part of the curriculum. Students completing the two years at GIST receive a GIST diploma in addition to The UWI degree.

This collaborative programme offered by The UWI and GIST is well aligned with the local, regional and international computing industries' needs.

This unique programme offers:

- Core software engineering training which is aligned with the latest ACM/IEEE Software Engineering standards;
- Training in research methods and technical writing;
- Training in ethics and professional conduct;
- A concentration in mobile application technologies which includes training in both the Android and iOS development environments;
- Chinese language training which is aligned with the Hànyǔ Shuǐpíng Kǎoshì (HSK) Chinese language proficiency standard;
- Exposure to and knowledge of Chinese society, traditional culture, governance and business (with special emphasis on information technology (IT) based businesses);
- IT certifications, which will be issued by the given IT certification body;
- A paid six-month internship programme at an IT company in China (for example, at a Fortune 500 company in Suzhou Industrial Park, known as the "Silicon Valley" of China); and,
- The award of a degree from The UWI and a diploma from The GIST), delivered in a 2+2 format.

Programme Structure

YEAR 1*

SEMESTER 1
- An Introduction to Computing I
- An Introduction to Computing II
- Mathematics for Software Engineers
- Computing in Society
- Research Methods for Software Engineers

SEMESTER 2
- An Introduction to Object Oriented Programming
- Software Engineering Essentials
- Mobile Web Programming
- Current & Future Trends in Computing for Software Engineers
- Technical Writing for Software Engineers

YEAR 2*

SEMESTER 1
- Discrete Mathematics for Software Engineers
- An Introduction to Software Engineering
- Computer Networking & Security
- Computer Systems Organization
- Beginner Chinese Language, Culture & Society

SEMESTER 2
- An Introduction to the Analysis of Algorithms
- Object Oriented Design and Implementation
- An Introduction to Requirements Engineering
- Database Systems
- Beginner Chinese Language & IT Business Environments

YEAR 3†

SEMESTER 1
- Software Modelling
- Android Application Development I
- Software Architecture
- Web & Mobile Application Development I
- Software Project Management

SEMESTER 2
- Software Testing
- Android Application Development II
- Application Development for IOS Devices
- Web & Mobile Application Development II
- Formal Methods and Software Reliability

YEAR 4†

SEMESTER 1
Year 4 will comprise of practical training in Software Engineering and will include:
- Courses in advanced Software Engineering topics
- Entrepreneurship
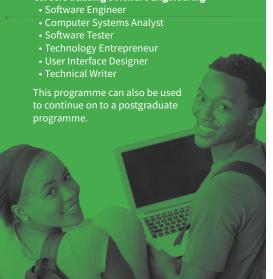- Software Engineering Certifications and
- A Capstone project

*Years 1 and 2 are offered in the Caribbean by The UWI.

The two required UWI Foundation Courses must be completed by the end of Year 2.

†Years 3 and 4 are offered in China by the GIST.

Careers utilising Software Engineering
- Software Engineer
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Software Tester
- Technology Entrepreneur
- User Interface Designer
- Technical Writer

This programme can also be used to continue on to a postgraduate programme.

Entry Requirements

In order to be admitted to the four-year degree programme, candidates must satisfy The UWI's requirements for full matriculation into the Faculty of Science and Technology. The requirements state that candidates must possess a minimum of five (5) CSEC (CXC) General Proficiency (Grades I-III) or GCE O-Level subjects, including English Language and Mathematics, two (2) approved laboratory science subjects and one (1) other subject. It is also mandatory that candidates:

i. Have obtained passes in four Units at Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE), at least two Units in one subject, all at Grade V or better (or equivalent qualification). One of the CAPE subjects must be an Approved Mathematics subject and the other an Approved Science subject; or

ii. Have an approved Associate Degree with a GPA of 2.5 or higher, (or equivalent qualification) from a Tertiary Level Institution. (N.B. Candidates must also satisfy any UWICIIT specific requirements); or

iii. Have the international student matriculation equivalent.

The language of instruction is English and applicants whose native language is not English may be required to take an English Proficiency Test set on behalf of the Board for Undergraduate Studies.

Applicants may, at the discretion of the Board for Undergraduate Studies, be required to take a qualifying examination in order to satisfy the Board of their suitability to undertake the courses leading to the BSc Software Engineering degree.

Programme Fees

The fees for Years 1 and 2 of the programme are USD $10,000 per year for courses delivered at The UWI.

The fees for Years 3 and 4 of the programme, hosted in China is CYN ¥60,000 per year for courses delivered at GIST. Living costs are approximated at CYN ¥37,500 per year, which include housing in Suzhou Industrial Park, food, transportation, insurance and other miscellaneous costs.

Flexible payment plans/options are available.

Paid Internship
A paid six-month internship upon graduation is included as part of the programme, which allows students to earn at least CYN ¥2,000 – ¥2,500 per month.