

STUDENT HANDBOOK

**BSc (HONS) COMPUTING MAJOR
WITH/WITHOUT DIPLOMA IN INDUSTRIAL
STUDIES/DIPLOMA IN AREA STUDIES**

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS

FACULTY OF COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING

MAGEE CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

COURSES' CO-ORDINATOR: DR HEATHER SAYERS

SEPTEMBER 2010 ENTRY

PROGRAMME AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Computing Major combines the subject of Computing with another discipline where one third of the course specialises in another discipline (the Minor subject). Current programmes include:

BSc Hons Computing with Accounting with/without DIS/DAS

BSc Hons Computing with Advertising with/without DIS/DAS

BSc Hons Computing with Economic Studies with/without DIS/DAS

BSc Hons Computing with French with/without DIS/DAS

BSc Hons Computing with Human Resource Mgt with/without DIS/DAS

BSc Hons Computing with Irish with/without DIS/DAS

BSc Hons Computing with Irish History with/without DIS/DAS

BSc Hons Computing with Management Studies with/without DIS/DAS

BSc Hons Computing with Marketing with/without DIS/DAS

BSc Hons Computing with Psychology with/without DIS/DAS

While the need for specialist computing graduates remains steady, increasingly there is a parallel demand for those versed in specialist subjects with computing. This poses a challenge to computing educationalists to broaden the curriculum and provide graduates effective in conceiving and implementing systems that will enhance organisational performance in diverse settings. This is a challenge that has been recognised globally and was the theme of a major report "Computing the Future" (CTF) issued by the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board of the U.S. National research Council. CTF encourages the development of a new breed of computer scientists capable of envisaging new technologies in the social contexts in which they will be used. Specific requirements suggested in CTF are for practitioners skilled in analysis of human organisations and practitioners with refined social analytical skills. CTF finally recommends that the way forward be an interdisciplinary one and that Computer Science staff should develop programmes along with colleagues in Social Sciences and Schools of Management.

The Computing Major with specialist subjects seeks to address these objectives. The Faculty of Computing and Engineering has, since its inception, fostered strong links with industry and continuously strives to respond to market need both locally and to wider European and global trends.

The inclusion of an industrial placement year prepares candidates for working careers in computing and their minor subject and sets their academic studies into the context of a variety of computer and human-computer applications.

All graduates from this course will have a high degree of skill in the development of quality software. The course will have prepared them for careers in computing in a variety of market sectors, including software houses, data processing and industrial computing. The course will also have prepared them to understand and work in a more business-oriented environment.

The aims of the BSc Degree with Honours are as follows:

(i) to provide a rigorous study of the theory and principles underlying modern applications of computing;

(ii) to develop a high degree of expertise in the application, integration and critical evaluation of a range of computing tools and facilities;

(iii) to develop an ability to use, compare and critically evaluate a range of formal and informal techniques, theories and methods applied to the development of applications of computing;

- (iv) to establish an understanding of the individual, social, organisational and economic implications of the application of computing;
- (v) to provide appropriate experience of working in the computing industry/business environment via a one year industrial placement;
- (vi) to develop in students the ability of carry out a programme of work with minimal supervision;
- (vii) to develop in students the ability to communicate effectively;
- (viii) to provide the expertise and understanding required to make a contribution to the future development of practice and theory in the computing/business industry.
- (ix) to stimulate an interest in computing as an academic discipline with a view to encouraging progression to postgraduate research.
- (x) to provide students with an opportunity to obtain an in-depth knowledge and understanding of selected areas of interest.
- (xi) to develop a range of transferable skills and enterprise competencies.

At the end of the BSc Honours degree graduates should be able to:

- (i) demonstrate a sound understanding of the fundamental principles, theories and practices underlying both the computing industry and computing as an academic discipline;
- (ii) contribute to the building, documentation, testing, management and evaluation of a range of computer applications;
- (iii) demonstrate a high level of expertise in the use of a range of computer hardware and software systems;
- (iv) choose and avail of a range of structured and integrated methods in the design and engineering of computer applications;
- (v) demonstrate an understanding of the principles underlying the design and performance of computer hardware and software systems;
- (vi) effectively communicate their ideas, proposals and designs to colleagues in the computing and business industries and to potential computer users with a range of levels of expertise;
- (vii) function effectively as part of a project team;
- (viii) carry out and manage a directed programme of work with minimal supervision;
- (ix) demonstrate an understanding of a range of business, administrative and professional environments within which computers are used and of the implications of their use for individuals, organisations and society;
- (x) demonstrate an appreciation of the role and responsibilities of the professional in the computing industry;

(xi) demonstrate an appreciation of the culture of rapid change and development in the computing industry.

(xii) demonstrate self-reliance in the use of the subject literature and other relevant sources of information.

(xiii) demonstrate a management perspective on the software development process

(xiv) demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing

(xv) demonstrate self reliance in the use of the literature and other relevant information sources

COURSE CONTENT

The Computing Major provides students with a “breadth first” approach which provides a firm foundation across the full range of the subject. Computing accounts for two-thirds of each combination degree. Students are given a sound foundation in all of the main themes of computing, while at the same time are provided with opportunities to combine the subject with other disciplines. The Magee Campus offers a range of combinations. The Computing Major modules are listed in the Programme Specification which follows, with each year reinforcing the learning from previous years. The final year project allows students in final year to choose freely from a range of subject areas which allow them to follow individual interests.

The following Programme specification details the computing modules associated with the computing Major. Modules offered within the chosen Minor combination can be accessed in the modular programme student’s handbook which can found at:

<http://www.ulster.ac.uk/campus/magee/mgcombinedstudy.pdf>

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

COURSE OR HONOURS SUBJECT TITLE: COMPUTING MAJOR

BSc (Hons) Computing with Specialisms with Diploma in Industrial Studies

BSc (Hons) Computing with Specialisms with Diploma in Area Studies

BSc (Hons) Computing with Specialisms

PLEASE NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the Computing Major and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he or she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. More detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found at <http://scis.ulster.ac.uk> and in the Student Handbook.

AWARD INSTITUTION/BODY:	UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER
TEACHING INSTITUTION:	UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER
LOCATION:	MAGEE
ACCREDITED BY:	None
FINAL AWARD:	BSc (Hons) Computing with Specialisms with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies BSc (Hons) Computing with Specialisms
MODE OF ATTENDANCE:	Full-time and Part-time
SPECIALISMS:	Accounting/Advertising/Economic Studies/French/Human Resource Management/Irish/Irish History/Management Studies/Marketing/Psychology
COURSE/UCAS CODE:	G400
DATE WRITTEN/REVISED:	2009/10

10. EDUCATIONAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

While the need for specialist computing graduates remains steady, increasingly there is a parallel demand for graduates versed in the application of computing within specific domains. This poses a challenge to computing educationalists to broaden the curriculum and provide graduates who are effective in conceiving and implementing computer systems in diverse settings. In support of this, offering Computing as a MAJOR subject aims to:

- provide graduates with a sound knowledge of the fundamentals of computing.
- enable students to obtain an in-depth knowledge within selected areas of interest outside of the traditional computing syllabus.
- develop the ability to identify, analyse and define problems in information flow and processing for which appropriate computer solutions can be implemented.
- develop a portfolio of computing competencies and transferable skills.

11. MAIN LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following reference points were used to inform the development of the programme and its learning outcomes:

- The QAA Computing subject benchmark statement (2000) (B);
- The British Computer Society Guidelines on Course Exemption and Accreditation (2001) (P);
- The University Qualifications and Credit framework;
- Computing Curricula 2005 (ACM/IEEE Computer Society);
- Current research and scholarship carried out by academic staff.

The course provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

11K KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBJECT

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- K1** Programming fundamentals, data structures and algorithms, information management, human-computer interaction (B).
- K2** Computer networks and web-based computing (B).
- K3** An engineering approach to the development of information systems in organisations (B,P).
- K4** Professional issues in information systems engineering (B).

Learning and Teaching Methods: Lectures, tutorials, seminars and practical sessions.

Assessment Methods: Coursework, written unseen examinations.

11I INTELLECTUAL QUALITIES

The ability to:

- I1** Justify and communicate the technical and organisational rationale for a particular software solution.
- I2** Formulate design specifications for constructing information systems and apply problem solving skills in their specification and implementation (B).
- I3** Relate professional, legal, moral and ethical issues to the engineering and use of information systems (B).
- I4** Apply computing science fundamentals to the comprehension and evaluation of highly interactive systems

Learning and Teaching Methods: Lectures, tutor-directed tutorials, supervised practical sessions and self-directed learning.

Assessment Methods: Coursework related to case studies and projects, written unseen examinations, workbooks and presentations.

11P PROFESSIONAL / PRACTICAL SKILLS

The ability to:

- P1** Specify, design, construct and test computer-based information systems (B).
- P2** Work collaboratively with others, recognising the different roles within a team and the different ways of organising teams (B,P).
- P3** Communicate technical information to technical, management, user and academic audiences (B).
- P4** Operate computing equipment effectively, based on an understanding of its software elements (B).
- P5** Work effectively in an industrial /commercial context (DIS version only).

Learning and Teaching Methods: Lectures, tutorials, problem-based seminars and practical sessions, project report.

Assessment Methods: Problem-based coursework, workbooks, project reports and dissertation.

11T TRANSFERABLE/KEY SKILLS

The ability to:

- T1** Learn in both familiar and unfamiliar situations making effective use of information retrieval skills and learning resources (B).
- T2** Communicate effectively using various media and with a variety of audiences (B).
- T3** Effectively use general information technology facilities (B).
- T4** Manage one's own learning and development including time management and organisational skills (B).
- T5** Integrate generic computing skills into knowledge domains beyond the traditional computing curriculum.

Learning and Teaching Methods: Lectures, tutorials, seminars and practical sessions.

Assessment Methods: Workbooks, project vivas, reports and dissertation.

11 PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES MAP – Computing Major / Computing Major with DIS/DAS

Please note: The matrix displays only the measurable programme outcomes and where these are developed and assessed within the modules offered in the programme. **Note:** Computing modules (COM) only are listed.

OUTCOMES																			
TITLES	CODE	K1	K2	K3	K4	I1	I2	I3	I4	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Level 1																			
Programming I	COM136	√		√		√	√			√	√					√	√	√	
Systems Analysis and Design	COM178	√		√		√	√			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	
Programming II	COM139	√		√		√	√			√	√						√	√	
Database Systems	COM162	√	√	√		√	√				√	√	√		√	√	√	√	
Level 2																			
Professional Issues	COM417				√			√					√		√		√	√	
Visual Programming	COM321	√	√	√		√	√			√			√				√	√	
Systems Development	COM419	√		√		√				√	√	√	√		√		√	√	
Human-Computer Interaction	COM350	√		√	√				√	√		√				√	√	√	
Computer Networks and Operating Systems	COM320		√	√		√	√		√			√	√			√	√	√	
Level 2																			
Industrial Placement (DIS)*	COM367				√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
Level 3																			
Internet Technologies	COM588		√	√	√			√	√	√			√				√		
Research Studies and Project Management	COM529	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√	√		√	
Final Year Project**	EEE521			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√
Natural Language Processing	COM566	√		√	√	√	√		√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	

*NOTE: The Diploma in Area Studies (DAS) module is organised at University level.

**NOTE: The Final Year Project runs over both semesters 1 and 2.

12 **STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD**

The course is normally of four years duration. Years 1, 2 and 4 are spent at the university and Year 3 is a period of industrial placement. The module structure is demonstrated in the following Structure Diagram.

Years 1, 2 and 3 consist of 120 credit points each with two 20 point modules of study at the appropriate level from the elected minor subject specialism each year. Year 3 consists of 60 credit points.

Computing modules in all years are prescriptive. This is intended to permit the candidate to achieve competency in software development, an appreciation of computer architecture, and a grounding in the principles and practices of Human Computer Interaction. The project enables the student to engage in a substantive piece of work comprising both theoretical and practical elements at an advanced level.

All students normally spend Year 3 (minimum period of 26 weeks) on placement. On satisfactory completion of the placement period the student is eligible for the award of Diploma in Industrial Studies. In exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Dean, students may be allowed to proceed to Level 6 without completing placement. Those students would not receive the award of DIS. A student who satisfactorily completes Year 3 in study abroad is eligible for the award of Diploma in Area Studies (DAS).

Satisfactory completion of each pre-final year of the course is normally a pre-requisite for progression to the subsequent year.

Satisfactory completion of Year 4 leads to the award of the degree.

BSc Hons Computing with Specialisms / BSc Hons Computing with Specialisms with DIS/DAS

Year 1 (Level 4) All modules are compulsory	20	COM178 System Analysis and Design	20	COM136 Programming I	20	Minor Module 1
	20	COM162 Database Systems	20	COM139 Programming II	20	Minor Module 2

Year 2 (Level 5) All modules are compulsory	20	COM419 Systems Development	10	COM417 Professional Issues	20	Minor Module 3
			10	COM321 Visual Programming		
	20	COM320 Computer Networks and Operating Systems	20	COM350 Human Computer Interaction	20	Minor Module 4

Year 3 (Level 5) (DIS/DAS only)	60	COM367 DIS Placement OR DAS Placement (organised at University level)				
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Year 4 Semester 1	20 Compulsory COM588 Internet Technologies	10 Compulsory COM529 Research Studies and Project Management	20 Compulsory Minor Module 5
Year 4 Semester 2	20 Compulsory EEE521** Final Year Project	20 Compulsory COM566 Natural Language Processing	20 Compulsory Minor Module 6

The CAT value/level is shown in the top left corner of each module.

**NOTE: the Final Year Project runs over both semesters 1 and 2.

The following support is provided for students and their learning:

- An Induction Programme for new students (all years) is held throughout the first weeks of each semester. This Induction Programme includes talks by the Courses' Coordinator, the PDP Coordinator, the Placement Tutor, and includes tours of the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) given by LRC staff.
- The Courses' Coordinator is available at specified hours for advice.
- A Course website provides an electronic version of the Student Handbook (including this document), an electronic notice board with daily notices and links to other on-line resources (Academic Affairs, Careers, Library, timetables etc).
- Students are supported by extensive library and other learning resources.
- The School of Computing and Intelligent Systems is resourced by a number of state-of-the-art computer laboratories with a wide range of software. New software is introduced as required per semester.
- All modules have an associated website with on-line learning support material (module specification, lecture notes, useful web links etc).
- Every student is allocated an email account and has full (24hours, 7 days a week) access to the computing laboratories and the Internet.
- Each student is allocated a personal Studies Advisor who is available for academic and academic-related advice.
- Placement units are dedicated to preparing students for placements and finding placement opportunities for students.
- Students are visited on placement by academic staff.
- Advertised availability hours for academic staff.
- Course notice board.
- Every student receives a hard copy of the Student Handbook (incorporating this document) which contains details of the following university services:
- Career Development Centre
- Information Services Department
- Student Support Department
- Sport and Recreation Department
- International Office (for international students)
- Students' Union
- Chaplaincy

Applicants must satisfy the University's general entry requirements as set out in the prospectus or demonstrate their ability to undertake the course through the accreditation of prior experiential learning (APEL). The initial offer standard may vary from year to year. See prospectus entry.

Year 2 Entry: Direct entry to Year 2 is only possible for suitably qualified candidates. Entry to the part-time course is at Level 5 (Year 2) only.

Mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning, assessment, the curriculum and outcome standards:

- Initial validation and regular revalidation exercises.
- Module reviews (including student input).
- Annual staff reviews.
- Regular Course Committee reviews.
- Course accreditation by external bodies.
- Annual Subject Monitoring report prepared by the Courses' Coordinator.
- Review of external examiner views expressed in assessment moderation, during Examination Board visits and in annual reports.
- Peer teaching observations and feedback.
- Review of employer views expressed through annual feedback surveys of employers of placement students and at meetings of the Faculty Industrial Liaison Panel.
- The National Student Survey.
- Student performance data and career progression.

Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality:

- Staff Student Consultative Committee.
- Course Committee.
- Board of Examiners.
- School Board (includes student members).
- Faculty Academic Affairs Committee (includes student members).
- University Teaching and Learning Committee.

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of their learning experience

- Staff-Student Consultative Committee.
- Student representatives on School and Faculty boards.
- Student Questionnaires.
- Placement reports.

Staff development includes:

- Updating in the subject through research and scholarship.
- Membership of professional bodies.
- University Staff Development Programme.
- Membership of the Higher Education Academy.
- Consultancy.
- Research and Knowledge Transfer.
- Representation on external working groups and committees.

16 REGULATION OF STANDARDS

Assessment rules

- Pass mark for modules is 40%.
- Degree classifications:
 - 1st class: Overall mark of at least 70%.
 - 2:1: Overall mark of at least 60% and less than 70%.
 - 2:2: Overall mark of at least 50% and less than 60%.
 - 3rd class: Overall mark of at least 40% and less than 50%.
 - The award of DIS/DAS requires an overall mark of 50% in the placement year. An overall mark of 70% is required for the award of 'Pass with Commendation'.
- Honours classification derives 100% from Level 6.

External examiners

There is one external examiner.

External examiners are academic subject or professional experts appointed from outside the University. Their key functions are to contribute to the assurance of the standards of the award and the fair treatment of students. They are involved in the moderation and approval of assessments and the moderation of the marking undertaken by internal examiners.

17 INDICATORS OF QUALITY RELATING TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

- The course is accredited by the British Computer Society.
- A large number of staff are members of the Higher Education Academy.
- All Computing courses were subject to a Faculty Subject Review during 2002, and participated in a Discipline Audit Trail (DAT) during an Institutional audit in 2005.
- In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise the Faculty of Computing and Engineering was ranked highly in Unit of Assessment 25 (Computer Science).
- All staff hold (or if not, are required to achieve) a postgraduate certificate in university teaching (PGCUT/PGCHET).
- The School has attracted external funding for teaching and learning initiatives, including the Wireless Broadband project (2003-2006).

Placement and Career Opportunities

Students spend Year 3 in relevant and supervised employment referred to as industrial placement. The first two years of the Programme are designed to provide the students with the knowledge and expertise they will need to extract maximum benefit from the placement experience.

Preparation for Placement/Employment

In addition to exploring the various aspects of the placement year and its relationship with other elements of the Programme, students are prepared for the application and selection procedures associated with placement and ultimately, employment. This includes advice on researching the market, completion of application forms, and preparation for interview. Much of this preparation takes place in Year 2 during a 'Placement Preparation' module (not formally timetabled). However, all Year 1 and 2 modules contribute to the desired portfolio of skills and in particular, the teamwork aspects will help to develop important inter-personal and group skills that are of increasing importance within the commercial environment.

There is a wide range of placement opportunities in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland, and from time to time some placements overseas. We will find several employers willing to consider you for placement. Selection is by competitive interview by the employer concerned. They will pay your interview expenses. There is no maintenance grant or loan during the placement year; instead you will receive a proper salary. The placement lasts for about 48 weeks. Students have reported in glowing terms on the value of the placement experience, and their placement employers have offered several eventual permanent positions. Similarly placement employers have reported very favourably on our students.

For the student, placement should ideally provide appropriate training and work based in a well organised team with a significant element of computing. It must provide a genuine opportunity for the student to develop towards professional competence. The Faculty of Computing and Engineering has built up contacts with many employing organisations that are in a position to provide suitable placements. While the precise nature of placements will vary from employer to employer, it is intended that students are initially given close supervision and guidance and are progressively given more responsibility as the placement proceeds. Before the end of placement students should be contributing as a full employee of the company. During placement each student is supervised by an industrial supervisor from the employing company and an academic supervisor from the Faculty of Computing and Engineering.

Normally, each student will receive at least two visits from an academic supervisor. However, special arrangements such as telephone, e-mail or video conferencing may be used to contact those students who are placed in geographically distant locations. These media may also be used to supplement the formal academic visits to other students if necessary.

The experience gained and the associated personal developments are subsequently drawn on during the final year of the BSc Programme. In some cases the final year project may stem directly from projects that have been identified during the placement year. Successful completion of the industrial placement is recognised by the award of the Diploma in Industrial Studies. Placements also help the Faculty to provide graduates with the qualities that employers require. The visits of academic supervisors to students on placement provide an ideal opportunity to obtain a view of the Programmes from an industrial perspective. The links with industry, which placement promotes, also help the Course Committee to keep abreast of changing industrial requirements and often lead to other joint ventures such as custom-built training Programmes, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and other collaborative research.

Placement offers an opportunity to use and enhance the skills developed during the first two years of the Programme in a work-based context. Each student's placement experience will be different depending on the employer but each placement is vetted by the University to ensure it offers a worthwhile experience. Within the Faculty, there have been many instances of students taking up a full-time post with their placement employer after graduation.

In addition to developing 'computing' skills, placement often provides opportunities for students to acquire other transferable skills such as working as part of a team, interacting with clients, business awareness etc.

“Key skills” are qualities of graduates that are greatly desired by today’s employers. They include the ability to write written reports or give oral presentations. Opportunities are provided throughout the Programme to develop these important qualities, in particular through group assignment work included in several modules and the opportunities offered through placement. Often assignments will include marking criteria that assess a student’s ability in one or more key skills, for example, by awarding a mark for the effectiveness of the individual as part of a group project.

The Placement Tutor

The BSc Programme has a member of academic staff known as a Placement Tutor who is responsible for:

- Establishing and maintaining good relations with placement providers;
- Finding new placements as required;
- Preparing students for the placement experience;
- Administering the process whereby students are placed;
- Collating the assessment returns at the end of the placement year;
- Making recommendation regarding each student’s overall performance and progress.
- The Programme Placement Tutor is a member of a Faculty of Computing and Engineering Placement Group chaired by a Faculty Placement Co-ordinator. This group seeks to ensure close collaboration in the work of various Programme placement tutors.

Career Opportunities

Students from this Programme may enter a broad range of possible careers. For example, they may go on to become technical software developers, Web application designers, HCI consultants or systems analysts. Further study routes are also possible through MRes, MPhil and PhD Programmes for those wishing to conduct detailed research into specific aspects of computer science.

Careers advice is formally provided by the Careers Service. See <http://www.ulst.ac.uk/careers/> for more information.

THE PROGRAMME TIMETABLE AND WEBSITE

The Programme timetable will be distributed at enrolment or induction and can also be viewed via the School of Computing and Intelligent System’s website at: <http://scis.ulster.ac.uk>. This website provides a repository of information for all the undergraduate courses at Magee and links to all the relevant on-line resources.

DATES OF ATTENDANCE/EXAMINATIONS/VACATIONS : 2010/11

Introductory period	Monday 13 September 2010 - Friday 17 September 2010
<u>Autumn Semester</u>	Monday 20 September 2010 – Friday 21 January 2011
Christmas vacation	Monday 13 December 2010 – Monday 3 January 2011
Examinations begin	Wednesday 5 January 2011
<u>Spring Semester</u>	Monday 24 January 2011 – Friday 27 May 2011
Easter vacation	Monday 18 April 2011 – Friday 29 April 2011
Revision week	Tuesday 3 May 2011 – Friday 6 May 2011
Examinations begin	Monday 9 May 2011
<u>Summer Semester</u>	Monday 25 July 2011 – Friday 16 September 2011
<u>Supplementary Exams</u>	_Wednesday 17 August 2011 – Thursday 25 August 2011

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Courses' Co-ordinator (Course Director for all Undergraduate Courses)

Name	Office	Email	Telephone	Comments
Dr Heather Sayers	MG121C	hm.sayers@ulster.ac.uk	75148	Senior Lecturer & Courses' Coordinator

The Teaching Team consists of:

Name	Office	Email	Telephone	Comments
Professor Liam Maguire	MS127	lp.maguire@ulster.ac.uk	75605	Head of School
Professor Paul McKeivitt	MS112	p.mckeivitt@ulster.ac.uk	75433	Professor of Digital Multimedia
Dr Laxmidhar Behera	MS107	l.behera@ulster.ac.uk	75276	Reader
Dr Shyam Chakraborty	MS135	ss.chakraborty@ulster.ac.uk	75126	Reader
Dr Girijesh Prasad	MS137	g.prasad@ulster.ac.uk	75645	Reader
Dr Kevin Curran	MS130	kj.curran@ulster.ac.uk	75565	Senior Lecturer
Dr Tom Lunney	MG121D	tf.lunney@ulster.ac.uk	75388	Senior Lecturer
Dr Liam McDaid	MS016	lj.mcdaid@ulster.ac.uk	75452	Senior Lecturer
Mr Derek Woods	MS134	dn.woods@ulster.ac.uk	75380	Senior Lecturer
Dr Ammar Belatreche	MS104	a.belatreche@ulster.ac.uk	75158	Lecturer
Mr Michael Callaghan	MS132	mj.callaghan@ulster.ac.uk	75771	Lecturer
Dr Sonya Coleman	MS133	sa.coleman@ulster.ac.uk	75030	Lecturer
Dr Joan Condell	MS131	j.condell@ulster.ac.uk	75024	Lecturer
Mr Martin Doherty	MG121A	m.doherty@ulster.ac.uk	75552	Lecturer
Dr Peter Kelly	MG121E	pm.kelly@ulster.ac.uk	75293	Lecturer
Mr Aiden McCaughey	MG126	a.mccaughey@ulster.ac.uk	75131	Lecturer & Placement Officer
Dr Sandra Moffett	MS015	sm.moffett@ulster.ac.uk	75381	Lecturer
Mrs Mairin Nicell	MG127	ma.nicell@ulster.ac.uk	75007	Lecturer
Ms Maeve Paris	MG040	m.paris@ulster.ac.uk	75212	Lecturer
Dr Jose Santos	MG035	ja.santos@ulster.ac.uk	75034	Lecturer
Dr NH Siddique	MG037	nh.siddique@ulster.ac.uk	75340	Lecturer
Dr Zumao Weng	MG050	zm.weng@ulster.ac.uk	75358	Lecturer
Dr Shane Wilson	MG038	s.wilson@ulster.ac.uk	75527	Lecturer

Support Staff:

Name	Office	Email	Telephone	Comments
Dr Caitriona Carr	MG121B	c.carr@ulster.ac.uk	75003	Computer Training Officer
Mr Paddy McDonough	MS034	p.mcdonough@ulster.ac.uk	75322	Technical Services Engineer
Mr Bernard McGarry	MG132	bg.mcgarry@ulster.ac.uk	75644	Network Assistant
Mr Neill McDonnell	MF143/MS030	n.mcdonnell@ulster.ac.uk	75554	Technician

Administrative & Secretarial Staff:

Name	Office	Email	Telephone	Comments
Mrs Brenda Plummer	MS126	bl.plummer@ulster.ac.uk	75605	Secretary to Head of School
Mr Stephen Friel	MG048	s.friel@ulster.ac.uk	75148	Secretary to the Courses' Coordinator
Ms Michelle Stewart	MG048	m.stewart@ulster.ac.uk	75382	Secretary

Day-to-day administration of each Programme is the responsibility of the Courses' Coordinator. All major decisions in the running of the Programme are taken at Course Committee meetings.

Course Committee

The Course Committee is essentially a committee formed by those members of academic staff who have teaching responsibilities on the Programme as well as the nominated Studies Advisors. The Course Committee reports to the Faculty's Academic Affairs Committee, which in turn reports to the Faculty of Computing and Engineering Board. This is the normal route for all of the Faculty's Course Committee meeting minutes.

Student progression (i.e. assessing the performances of students and determining whether or not they should be allowed to proceed to the next stage of the Programme) is the responsibility of the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners is essentially the Course Committee plus an External Examiner.

The Programme Committee meets on a regular basis - normally at least once per semester, although other special meetings may be arranged should a need be identified.

Support for Students

The University's **Teaching and Learning Support Charter** outlines the University's commitments to students and its responsibilities in relation to teaching and learning. This document is available for viewing at: <http://www.ulster.ac.uk/quality/qmau/t&l/supportcharter.pdf>

Student-Staff Consultative Committee

Part of the Course Committee meetings is devoted exclusively to the consideration of general student problems associated with each Programme which are reported from the Staff-Student Consultative Committee (SSCC). An elected student from each year of each combined Programme is invited to participate as Class Representatives on the SSCC. These elected representatives are invited to express the views of their peers in relation to the organisation and delivery of the Programme. In the past, issues addressed have included:

- Resourcing;
- Comments on the delivery assessment of each module;
- Workloads;
- General Feedback
- Other general programme-related matters

The Staff-Student Consultative Committee is a formal forum for students to express their opinions. The Faculty's policy is to encourage the early identification of problems and to bring these to the attention of staff as soon as possible.

Assessment

Criteria for assessing and grading course work

These are specific to each module and will be provided when each assignment is issued.

You will receive information and feedback on your performance in coursework and examinations. You should note that marks and grades are subject to a process of moderation, which ensures their validity and reliability, and that no result is finalised until confirmed by the Board of Examiners.

Assessment methods used may include:

Formal timed limited, unseen examination paper;
Open book class test;
Group project;
Individual project; Written report; Presentation.

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING STUDENT ATTENDANCE (MODULE OR OTHER NON-MODULE SPECIFIC EVENT)

- Attendance will be monitored on all modules across all years of study (undergraduate and postgraduate). Attendance at other non-module specific events (e.g. general tutorials, induction sessions, meetings with Advisors of Study) will also be monitored.
- Formal responsibility for attendance monitoring at the module level and the maintenance of evidence lies with the Module Coordinator. Module Coordinators will ensure that timely records of student attendance in an accessible format¹ are maintained. The Head of School will ensure that staff member(s) are nominated with corresponding responsibilities for the other designated non-module specific events.
- At the start of each module², Module Coordinators will ensure that students are:
 - a) reminded of their general attendance obligations³;
 - b) advised of any additional module-specific attendance requirements⁴;
 - c) reminded of the resources available to them for informing them of non-attendance or other related issues⁵;
 - d) advised as to how attendance records for the module will be assembled. They will identify (for example):
 - The range of classes at which attendance records will be taken (e.g. all lectures and lab classes; lab classes only; selected classes)
 - The mechanism(s) employed (e.g. manual roll-call, use of technology such as Turning Point, WebCT engagement monitoring, combination of methods).

Members of staff assigned corresponding responsibilities for the other designated non-module specific events will provide corresponding information for their events.

- All staff responsible for monitoring attendance will reflect regularly on the student attendance (and progress where appropriate) within their remit.
- Module Level or other non-Module specific event.

Where a member of staff identifies a student's attendance profile as giving rise for concern (without reasonable explanation and in the absence of appropriate supporting documentation), they will invoke the School's process for investigation of Student non-attendance. This will involve the member of staff advising the student's Studies Advisor and the student's Course/Subject Director of their concerns. The student's studies Advisor will first try to establish the reasons for the student's non-attendance. If this is unsuccessful the Studies advisor will inform the student's Course/Subject Director who will arrange for the reasons for the student's absences to be investigated, meeting with the student if appropriate. Should a student's attendance continue to give rise for concern the student's Course/Subject Director will advise the Head of School who will formally communicate with the student inviting them to discuss the reason(s)

¹ Note that a particular module may have students from a number of different courses/programmes.

² This may be done efficiently and consistently via a standard note within a Module Handout form or within WebCT.

³ For example, quoting the Student Charter, Course Regulations and other relevant sources

⁴ For example, talks by guest speakers, site visits etc. Submission of coursework may also be included.

⁵ For example, NA1 and EC1 forms which are available via the Student Portal

for the recurring absences. Details of any meetings with a student will be recorded and placed on the student's file.

- Failure to Submit Coursework

Where a student has failed to submit a piece of coursework (without reasonable explanation and in the absence of appropriate supporting documentation) the Module Coordinator will advise the student; and his/her Adviser of Studies and Course/Subject Director that a mark of zero has been awarded for the work as per University Policy. Module Coordinators should use non-submission of coursework in conjunction with a student's module attendance profile to support invoking the School's process for investigation of student non-attendance or referring the student to their Course/Subject Director (as described under Point 5).

- Staff will produce summary reports of attendance upon request from a Course/Subject Director and will also produce a final summary report on completion of the module.

PROGRAMME REGULATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS UNDERGRADUATE COURSE REGULATIONS

1. COURSE TITLES

COURSE TITLE	CODE
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Computing with Accounting with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies FT	4243
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Computing with Advertising with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies FT	5950
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Computing with Economic Studies with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies FT	5951
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Computing with French with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies FT	4245
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Computing with Human Resource Management with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies FT/PT	4249/6032
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Computing with Irish with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies FT	4250
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Computing with Irish History with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies FT	4254
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Computing with Management Studies with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies FT	5952
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Computing with Marketing with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies FT/PT	4235/6036
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Computing with Psychology with Diploma in Industrial Studies/Diploma in Area Studies FT	4238

Note part-time (P/T) versions of all the Bachelor of Science courses are available but for efficiency the University system only generates a related course code when a student enrolls on the programme.

2. MODE OF ATTENDANCE

Full Time and Part Time

3. DURATION

FULL-TIME SANDWICH:

Normally 4 years (6 semesters of study and placement year) or 5 years (if student enters at Level 3 (8 semesters of study and placement year)).

FULL-TIME INTERCALARY: Normally 4 years (8 semesters of study including year of study abroad) or 5 years if the student enters at Level 3 (10 semesters of study including year of study abroad).

PART-TIME:

A minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 6 years (12 modules, at the rate of one or two per semester).

4. LOCATION

Magee Campus

5. FACULTY

Computing and Engineering

6. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- satisfy the University's general entry requirements and subjects must include Mathematics at least Grade C at GCSE level.

In addition, individual courses may have higher entry requirements set by the Course Committee and the Faculty.

or

- (b) provide evidence of their ability to undertake the programme through the accreditation of prior experiential learning.

See prospectus entry for each programme.

7. EXEMPTIONS

- 7.1 Studies pursued and examinations passed in respect of other qualifications awarded by the University or by another university or other educational institution, or evidence from the accreditation of prior experiential learning, may be accepted as exempting candidates from part of an approved programme provided that they shall register as students of the University of Ulster for modules amounting to at least the final third of the credit value of the award at the highest level.

8. PLACEMENT/STUDY ABROAD

During their placement year candidates are expected to adhere to the normal attendance practices at their place of employment. Each student is supervised by an industrial supervisor from the employing company and an academic supervisor from the Faculty.

Assessment of placement is on the basis of four elements. Overall performance on placement is collated by the Placement Tutor taking into account the elements listed above with weightings as indicated:

Academic Assessment (First & Second visits)	30%
Employer Assessment	20%
Professional Practice (Logbook & Technical Report)	20%
Reflection (Student Final Report)	30%

A candidate on placement who is unable to complete the placement year due to illness or other circumstances may, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, be permitted to proceed to the final year of the course, and may be awarded the DIS provided that the minimum requirement of 25 weeks has been completed along with all assessments.

To be awarded the DAS, a candidate on placement abroad must complete the minimum requirement of 25 weeks and complete all assessments.

Exemption from Placement

Exemption from the placement requirement will be awarded only in the most exceptional circumstances. To be so exempted a candidate must satisfy the Board of Examiners that he/she has acquired appropriate work experience which the course committee considers equivalent to placement. A candidate must submit an application for exemption which must include a report (approximately 2,000 words) outlining the extent and level of the work experience already obtained, together with a

report from his/her employer(s). The application will be assessed by a sub-committee consisting of the Course Director and the Placement Tutor, which will then make a recommendation to the Board of Examiners. An interview with the candidate may form part of the assessment process.

A candidate who is exempted from placement will not be eligible for the award of Diploma in Industrial Studies or Diploma in Area Studies.

Part-time students do not do a placement year, and are not eligible for the awards of DIS or DAS.

Unplaced Students

- A student who is unable to obtain placement may, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and in exceptional circumstances only, be permitted to proceed directly to the final year of the course.
- A student who is unable to obtain placement may, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, be permitted to obtain leave of absence in order to continue seeking a suitable placement.
- A student who is unable to obtain placement and who, in the opinion of the Board of Examiners, has not shown sufficient effort in obtaining placement may be required to withdraw from the course.
- A student who does not complete an appropriate placement will not be eligible for the award of Diploma in Industrial Studies or Diploma in Area Studies.

9. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

9.1 Students are expected to attend all classes associated with the programme and be punctual and regular in attendance.

9.2 A student who has not been in attendance for more than three days through illness or other cause must notify immediately their Studies Adviser or the Courses' Co-ordinator. The student shall state the reasons for the absence and whether it is likely to be prolonged. Where the absence is for a period of more than five working days, and is caused by illness which may affect their studies, the student shall provide appropriate medical certification in accordance with University regulations.

9.3 Students who are absent without good cause for a substantial proportion of classes may be required to discontinue studies, in accordance with University regulations.

10. RULES GOVERNING STUDENT CHOICE

10.1 Students enrolled for a Single Honours degree undertake an integrated programme of study primarily in Computer Science, Electronics and Computer Systems, Computer Games Development or Multimedia Computer Games. Students enrolled for a Major/Minor Honours degree undertake a programme of study with a two-thirds/one-third balance between two subjects. Students enrolled for a Joint Honours degree (Main) undertake a programme of study of equal weight in two subjects.

11. EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT

11.1 The performance of candidates shall be assessed by the Board of Examiners in accordance with the Regulations Governing Examinations in Programmes of Study.

11.2 Candidates shall be assessed in the modules for which they have enrolled in each year of study. At the discretion of the Board of Examiners candidates may be required to attend a viva voce examination.

11.3 Within each module candidates shall be assessed by a combination of coursework and examination in accordance with the table at section 18.

11.4 The pass mark for the module shall be 40%. Where a module is assessed by a combination of coursework and examination a minimum mark of 35% shall be achieved in each element.

11.5 FOR PROGRAMMES INCLUDING THE DIS/DAS AWARD: the pass mark for the placement/intercalary year is 50%; a mark of 40% is sufficient for progression to the next stage of the programme.

12. SUBMISSION OF COURSEWORK

12.1 Coursework shall be submitted by the dates specified by the Course Committee.

12.2 Students may seek prior consent from the Course Committee to submit coursework after the official deadline; such requests must be accompanied by a satisfactory explanation, and in the case of illness by a medical certificate. This application shall be made to the Courses' Co-ordinator.

12.3 Coursework submitted without consent after the deadline shall not normally be accepted.

13. PROGRESS

13.1 Subject to 14 hereof, candidates are required to pass all modules in each year of study in order to proceed to the next. Progress from semester 1 to semester 2 is automatic.

Part-time students may proceed from semester to semester, unless they have accumulated such failures as to prohibit them from proceeding to the subsequent level of the course. To proceed from level to level they are subject to the same regulations as full-time students.

14. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE

14.1 Candidates who fail to satisfy the Board of Examiners in assessment may be permitted at the discretion of the Board to re-present themselves as specified in 15.2 for one or more supplementary examination and repeat such coursework or other assessment requirements as shall be prescribed by the Board. Such candidates may be exempted at the discretion of the Board from the normal attendance requirements. Where candidates are required to repeat coursework or to take a supplementary examination the original mark in the failed coursework component or examination shall be replaced by a mark of 40% or the repeat mark whichever is the lower for the purpose of calculating the module result, except in the DIS/DAS year where the maximum mark allowed shall be 50%.

14.2 In each year, other than the final year, the consequences of failure shall normally be as follows:

Failure at the first attempt:

Failure in modules with an overall value up to and including 60 credit points	Repeat specified examinations and/or coursework in the failed modules (examinations August)
Failure in modules with an overall value of between 60 and 80 credit points	Repeat specified examinations and/or coursework in the failed first semester module(s) (examinations January) and of specified examinations and/or coursework in the second semester modules (examinations May) with or without attendance OR withdraw from the course.
Failure in modules with an overall value of more than 80 credit points	Withdraw from the course.
Failure by candidates in year 2 of sandwich courses	Exceptionally second year students on sandwich courses may be permitted to commence the placement period, pending a requirement to represent themselves for supplementary written examinations or to repeat coursework.

Failure at the Second Attempt Failure in modules with an overall value up to and including 20 credit points	Provided that the module(s) are not prerequisite(s), which must be passed, proceed to next year and repeat once only specified examination(s) and/or coursework in the failed module(s) at the next examination period (January or May).
Failure in modules with an overall value up to and including 40 credit points (except as above)	Repeat once only specified examination(s) and/or coursework in the failed module(s) at the next examination period (January or May or August if semester already repeated) with or without attendance (progress to next year not permitted).
Failure in modules with an overall value of more than 40 credit points	Withdraw from the course.

Consequences of failure in placement year (DIS):

Failure at the First Attempt:

Failure in project	Resubmit project by a date specified by the Course Committee. (Maximum mark not to exceed 50%.)
Failure in placement	Repeat <i>once only</i> all or part of placement.

Failure at the Second Attempt:

Failure in project	Repeat <i>once only</i> the project. (Maximum mark not to exceed 50%.)
Failure in placement	Withdraw from the Programme.

Consequences of failure in intercalary year (DAS)

Failure at the First Attempt	Repeat <i>once only</i> the study period in whole or in part OR take specified examinations and/or coursework. (Maximum mark not to exceed 50%.)
Failure at the Second Attempt	Withdraw from the programme OR repeat <i>once only</i> specified examinations and/or coursework. (Maximum mark not to exceed 50%.)

14.3 Failure in the Final Year (Honours degree)

In the final year the consequences of failure shall normally be as follows:

Failure in modules with an overall value up to and including 40 credit points	Repeat <i>once only</i> specified examination(s) and/or coursework in the failed module(s) in consideration for Honours classification (examinations August).
Failure in modules with an overall value of more than 40 credit points	Withdraw from the programme. Candidate may be considered for a linked AB exit award if appropriate.

15. CLASSIFICATION OF FINAL RESULT

15.1 The table at section 18 indicates the contribution of each final year module to the final award. The weighting of each module's contribution to the overall mark shall be determined by its credit value.

NOTE THAT: LEVELS 3/4/5 ASSESSMENT RESULTS DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE FINAL HONOURS DEGREE RESULT.

15.2 Classification of Final Result (Honours degree)

The following percentages shall be used to determine candidates' overall gradings:

Class I	At least 70%
Class II (division i) (Ili)	At least 60% and less than 70%
Class II (division ii) (IIii)	At least 50% and less than 60%
Class III	At least 40% and less than 50%

15.3 Classification of Associate Bachelor's Exit Award

The overall results of candidates shall be based on their performance in all Level 5 modules only. The weighting of each module's contribution to the overall mark shall be determined by its credit value.

The following shall be the minimum percentages acceptable in determining the overall gradings of candidates.

Pass with Commendation	60%
Pass	40%

15.3.1 Classification of Diploma in Computer Systems

(Exit award for Level 3: BSc Hons Computer Science and BEng Hons Electronics and Computer Systems only)

All modules contribute to the final result. The table at section 18 indicates the contribution of each module to the exit award. The weighting of each module's contribution to the overall mark shall be determined by its credit value.

Candidates who successfully complete the year will normally proceed to Year 1 of the BSc Hons Computer Science programme or the BEng Hons Electronics and Computer Systems programme. Candidates who wish to discontinue their studies may leave with a Diploma in Computer Systems.

Where candidates choose to take the exit award, the following shall be the minimum percentages acceptable in determining the overall gradings of candidates.

Pass with Commendation	60%
Pass	40%

15.3.2 Award of Diploma in Industrial Studies OR Diploma in Area Studies

The following shall be the minimum percentages used in determining the overall gradings of candidates in the Diploma.

Pass with Commendation	70%
Pass	50%

16. **ILLNESS AND OTHER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES**

16.1 In any year other than final year:

The Board of Examiners may in the case of candidates who are prevented by illness or other sufficient cause from taking or completing the whole or part of the assessment during the programme, or whose results are substantially affected by illness or other sufficient cause, permit the candidates to complete, take, or repeat the assessment in one or more modules at an approved subsequent date.

16.2 Final year (Honours Degree):

The Board of Examiners may in the case of candidates who are prevented by illness or other sufficient cause from taking or completing the whole or part of the final stage assessment or whose results are substantially affected by illness or other sufficient cause:

- (a) permit the candidate to complete, take, or repeat as candidates for the Honours degree, the assessment in one or more modules at an approved subsequent date **or**
- (b) deem the candidate to have passed and recommend the award of an Aegrotat Honours Degree.

16.3 Before an Aegrotat award is recommended a candidate must have indicated that he or she is willing to accept the award.

17. REVISIONS TO REGULATIONS

These regulations may be revised during the student's period of registration in accordance with the procedures approved by Senate.

18 TABLE

Year	Semester	Level	Module Title	Code	Credit Value	Status Compulsory (c) Optional (o)	Assessment Methods		Contribution to the overall mark of the Final Award
							% Examination	% Coursework	
1	1	4	Programming I	COM136	20	C		100	0
1	1	4	Systems Analysis and Design	COM178	20	C	50	50	0
1	2	4	Programming II	COM139	20	C	50	50	0
1	2	4	Database Systems	COM162	20	C	50	50	0
2	1	5	Professional Issues	COM417	10	C		100	0
2	1	5	Visual Programming	COM321	10	C		100	0
2	1	5	Systems Development	COM419	20	C	75	25	0
2	2	5	Human-Computer Interaction	COM350	20	C	50	50	0
2	2	5	Computer Networks and Operating Systems	COM320	20	C	75	25	0
3	1/2/3	5	Industrial Placement	COM367	60	C		100	DIS/DAS
4	1	6	Internet Technologies	COM588	20	C		100	16.6%
4	1	6	Research Studies and Project Management	COM529	10	C	50	50	8.3%
4	2	6	Natural Language Processing	COM566	20	C	75	25	16.6%
4	2	6	Final Year Project	EEE521	30	C		100	25%

