

Mainframe Success With the University of Surrey



IBM Academic Initiative System z University Programme for Europe

- The First IBM led Mainframe university module
- Students visit Hursley as part of the course conclusion

The University of Surrey is the first to run a Mainframe module in the UK as part of their [MSc in Internet Computing](#).

The Mainframe module aims to teach University students the Mainframe skills that are required by IBM and its customers. It is part of -

“IBM Academic Initiative System z University Programme for Europe.”

The programme has a target of 20,000 new graduates with Mainframe skills by 2010; a worldwide target that is expected to be met and exceeded.

One very important aspect is customer involvement. The programme needs IBMers who work with Mainframe customers, and who are interested in collaborating or pairing with a University on this topic to encourage this approach. Universities highly value this type of input from industry.

We currently have 16 UK universities actively engaged in the Programme for whom customer involvement may re-ignite interest to develop highly valued skills that will differentiate their graduates in the marketplace.

There is support within the Academic Initiative to enable this collaboration. For more information please contact Matthew Watts or Malcolm Beattie to get a better understanding of the programme and its benefits to our customers.

The completion of this course at the University of Surrey provides a check point for the programme. Valuable experiences and lessons have been learnt throughout the time with Surrey and these lessons will be taken forward in order to better engage other Universities in the future.

The full value of the IBM System z University Programme for Europe relies upon IBMers giving up their time to prepare materials and teach to students.

Thank you to all who contributed to the course at the University of Surrey. Also thanks to those who contributed to the students' Open Day at Hursley. The day really helped to round off the course and learning points well, whilst also providing the opportunity to introduce managers to some of the University talent on offer.

University of Surrey students completed the 'IBM Mainframe Computing' module as part of their MSc. The course was based on the freely available IBM Redbook "Introduction to the new Mainframe: z/OS basics."

The module covered many aspects of Large Systems computing including; hardware, OS, database management, system programming, JCL, transaction management, ISPF and more...

* The Redbook is available at - www.redbooks.ibm.com

The wide range of topics required a number of different people and skill sets. This is where universities really benefit from working with IBM.

Overall eight IBMers were involved in the teaching at Surrey to varying degrees.

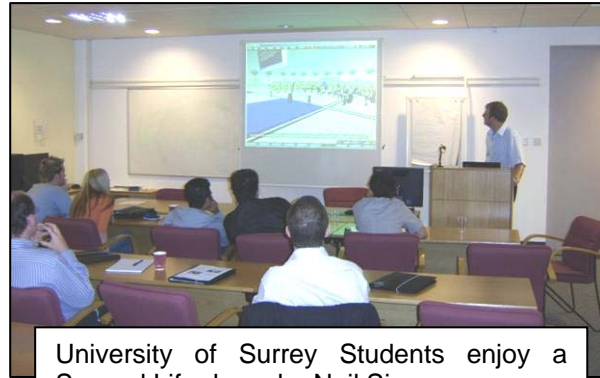
Thanks are owed to – Malcolm Beattie (SWG), Garry Geokdjian (STG), Pete Siddall (Hur Lab), Niel Kenyon (SWG), Mike Bracey (SWG), Andrew Wilkinson (SWG), Russell Bonner (SWG) and Matthew Watts (SWG).

The University had access to the skills and experience from all areas of IBM. The IBMers provided a real world, real customer context for the teaching materials and hands on classes.

In return the IBMers had the opportunity to teach and make an impression of IBM for the students, a rewarding process for all involved.



University of Surrey Students with some of the IBMers who taught on the module.



University of Surrey Students enjoy a Second Life demo by Neil Simpson.

IBM Hursley Open Day

Having successfully piloted the IBM led Mainframe course as part of the System z University Programme for Europe, the students from Surrey visited Hursley for an Open Day on June 14th. The day included a tour of the Hursley machine room, a chance to meet some IBM managers to chat about careers at IBM and numerous presentations on various topics including [Second Life](#) and an executive view of IBM.

The students appreciated the time at Hursley. The day helped them get an insight into IBM as a company and as an employer.

All the students were impressed with the career opportunities that are available with IBM. The flexibility of IBMers and the way IBM functions is major draw to the company. This direct link to industry is one of the key strengths of the course; the customer and IBM interest in the skills taught on the course acted as a good motivator for the students.

The final presentation of the day gave the students an insight as to what life is like working for IBM.

Application + Integration Middleware Software Director for CICS Products, Dave Andrews gave an Executive view of careers at IBM; the routes to apply, the benefits of IBM as an employer as well as his story so far.



University of Surrey Students get an insight into IBM from Software director Dave Andrews.

An important message was that having attended and succeeded on the course the students have been provided with a 'foot in the door' of IBM. For the right type of person, this is a good starting block for a future with IBM.

The kinds of skills developed on the course are in demand from customers and IBM alike. The visit day allowed the students to see this and acted as a good reward for their hard work on the course.

For University relations information or assistance please contact Malcolm Beattie or Matthew Watts. For more information about the System z University Programme for Europe visit - ibm.com/university

The Redbook used as the basis of the teaching materials on the course can be found at: ibm.com/abstracts/sq246366.html

Student comments on the course

"This course has broadened my horizons and brought me closer to real industry."

- Evangelos Pournaras

"This has been a great experience to learn about IBM Mainframes."

- Shahid Masood Awan

"A really exiting course! Taking you away from the traditional PC world and into the Mainframe world."

-Syed Shabbir

"I thoroughly enjoyed the course and believe I made the right choice in taking the module."

- Nick Anderson

"I enjoyed the course very much, would love to have seen a client site. An excellent experience."

- Michelle Greensit

"The course has given me valuable opportunities to approach the latest and newest IBM technologies."

- Bin Li



University of Surrey Students enjoy the Open Day at Hursley.



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