



## research school of **informatics**

<b>Project Title:</b>	Towards an improvement of LIS graduates' ICT skills and employability (or the job market) needs in Kuwait
<b>Student Name:</b>	Hanadi Buarki
<b>Supervisor Name:</b>	Dr Mark Hepworth & Ian Murray
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<b>Department:</b>	Information Science

### **Project Description:**

Information handling and use have become integral to many job activities in the market, particularly in information related organizations. This is largely due to developments in electronic information resources and communications systems. These developments lead to the demand for employees with Information Communication and Technology (ICT) skills and as such have become a necessity in information handling institutions. Education institutions have a responsibility to develop students' ICT skills to reflect the job market needs. Therefore, to have a competent graduate with ICT skills, there is a need to identify, understand and develop three main elements; namely the students, the education curriculum and gain an understanding of the job market needs.

The importance of this research is to investigate the ICT skills of students in Kuwaiti Higher Education that are potentially needed by the Kuwaiti job market. The research on this started in July 2006. During the first year the research brought together the related literature, in an attempt to find related gaps. The reviewed literature revealed that there was a gap in certain Library and Information Science (LIS) graduates ICT skills that are needed by the job market. Graduates need to prove that they are able to respond to the needs of the market. The purpose of the research is to distinguish to what extent this is the case in Kuwait in terms of what is currently offered through LIS education, the roll of consulting professional associations' guidelines and employers, and the needs of the job market. It will also investigate what would facilitate or inhibit change and adoption, if change is necessary.