

Master's Degree in Telecommunications Regulation and Policy
MRP (Telecommunications)¹ Programme Regulations
March 2005

1) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. (a) An Honours degree in Law, Economics, Policy, Engineering, Finance, Planning, Communications, Business or any other relevant field.

or

- (b) Suitable experience and/or qualifications deemed equivalent to the above, on the basis of special approval

and

2. A minimum of two years relevant professional work experience.

Note: Applicants who are currently pursuing a degree will not be admitted to the MRP programme.

3. Proficiency in English² – Applicants whose first language is not English, and who have not been awarded a degree from a university where English is the language of instruction, must normally meet **one** of the following English language proficiency requirements:

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) http://www.ielts.org	An overall score of 7.0 with at least 6.5 in the reading and writing components
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) http://www.ets.org/toefl	An overall score of 600 with a test of written English score of 4.5 (paper based) or An overall score of 250 with an essay writing score of 4.5 (computer based)

2) COURSE DELIVERY SCHEME³

The MRP (Telecommunications) is a part time programme delivered over two calendar years, predominantly over the Internet. Courses are delivered on a semester basis, with two (2) semesters per year.

¹ See Appendix 1 for alternate reference

² The MRP's proficiency in English stipulation is subject to university approval.

³ See Appendix 2 for delivery cycles

3) CURRICULUM

The MRP (Telecommunications) programme comprises the courses listed in Table 1. Note that seminars carry a weighting of one (1) credit each, while all other courses carry a weighting of three (3) credits. The final project carries a weighting of nine (9) credits.

Code	Title	Semester	Delivery	Weighting
RP68A	Public Policy Frameworks	1	Online	3 credits
RP68B	Contemporary Telecommunications Networks and Technologies	1	Online	3 credits
RP68C	Legal and Regulatory Frameworks	2	Online	3 credits
RP68D	Economics and Pricing in Telecom Networks	2	Online	3 credits
RP68E	Licensing of Telecommunications Services	3	Online	3 credits
RP68F	Interconnection in Telecommunications Networks	3	Online	3 credits
RP68G	Telecommunications Sector Planning	4	Online	3 credits
RP68H	The Regulatory State in Comparative Perspective	4	Online	3 credits
RP68I	Seminar 1	Pre-1	Face-face	1 credit
RP68J	Seminar 2	Pre-3	Face-face	1 credit
RP68K	Seminar 3	Post-4	Face-face	1 credit
RP68L	Project	Post-4	Individual	9 credits

Table 1 MRP (Telecommunications) Courses

4) ACADEMIC TEAM

The MRP (Telecommunications) programme is managed and delivered by a team of professionals:

- **Programme Coordinator** – overarching responsibility for programme
- **Deputy Programme Coordinator** – responsible for the planning and implementation of the seminar programme and offers consultative advice on curriculum
- **Programme Editor** – The Programme Editor is responsible for editorial support to all aspects of the programme and for copyright issues. The editor also ensures that each course website is ready for course delivery and ensures that all required reading resources are available in the programme e-reserves. The editor works with the WebCT Systems Administrator and other support staff to ensure timely posting of high quality course material throughout the semester.
- **Distance Learning Coordinator (DLC)** – is the single point of contact for students, academic staff, tutors and administrative support. The DLC is responsible for overall coordination and quality control of distance learning and teaching. The DLC keeps in regular contact with students and staff to apprise them of programme information and to support the MRP community.
- **Course Directors** – prepare course content and assessment exercises. They are responsible for grading all weighted course components and assigning final grades.

- **Tutors** – give regular in-course support, online, to a group of roughly fifteen (15) students for the duration of a course. Tutors review and give individual feedback to participants on non-weighted assignments. Tutors also actively participate in the online discussions and Chat Room sessions. Tutors are all professionals – some are academics, while others are practitioners in the field.
- **Programme Review Board** – comprising representatives from industry, CANTO (Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Operators), CTU (Caribbean Telecommunications Union), ECTEL (Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority), ITU (International Telecommunications Union) and relevant international university programmes. The Programme Review Board contributes to the development and oversight of programme aims and objectives.

5) ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Students will not be assessed via scheduled in-person examinations. They will be required to submit assessable assignments such as research papers or projects which demonstrate their ability to synthesize and critically assess course content.

In the event that there is a query about the authenticity of a student's submission, the mark will be withheld until such time as the appropriate procedure, outlined in the programme's Academic Integrity Policy, is executed to the satisfaction of the University.

6) ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

In general, policies in the "Regulations for Graduate Diplomas and Degrees" handbook published by the School for Graduate Studies and Research apply to MRP (Telecommunications) students. MRP specific policies and procedures include:

Academic Integrity Policy

Leadership and professional integrity are central to the programme's philosophy. These elements are among the focal points of workshop themes in the seminars. Plagiarism and other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated in the MRP (Telecommunications) programme. At the beginning of the programme, students will be made to sign that they agree to abide by the programme's Academic Integrity Policy and that they are the sole authors of all of their submissions. All submissions, weighted and non-weighted, will be subject to the scrutiny of manual and / or electronic plagiarism checks.

An area of great emphasis in programme delivery is the building and maintenance of an online community among students and staff. This is facilitated by the persistent online presence of the comprehensive academic support team and strengthened by the programme seminars. To minimize the risk of dishonesty, students will be encouraged by the programme team and mentors to spend substantial time on task. Statistics of student access to course websites will be posted to flag the importance of regular participation. Each course is designed with a rich set of regular in-course activities in which students are expected to participate. Submissions for some assignments will be posted publicly (to the class) for peer review.

In the event that a student's level of participation in in-course activities is low, the programme reserves the right to conduct synchronous interviews, remotely or in-person, to review the authenticity of submission authorship. If there is significant disparity between signature characteristics of a student's submissions and/or inconsistencies between the student's presentations and submissions, the programme reserves the right to conduct synchronous interviews to review the authenticity of the submission authorship.

The interviews will be conducted at a mutually convenient time either in-person or over some electronic media. The latter must include a live visual display of the interviewee. University rules on cheating will apply, in a timely manner, to all students found to be in breach of the programme's Academic Integrity Policy.

Degree Requirements

The programme comprises thirty-six (36) credits. In order to graduate from the programme, students must pass all thirty-six (36) credits with a mark of 50% or more in each element (individual courses, seminars and project). In order to pass an element, a mark of at least 50% must be achieved. A distinction is awarded for an overall mark of 70% or greater, averaged across all courses and seminars; in addition to a mark of 70% or higher on the final project.

Project

Students are encouraged to start articulating their project proposals by the end of the first year in the programme. The project officially starts when all online courses have been successfully completed. Students are nominally given three (3) months to complete and submit the project report. Students may be required to make presentations on their project work.

Failures/Resubmissions

If a particular course is failed on account of lack of submission of assessable assignment/s, students will have one chance to submit the original assignment/s. The resubmission must normally be made no later than two weeks into the following semester. A maximum grade of 50% can normally be given for a course which has been failed due to lack of timely submission. However, students' overall career averages are normally computed on the basis of a 0% for each course failed through lack of submission. In extenuating circumstances, well-supported compelling cases will be given due consideration.

If a particular course is failed by grade, students will have one chance to submit an alternate assignment. They must resubmit no later than two weeks into the following semester. A maximum grade of 50% can normally be given for a course which has originally been failed by grade. However, students' overall career averages are normally computed on the basis of the original mark for each course failed. In extenuating circumstances, well-supported compelling cases will be given due consideration.

If a student fails more than two (2) courses per academic year they will not be allowed to continue in the programme. Should extenuating circumstances prevent a student from successfully completing a course, he/she may request an exception to this policy with proper documentation. A student who has been disqualified from the programme as a result of failing more than two (2) courses in an academic year can reapply to the programme in two years from the date of withdrawal.

Request for Extensions

Students are required to submit work by the stated deadlines. Failure to submit results is a failure in the relevant course. Should extenuating circumstances such as severe illness prevent timely submissions, students may request an exception to this policy. Such requests must be submitted in writing and usually require comprehensive documentation.

Request for Withdrawals /Leave of Absence

If circumstances prevent a student from completing a course, they may request permission to withdraw from the course. However, because of the sequential nature of the program, students will need to pass the particular course before continuing in the program. They may also request a leave of absence from the programme under special circumstances. Such requests must be submitted in writing and usually require comprehensive documentation.

Other Procedures

With regards to procedures such as applications and registration, students will submit the required documents to the MRP (Telecommunications) office. Much of this will be submitted electronically through the programme website, <http://mrp.uwi.tt> and through faxed correspondence. After ensuring that all documents are in order, the MRP (Telecommunications) office will communicate all application materials to the appropriate campus offices.

Appendix 1: International Affiliations

The MRP (Telecommunications) programme is promoted through the regional and international telecommunications sector through a variety of means. For example, the programme will fall under the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) regional Centre of Excellence initiative. The ITU sends invitations directly to key organizations in the public telecommunications sector – ministries, regulatory bodies and operators.

Appendix 2: Course Delivery Cycle

The courses are delivered on a semester basis, with two (2) semesters per year. The courses will be delivered (subject to student numbers) at the dates shown in Table 2.

December 2003	RP68I (pilot)
January 2004	RP68A, RP68B (pilot)
September 2004	RP68C,RP68D (pilot); RP68A, RP68B
September 2004	RP68J (pilot); RP68I
January 2005	RP68C, RP68D; RP68E, RP68F (pilot)
June 2005	RP68G, RP68H (pilot)
September 2005	RP68K (pilot); RP68J; RP68I
September 2005	RP68A, RP68B; RP68E, RP68F; RP68L (pilot)
January 2006	RP68C, RP68D; RP68G, RP68H
June 2006	RP68L
September 2006	RP68I; RP68J; RP68K
September 2006	RP68A, RP68B;RP68E, RP68F;
January 2007	RP68C, RP68D; RP68G, RP68H
June 2007	RP68L
September 2007	RP68J;RP68K
September 2007	RP68E, RP68F;
January 2008	RP68G, RP68H
June 2008	RP68L
September 2008	RP68K

Table 2 Delivery Schedule for MRP (Telecommunications) Courses