1. GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Programme Title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Mode of study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Science</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Science</td>
<td>2 -4 years</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Science</td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
<td>Modular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Diploma</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Science</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Full-time (exit award only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Diploma</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Science</td>
<td>2-3 years</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Diploma</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Science</td>
<td>2-3 years</td>
<td>Modular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Certificate</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Science</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Full-time (exit award only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Certificate</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Science</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Part-time (exit award only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Certificate</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Science</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Modular (exit award only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School: Computer Science
Faculty: Engineering & Physical Sciences
Awarding Institution: The University of Manchester
Programme Accreditation: BCS & IEE
Relevant QAA benchmark(s): N/a – currently only at undergraduate level

2. AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME(S) (must include separate aims for PG Certificate and PG Diploma awards)

   The programme aims to: (NB PG Cert is exit award only):

   01. At PG Diploma level: Produce the highest quality of computing professionals and researchers across a broad range of Computer Science

   02. Provide a vehicle for dissemination of leading-edge knowledge and skills, focusing on the research strengths of a large School covering most major topics in Advanced Computer Science and its applications

   03. Continue to attract the highest-quality students from the UK and overseas

   04. Provide an opportunity to engage in a small research project in Advanced Computer Science

   05. At MSc level: As above 01 – 03 together with 05 and 06: Offer the opportunity to focus on one of a range of specialisations.

   06. Provide high quality training and experience in research in Advanced Computer Science

3. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME(S) (must include separate outcomes for PG Certificate and PG Diploma awards)
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
Postgraduate Programme Specification

A. Knowledge & Understanding

Students will be able to:

A1. (At all levels) Acquire a knowledge of a range of advanced topics in Computer Science beyond undergraduate level and at the forefront of research

A2. (At all levels) Understand, apply and develop leading-edge technologies in one or more of: high performance computing, formal foundations of Computer Science, computer engineering and electronic instrumentation, software engineering, advanced applications, artificial intelligence.

A3. (MSc & PG Diploma) Have a knowledge & understanding of research methodology & practice

Learning & Teaching Processes (to allow students to achieve intended learning outcomes)

At MSc, PG Diploma & PG Certificate levels
Because of the very wide range of topics and content, each advanced course unit utilises methods appropriate to the subject matter.

At MSc, PG Diploma & PG Certificate levels
Small group lectures, supervised laboratory work, mini-projects (group & individual) and independent preparatory learning are the main vehicles for dissemination of knowledge & understanding during the first half of the programme.

Following the taught part of the programme, students undertake a programme of supervised individual research, leading to a 90 cr dissertation at MSc level and a 30 cr dissertation at PG Diploma level.

Assessment (of intended learning outcomes)

A1 – A3 are assessed by a mixture of written examinations, computer-based practical work, and a range of coursework assessments including assessed miniprojects, group projects, reports, essays etc.

At MSc, PG Diploma & PG Certificate levels
A1- A3 is also assessed via the research project which includes an oral presentation of the research, and examination of the dissertation.

B. Intellectual Skills

Students will be able to:

B1. Develop original ideas in a research context (MSc and PG Diploma levels only)

B2. Use methodologies for development of computational systems at an advanced level (All)

B3. Perform problem-solving in academic and industrial environments (All)

Learning & Teaching Processes

B1. is mainly demonstrated during the research project.

The intellectual ability B2. is learned through small-group lecturing and practical lab exercises designed to put theoretical knowledge into practice.

Assessment

B1. & B3 are developed and assessed during the research project through presentation of a seminar and examination of the dissertation.

B2. is assessed through laboratory exercises, either marked on-line or by written report.
B3. is mainly demonstrated during the research project, mini-projects and problem-based learning in teams. B3 is also assessed by reports from mini-projects (individual & group).

### C. Practical Skills

**Students will at MSc, PG Diploma & PG Certificate levels be able to:**

- **C1.** Develop applications to satisfy given requirements
- **C2.** Organise & pursue a scientific or industrial research project *(MSc and PG Diploma only)*
- **C3.** Use, manipulate and develop large computational systems
- **C4.** Perform independent information acquisition and management

#### Learning & Teaching Processes

C1. and C3. are demonstrated in practical lab exercises and mini-projects, as well as during the research project.

C2. and C4. are demonstrated during the research project. C4. is also present in many course units.

The practical skill C4. is demonstrated in the preliminary preparation for each course unit.

#### Assessment

C1. and C3. are assessed through laboratory exercises, either marked on-line or by written report.

C2. and C4. are developed and assessed during the research project through presentation of a seminar and examination of the dissertation.

C4. is also assessed by a report or marked presentation in some course units.

### D. Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

**Students will be able to:**

- **D1.** Work effectively as a team member *(MSc, PG Diploma & PG Certificate)*
- **D2.** Prepare and present seminars to a professional standard *(MSc level only)*
- **D3.** Write theses and reports to a professional standard *(MSc and PG Diploma)*
- **D4.** Perform independent and efficient time-management *(MSc, PG Diploma & PG Certificate)*

#### Learning & Teaching Processes

D1. is evident in team practical project used in a number of course units.

D2. is demonstrated during the research project seminar and also within a number of course units.

D3. is demonstrated through lab practical and mini-project reports and the research project dissertation.

#### Assessment

D1. is assessed through reports and marked presentations.

D2. is assessed during the research project seminar, where there is feedback on presentation skills.

D3. is assessed by the research project dissertation.
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
Postgraduate Programme Specification

D4. is demonstrated by the ability to meet a number of deadlines throughout the year, and to effectively carry out a research project on time

D4. is assessed by course unit teachers & the exams office, who must ensure coursework and dissertations are submitted on time. The research project internal examiners assess progress of the project at the project seminar.

4. THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME(S)

Programme structure and credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 (MSc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 (PG Dip exit with 90+30 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please indicate both compulsory units and optional units (including Choice of _ from _), as well as requirements for exit awards and any specified pathways.

For more details about all course units available, please see web-page at:
http://www.cs.man.ac.uk/Study_subweb/Postgrad/

September
Introductory fortnight. Introductory talks for each course unit offered. Option of specialisation in one of the following topics: High Performance Computing, Formal Methods, Software Engineering, Advanced Applications, Artificial Intelligence. The allocation of course units to specialisations is shown in the Curriculum map and on the web-page cited above.

September – January
Students usually take 60 credits-worth of course units in the 1st semester, e.g. four of the course units identified in the table at 6. below.

January – April
Students usually take 30 credits-worth of course units in the first part of the 2nd semester e.g. two of the course units identified in the table below. To continue towards the research project for MSc award, students need to pass the taught component. Exit at this stage with PG Certificate or transfer to PG Diploma is determined by assessment regulations. MSc and Diploma students select their research project.

April – September
Research Project.

5. STUDENT INDUCTION, SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT (in order to deliver the intended learning outcomes, including dissertation support and guidance)
**Induction**

Students introduced to a broad range of advanced topics in Computer Science. Opportunity to make informed choice of course units. Opportunity to plan a proposed specialism - students must take at least half their course units from their proposed specialism as well as a suitable research project.

**September – January**

Course units are taught in an intensive mode: 1 day a week for 5 weeks are ‘taught’ days consisting of lectures, supervised practicals etc., 2.5 days a week for 5 weeks are practical exercises and 2.5 days of a coursework completion week are also practical exercises. Some of the practical exercises may be assessed work. Most course units are assessed through coursework (66%) and end-of-semester examination (34%). However, flexibility is allowed in the delivery and assessment, allowing methods appropriate for each subject. Further information is available at: [http://www.cs.man.ac.uk/Study_subweb/Postgrad/](http://www.cs.man.ac.uk/Study_subweb/Postgrad/)

**January – April**

To continue towards the research project for MSc award, students need to pass the taught component. For PG Certificate exit award, students need to pass 60 credits of taught course units. For PG Diploma, students need to pass the taught component to progress to the research project. MSc and Diploma students select their research project from a wide range of proposed projects, and also by individual agreement with supervisors.

**April – September**

There is a presentation to supervisor, internal examiner & fellow students, 2-3 months after the start of the project. Feedback on presentation skills and a progress report are provided for the student at this point. The thesis is assessed by two internal examiners by report and moderated by one external examiner.

Students have access to the Programme Director throughout the programme. They are encouraged to contact the Director when problems arise and are informed of this during the introductory period. The Department also has a drop-in Advice Centre for lunch-time help-sessions. During the period of the research project, an individual assigned supervisor is also available. Relationship with the supervisor is outlined in the Programme Handbook and the Research Skills course unit COMP60992.
6. CURRICULUM MAP OF COURSE UNITS AGAINST INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Unit Title</th>
<th>Course Unit Code</th>
<th>Knowledge &amp; Understanding (A)</th>
<th>Intellectual Skills (B)</th>
<th>Practical Skills (C)</th>
<th>Transferable Skills &amp; Personal Qualities (D)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60001</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60022</td>
<td>SE/HPC/AA – Grid Computing &amp; e-Science</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60032</td>
<td>HPC/CPTL – High Performance Computing in Science &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60042</td>
<td>HPC – Low Power System Design</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60051</td>
<td>HPC – Visualization for HPD</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60062</td>
<td>HPC – System-level Design</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60071</td>
<td>CPTL – Introduction to Computational Science</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60081</td>
<td>HPC/CPTL – Fundamentals of High Performance Execution</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60092</td>
<td>HPC/CPTL – Algorithms for Differential Equations</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60112</td>
<td>FM/AI - Automated Reasoning</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60115</td>
<td>FM/AI/SE – Knowledge Representation &amp; Reasoning</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60171</td>
<td>FM/SE – Interactive System Design Methods</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60242</td>
<td>AA – Mobile Computing</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60312</td>
<td>AA – Computational Biology</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60321</td>
<td>SE/AA Computer Animation</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60342</td>
<td>AA/SE/wICT – E-Commerce Technologies</td>
<td>C/O</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
### Postgraduate Programme Specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Intended Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Compulsory</th>
<th>Optional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60362</td>
<td>SE/AA/wICT – Advanced Database Technologies</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60391</td>
<td>AA/wICT – Computer Security</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60431</td>
<td>AI – Machine Learning</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60440</td>
<td>AI /AA– Advanced Machine Vision</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60461</td>
<td>AA/ FM/ AI – The Semantic Web</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60491</td>
<td>AI – Robotics</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 70042</td>
<td>CEESI – Low Power System Design (DL)</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 70212</td>
<td>CEESI – Self-Timed Logic (DL)</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMAN 61051</td>
<td>wICT – IT Trends</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMAN 60112</td>
<td>wICT – IT Systems &amp; Strategy</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMAN 61102</td>
<td>AI/AA/SE /wICT– Decision Analysis</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSEC 40001</td>
<td>wICT – Entrepreneurial Commercialisation of Knowledge</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60992</td>
<td>Research &amp; Professional Skills</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 60900</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Legend for cells
- **D** = intended learning outcomes of the programme are taught or developed by students within this course unit
- **A** = intended learning outcomes of the programme are assessed within this course unit
- **C** = compulsory course unit
- **O** = optional course unit

- **HPC** = High Performance Computing, **FM** = Formal Methods, **SE** = Software Engineering, **AA** = Advanced Applications, **AI** = Artificial Intelligence (specialisations within MSc in Advanced Computer Science).

For the MSc programmes indicated below, see the relevant MSc programme specification re additional learning outcomes for course units associated with that particular programme:
- **wICT** = ACSwithICT Management,
- **CPTL** = Computational Science & Engineering,
- **EIS** = Electronic Instrumentation Systems,
- **CEESI** = Low Power System Integration
## 7. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions criteria of the University and of the School in at least one of the following ways:

- Entry to the programme is by a 1st class or good 2nd class honours degree or its overseas equivalent in either Computer Science or a joint course with at least 50% Computer Science content. An honours degree in another subject together with sufficient relevant industrial experience is also acceptable. In exceptional circumstances, candidates without an honours degree but with considerable and relevant industrial and educational experience will be accepted.

In addition, all students are required to be proficient in spoken and written English. In order to be accepted on an MSc programme in the School of Computer Science, applicants need to achieve an IELTS score of 6.5 (minimum) or TOEFL 600+ (paper-based) 250+ (computer-based) or Cambridge Proficiency Grade ‘C’ (minimum) before the programme start date. In addition, overseas students who have attained the minimum IELTS score of 6.5, but less than 7.0 are required to attend the University’s English classes during the MSc year of study. The final decision on the standard of English remains with the Admissions Tutor and other very strong evidence of proficiency may be acceptable.

Experience shows that even those students who have passed the required language test find it difficult sometimes to adjust to operating in English entirely. We therefore strongly recommend that all such students take additional measures, such as attending English language courses (the Language Centre at the University provides English Language programmes – see the website at [http://www.langcent.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.langcent.manchester.ac.uk)), reading English literature, speaking and writing English wherever possible.

## 8. PROGRESSION AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The assessment for the MSc consists of two parts: (1) an assessment of the taught course units undertaken and (2) an assessment of the project dissertation. In order to be allowed to progress to the research project, students must successfully pass the taught part of the programme. The award of an MSc is then dependent upon passing the assessment of the project dissertation.

(1) Each student will be assessed on 90 credits’ worth of coursework and examination questions. Coursework is likely to include practical laboratory exercises (individually or in groups), written essays, seminar presentations, and/or other forms appropriate to each individual course unit; for each full course unit, this usually carries two-thirds of the mark. The examinations usually consist of a two-hour paper for each course unit, carrying one third of the marks, and take place after the teaching in each semester. The University regulations are at: [http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/policies/ordinance-master-pg-diploma-pg-certificate.pdf](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/policies/ordinance-master-pg-diploma-pg-certificate.pdf)

A candidate is required to register for 90 credits’ worth of course units, and will normally be considered as passing the units if:

(i) the credit-weighted average is 50% or more on the course units, and

(ii) the credit-weighted average of the practical work is 40% or more, and the credit-weighted average of the examination results is 40% or more, and

(iii) course units whose results are below 50% amount to no more than 45 credits. These can be re-sat once and the maximum mark to be awarded will normally be 50%.

**Compensated passes:**

(i) Students may be awarded a compensated pass for a Masters degree when they fail no more than 30 credits and receive a mark between 40 and 49% for those failed credits. The student must also have
gained an overall average for all taught credits of 50% or more in order to be granted a compensated pass.

(ii) Students may be awarded a compensated pass for a Postgraduate Diploma programme when they fail no more than 30 credits and receive a mark between 30 and 39% for those failed credits. The student must also have gained an overall average for all taught credits of 40% or more in order to be granted the compensated pass.

(iii) Students may be awarded a compensated pass for a Postgraduate Certificate programme when they fail no more than 15 credits and receive a mark between 30 and 39% for those failed credits. The student must also have gained an overall average for all taught credits of 40% or more in order to be granted the compensated pass.

Failed units:
The maximum allowable cumulative failure of course units in a Masters programme at the first attempt is 45 credits of the taught component of the programme. A student whose failures at the first attempt exceed 45 credits will be deemed to have failed the programme. They will then be judged against the requirements for a pass on the Postgraduate Diploma programme. If this results in their failing less than or equal to 45 credits at Postgraduate Diploma level, the student may resit those units failed at Postgraduate Diploma level to obtain the award of Postgraduate Diploma.

The final decision on whether a student passes is taken by the MSc Examination Board.

(2) The assessment of the dissertation is by two internal examiners, moderated by one external examiner. Details about dissertation format etc can be found on the University website and should be submitted in accordance with the information set out in the University’s Guidance Notes for the Presentation of Dissertations at http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/researchoffice/graduateeducation/guidance-presentation-of-dissertations-pgt-0705.pdf

All work must be original: students presenting work which is copied from any other source (unless explicitly allowed), including from other students, are breaking University regulations and will be dealt with under these regulations. Guidance on plagiarism is provided in the Programme handbook.

Students who achieve a dissertation mark of between 40-49% may accept the award of Postgraduate Diploma with no further work required or resubmit the dissertation on one occasion, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

A student achieving a mark below 50% for a resubmitted dissertation will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma. The maximum mark to be awarded for resubmitted dissertations or projects will normally be 50% for the Masters degree and 40% for the Postgraduate Diploma.

Awards:

MSc with Distinction: An MSc with Distinction is awardable under the following circumstances:

1. The student must have passed the assessment for course units with an overall mark of at least 70% with no mark below 50% in any course unit.
2. the dissertation is submitted on-time and both the examiners award a mark of at least 70%. The recommendation is then passed to the External Examiner, who must agree to the recommendation for the award of a Distinction to be granted by the Faculty’s MSc Panel
3. Students who have had to resit any unit(s) or have been granted a compensated pass will not be eligible for the award of distinction.
MSc with Merit: An MSc with Merit is awardable under the following circumstances:

1. The student must have passed the assessment for course units with an overall mark of at least 60% with no mark below 50% in any course unit.
2. The dissertation is submitted on-time and both the examiners award a mark of at least 60%.
3. Students who have had to resit any unit(s) or who have been granted a compensated pass will not be eligible for the award of merit.

MSc (Pass): To obtain a pass for an MSc degree, the student is required to obtain both an average of 50% on the taught element and 50% on the project/dissertation element.

Postgraduate Diploma – The University regulations are at: http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/policies/ordinance-master-pg-diploma-pg-certificate.pdf

It is awarded to a student who has been assessed on 90 credits’ worth of coursework & examination questions, and will normally be considered as passing the units if, in addition to the University regulations:

(i) the credit weighted average is 40% or more on the course units, and

(ii) the credit weighted average of the practical work is 40% or more, and the credit weighted average of the examination results is 40% or more, and

(iii) course units whose overall results are below 40% amount to no more than 45 credits. These can be re-sat once and the maximum mark to be awarded will normally be 40%

In addition, for the Diploma, students are required to successfully complete a mini-project worth 30 credits and achieve a mark of 40% or more. This will consist of a report on work undertaken which is commensurate with one-third of a full 90-credit MSc project. It should have the same standards of literacy and presentation as an MSc dissertation.


This is awarded to students who have successfully taken 60 credits’ worth of coursework & examination questions with a result of 40% or more in each course unit.

Date of original production: 30th July 2001

Date of current version: 16th August 2006