



Distance learning with Kingston

The Kingston Centre for GIS Distance Learning Programme goes from strength to strength and gets the thumbs-up from students

The GIS Distance Learning Programme offered by Kingston University's Centre for GIS was established in the mid-1990s to provide an introduction to the concepts and practical application of GIS. Since its inception, the programme has successfully educated over 800 students world-wide and continues to provide an essential grounding for those new to GIS or working in the field and looking to develop an academic qualification.

Although not a formal qualification, the programme has recently been awarded Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accreditation by the Association for Geographic Information (AGI) and is often described as a stepping stone ... one that allows those with no formal training to gain a foundation before progressing, often directly, to a postgraduate course.

From the outset, the philosophy of the course has been to provide a flexible training solution that allows students to study at their own pace while receiving support from a tutor at Kingston University. The programme has also been successfully delivered as an onsite day release programme for groups of 12 staff.

Over the years the programme has been incrementally updated and augmented. In 2005, the Kingston Centre for GIS undertook a major update, revising existing and writing new modules, and integrating interactive electronic e-learning materials to complement the current range of supplementary teaching resources.

Latest developments

From January 2007 the new programme will comprise eight Modules; descriptions are provided overleaf. All Modules will consist of eight study

units encompassing course notes, exercises and assessments.

The Modules may be taken individually or in sequence as a complete course, each taking approximately 48 hours of study to complete. Modules come complete with a wealth of supporting materials including textbooks, commercial software (both MapInfo and ESRI), magazine subscriptions and AGI membership. In addition, a range of interactive electronic e-learning materials will accompany the course. Students learn at their own pace, with full support provided by academic staff. There is also the option to attend specifically designed student workshops at the annual Cities Revealed Event (Cambridge, 25-26 January 2007) at a discounted rate.

These modifications will help to ensure that the Distance Learning Programme maintains its position as a global leader in its field and continue to provide the foundation education required by GI professionals to enhance their career development.

more info

The Kingston Centre for GIS Distance Learning Programme is written and delivered by Kingston University. Marketing and administration is provided by Training4GIS, part of The GeoInformation Group. To find out more about the Programme, contact Linda Baron at lindab@citiesrevealed.com or call 01223 880077



Kingston University London

The Kingston experience: students in their own words

Barry Young. GIS Officer, Information Services, Dumfries & Galloway Council

Started: 2000 completed all 4 Modules in 2004

I had been working with GIS for 3 years before commencing the Kingston GIS Distance Learning Programme in September 2000. I was fortunate in that I was encouraged to complete the modules as part of my career development within Dumfries and Galloway Council, with whom I have recently been appointed as GIS Officer. Being Distance learning meant that I could complete the units at my own pace and the course did not infringe on my work time. To date, I have completed the first four modules and have found them all to be very beneficial and would thoroughly recommend the course to anyone wishing to develop their career in GIS.



should know what I'm doing, it turns out I don't and that I'm simply an end user. Once I've completed this course I hope to move up the ranks and manage a GIS section within my company.

Nina Carr. Senior GIS Support Specialist - GIMS (Pty) Ltd, South Africa

My career in GIS started in 1994 at the Gold Fields Mining and Development's Geological Centre's GIS Unit. In 1998 I started at GIMS (Pty) Ltd in the Projects Department and later the Support Department without any formal GIS qualifications in 2003 I enrolled to do the Kingston Certificate.

The Kingston Certificate was ideal in providing a formal qualification. All areas of GIS are covered and clearly explained. The knowledge gained especially in the Remote Sensing, Data Analysis and Database Design modules was very beneficial and has made me lot more confident talking to people about GIS.



James King, Mouchel Parkman Ltd.

Started October 2005

I had been trying to find a course that offered more than just teaching you the basics of GIS, and came across the Kingston University website, even better it was distance learning.

I haven't studied in eight years and was never very good at it anyway so getting started was the hardest part. Having used GIS for the past three years I thought I



Tammy Ross. Sedgefield Borough Council. Course dates:

March 2005 to August 2005

Having gained employment in the field of GIS I felt it was important to reinforce my professional career with a relevant qualification. On researching various courses available I found Kingston's GIS Professional Training Programme the most suitable. Thanks to the flexibility offered in complet-



module descriptions

Module 1 Introduction to GIS

A comprehensive introduction to the underlying geographical and technological concepts of GIS

Module 2 Applied GIS

A practical course on how appropriate spatial data can be used for geographical analysis and problem solving

Module 3 GIS Techniques

Introduces more advanced procedures and examines the concepts of error and uncertainty and how they might affect analysis undertaken using GIS

Module 4 Satellite and Aerial Imagery

Examines the main principles and characteristics of imagery and the role of image interpretation and manipulation

Module 5 Map Design for GIS

Practical training in the principles of map design and effective communication of geographical and spatial information

Module 6 Historical Data: Maps and Imagery

Examines the development of aerial photography and cartographic data and illustrates the skills required to interpret these historical sources to examine changes in environmental and human phenomena.

Module 7 Geodemographics

Examines main sources of population data and explores ways they can be used to characterise the places where people live and work. How to add your own data to official statistical sources to help you better understand your customers

Module 8 GIS at Work

A series of videoed guest lectures involving speakers from industry, government and academia presenting on topics from the GI industry. Delivered as 'threads' which students select as part of a reflective, workplace based, module

ing the modules, I was able to work at my own pace. The course enabled me to develop a greater understanding of the issues surrounding GIS and empowered me to put into practice in the workplace many of the ideas it introduced. My main goal on completing the Programme was to apply for the MSc in Geographical Information Systems and Management offered by UNIGIS. I successfully enrolled onto this course in September 2005 and hope to complete the MSc in 2008.

John Sweeney MSc., Revaluation Unit, Valuation Office, Dublin.

Course dates: Sept 1994 to July 1996. UNIGIS: Sept 1996 to June 1999 I enrolled with Kingston University under Teresa Connolly for three modules in GIS. This was the ideal approach not only learn the concepts of GIS but also to develop contacts in the wider GIS community. Indeed, it was mainly thanks to coaching and encouragement from Teresa and Kingston plus sponsorship from my employer that I continued my studies in GI at Manchester University and gained a diploma and MSc.



The Valuation Office now has one of the best-regarded GIS systems in the public/private sectors in Ireland with all commercial properties geocoded and complete seamless digital coverage. This will be especially beneficial as the office progresses to revalue all the commercial properties in the state in the coming years.

Stephen Holt. Digital Imaging Officer, Regeneration, Housing and Neighbourhoods, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

Kingston Centre for GIS Distance Learning Programme

In 1999, I decided to embark on a course leading to a professional qualification. Having considered various options, the Kingston University GIS Professional Training Programme provided the ideal springboard to develop my GIS skills and knowledge in an academic environment. The programme modules have been designed to guide and challenge the student through their studies.

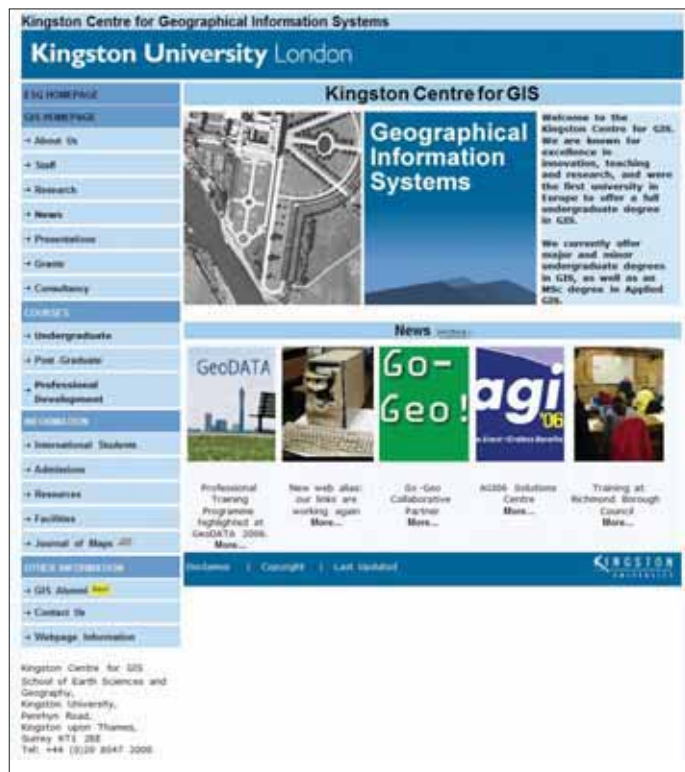


The content is broad but, at the same time, allows the opportunity for the student to expand on their own areas of interest. The support received from the Course Tutor and Training 4 GIS staff is excellent throughout.

On completion in 2001, I enrolled on the UNIGIS course delivered through Salford University, which culminated in the award of a PgDip in Geographical Information Systems in 2003. This has allowed me to gain a promotion with my present employer.



If anyone is considering the Kingston University GIS Professional Training Programme I would recommend it without hesitation.



In 1989, Kingston University offered the first GIS undergraduate degree in Europe. This was followed by several MSc and PhD research degrees. There are now strong and active undergraduate and postgraduate groups within the Centre, in addition to a Professional Training Programme. Staff are also actively involved in Research and Consultancy. Kingston now claims to be the UK's foremost centre for GIS education and training, with one of the largest GIS programmes in Europe

Buncefield Oil Depot
Hemel Hempstead
January 28, 2006

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aerial imagery

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