Study Pathways - Master of Information Technology (MIT)

The Master of Information Technology (MIT) requires the successful completion of a minimum of 180 credits from level 8 and level 9 courses. There are three pathways for completing 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 is suitable grounding work for higher studies at the PhD level in New Zealand or overseas. The research produced can lead to scientific publication. The thesis enables the student to undertake significant independent research. The student typically begins their thesis in their second trimester of study as shown in Tables 1 and 2.

There are two supervisors for the 90-credit thesis and two examiners, one of whom is external to Whitireia/WelTec. Full-time students must complete their thesis within 12 months from 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) (IT9501) requires a shorter research report than a thesis but follows the same research process and final report structure. The time allowance for the ARP is significantly shorter, with completion typically required within one trimester (approximately 15 weeks). Students can undertake the ARP through two pathways, as outlined in Tables 3 and 4.

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

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

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 instead of undertaking a research project.

This option is ideal for students who prefer practical and theoretical coursework rather than independent research, as it allows them to engage with advanced IT topics without the need for a thesis or 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. Table 5 and 6 outline potential study plans for students undertaking the course work -only option in MIT.

To graduate from the MIT with the coursework pathway, students need to gain a minimum of 45 credits at Level 9.

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

Table 1: IT9502 Thesis (Option A)

1st Trimester of study	Credits	2nd Trimester of study	Credits	3rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	**Research Proposal ***	15	**Thesis* continues**	60
Elective 1	15	**Thesis * begins**	30		
Elective 2	15	Elective 4	15		
Elective 3	15				
	60		**60**		**60**

* Compulsory courses

Table 2: IT9502 Thesis (Option B)

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

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

1st Trimester of study	Credits	2nd Trimester of study	Credits	3rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	**Research Proposal ***	15	**ARP ***	45
Elective 1	15	Elective 4	15	Elective 7	15
Elective 2	15	Elective 5	15		
Elective 3	15	Elective 6	15		
	60		60		60

Table 4 - Pathway two, IT9501 ARP Option B

1st Trimester of study	Credits	2nd Trimester of study	Credits	3rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	**Research Proposal ***	15	**ARP ***	45
Elective 1	15	Elective 4	15	Elective 6	15
Elective 2	15	Elective 5 (Internship)	30		
Elective 3	15				
	60		**60**		**60**

Pathway Three: Coursework-only

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

Table 5 – Pathway three, Option A

1st Trimester of study	Credits	2nd Trimester of study	Credits	3rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	Level 8 Elective 4	15	Level 8 Elective 6	15
Level 8 Elective 1	15	Level 8 Elective 5	15	Level 8 Elective 7	15
Level 8 Elective 2	15	Level 9 Elective 1	15	Level 9 Elective 3	15
Level 8 Elective 3	15	Level 9 Elective 2	15	Level 9 Elective 4	15
	60		**60**		**60**

Table 6 - Pathway three, Option B

1st Trimester of study	Credits	2nd Trimester of study	Credits	3rd Trimester of study	Credits
Research in IT *	15	Level 8 Elective 4	15	Level 8 Elective 5	15
Level 8 Elective 1	15	Level 8 Internship	30	Level 9 Elective 2	15
Level 8 Elective 2	15	Level 9 Elective 1	15	Level 9 industry project	30
Level 8 Elective 3	15				
	60		**60**		**60**

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 Postgraduate Certificate (PGCertIT) or Diploma (PGDipIT) to the MIT Programme?
Yes, students progressing from PGCertIT 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). This course must be completed before enrolling in IT9501 (ARP) or taken concurrently with IT9502 (Thesis).

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 can enrol in either the industry integrated project (30 credits) or the internship (30 credits). Both are elective courses that require Programme Manager approval before enrolment.

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 around 25 hours per week to research over a period of 14 weeks. 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 regarding the submission and examination process for both the thesis and ARP are available in the MIT Handbook and Moodle. A copy of the handbook is accessible on Moodle under the PostGradIT site. Students should note that thesis examination can take up to 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, they can request a completion confirmation letter stating they have met the requirements of the course. However, an official course completion letter and academic record will only be available after the examination process is 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 date regarding 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 fulfil the requirement of 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 in MIT?
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 with the Programme Manager to determine an appropriate workload balance.

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.