

MSIT and MSIT-BIDA program (Fall 2021) FAQs on Program matters for new students

Q: Where can I find information on academic matters of the MSIT/MSIT-BIDA program – academic calendar, study plans, handbook, etc?

A: Some useful links:

- [CMU-A's website](#) – Academic Calendar, Study Plans, Class Schedule, Handbooks
- [AtAustralia Portal](#) – Tartans Forum, Zoom, Canvas, Panopto (recorded lectures), FAQs, list of IT services, etc.
- [Heinz College website](#) – SIO (course registration/schedule), Petition Forms, Career Services
- [Heinz Course catalog](#) – review course description
- [CMU Schedule of Classes](#) – elective courses

Q: What courses should I register in my first semester of studies at CMU-A?

A: Students typically complete 48 to 54 units of courses in their first semester. Please refer to the study plans on [CMU-A's website](#).

Q: How do I register for courses for the Fall 2021 semester?

A: There is no action required from your end. The Programs team will register courses for your first semester. They will follow courses listed on the study plan published on the [CMU-A's website](#).

Q: When will the courses for Fall 2021 semester be registered?

A: We expect to start registration of courses from the week July 5, 2021.

Q: How can I view my course registrations?

A: You can view your course registration and schedule on the [Student Information Online \(SIO\)](#)

Q: Can I register for elective courses?

A: Students are expected to be registered for 36 to 42 units of core courses in the Fall21 semester. You may choose to register for an additional elective course (the maximum units is 54 units in each semester). Please lodge your request to [Pixie Yeap](#), Director of Programs or [Kimberley Zerella](#), Graduate Programs Administrator. Requests will be reviewed and finalized in early August.

Q: Must I take the exemption exams offered?

A: No, all exemption exams are optional. If you pass the exemption exam, you will need to replace the same number of units exempted with elective courses. Your total units required for graduation will NOT be reduced.

Q: I am interested to take an exemption exam. How can I register for an exemption exam?

A: We expect to hold exemption exams in late July for selected courses for students matriculating in the Fall 2021 semester. Please register your interest by completing [an Expression of Interest form](#). More information on exemption exams is available on the AtAustralia student portal.

Please note that students have only one attempt the exemption exam for a course.

Q: Can I take a specialization?

A: Students enrolled in the MSIT program may choose to complete the Information Security specialisation offered at CMU-A by completing a selected set of electives. The courses taken for specialisation are regarded as part of the elective courses required for the program. Students should consult the advisor and carefully plan course selection to ensure all courses (taking into consideration any pre-requisites) can be completed within the expected duration of program. Students must not exceed the maximum enrolment of 54 units in each semester.

Please note that you are not required to declare a specialisation. Students can complete the MSIT program without a specialisation.

Q: Who can I contact to discuss my course selection?

A: You may contact your academic advisor* ([Prof Riaz Esmailzadeh](#) or [Prof Murli Viswanathan](#), please check on SIO), [Pixie Yeap](#), Director of Programs or [Kimberley Zerella](#), Graduate Programs Administrator.

**Note: students would need to be issued a CoE to be assigned an academic advisor.*

Q: What is Career Academy and how can I participate?

A: Heinz College Career Services offers two programs to spark your career journey before your first semester begins: Career Academy and Career Services Orientation. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of both opportunities. Career Academy is a series of online modules focusing on key professional development topics, over the course of 10 weeks. Career Services Orientation is an interactive 2-day deep-dive, where you get to meet our staff and kick-off your professional journey at Heinz College!

Career Academy was launched on June 11, 2021 – for more information, please visit the website - <https://www.heinz.cmu.edu/current-students/career-services/career-academy>