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>Information Systems Engineering</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Information Systems Engineering</td>
<td>2 -4 years</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSc</td>
<td>Information Systems Engineering</td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
<td>Modular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Diploma</td>
<td>Information Systems Engineering</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Full-time (exit award only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Diploma</td>
<td>Information Systems Engineering</td>
<td>2-3 years</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Diploma</td>
<td>Information Systems Engineering</td>
<td>2-3 years</td>
<td>Modular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Certificate</td>
<td>Information Systems Engineering</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Full-time (exit award only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Certificate</td>
<td>Information Systems Engineering</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Part-time (exit award only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Certificate</td>
<td>Information Systems Engineering</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Modular (exit award only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Computer Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarding Institution</td>
<td>The University of Manchester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Accreditation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant QAA benchmark(s)</td>
<td>Computing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME(S) (must include separate aims for PG Certificate and PG Diploma awards)

The MSc programme aims to:

| 01. | Equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the issues involved in the construction of large information systems for enterprises of all types in the private and the public sectors. |
| 02. | Provide students with a rigorous understanding of the key stages of the software life cycle, i.e. requirements capture, specification, design, implementation, deployment in the organisation, maintenance and evolution over the lifetime of the system. |
| 03. | Ensure that students have a deep appreciation of the social, economic and legal issues relating to the deployment of software systems |
| 04. | Develop students’ research skills to the level required to pursue further research studies or equivalent activities in research organisations |

The diploma programme aims to:

| 01. | Equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the issues involved in the construction of large information systems for enterprises of all types in the private and the public sectors. |
| 02. | Provide students with a rigorous understanding of the key stages of the software life cycle, i.e. requirements capture, specification, design, implementation, deployment in the organisation, maintenance and evolution over the lifetime of the system. |
| 03. | Ensure that students have a deep appreciation of the social, economic and legal issues relating to the deployment of software systems |

The certificate programme aims to:

| 01. | Equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the issues involved in the construction of large information systems for enterprises of all types in the private and the public sectors. |
| 02. | Provide students with a rigorous understanding of the key stages of the software life cycle, i.e. requirements capture, specification, design, implementation, deployment in the organisation, maintenance and evolution over the lifetime of the system. |
3. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME(S) (must include separate outcomes for PG Certificate and PG Diploma awards)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Knowledge &amp; Understanding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On successful completion of the programme, students should be able to:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| A1. | Demonstrate knowledge of the relevant universal principles and of best practices of the discipline, including: current standards, processes, factors and criteria of quality, supporting tools; the reasons for their relevance to the discipline; and the methods of applying them to practical, real-life problems. In particular, distinguish universal principles from the special features of individual technologies, e.g. specific programming languages, and relate the former to the latter. |
| A2. | Apply general principles to realistic applications correctly and effectively, in the analysis of case studies and in the solution of problems, particularly problems related to the construction of large systems and their deployment within an organisational setting. The word *problem* is used here to mean: the verification or refutation of a hypothesis, possibly by an organisational case study; or the construction of a conceptual or physical artefact; or both. |
| A3. | Demonstrate understanding of the professional, legal and ethical framework within which they would operate as professionals in the discipline. |
| A4. | Demonstrate understanding of state-of-the-art concepts, methods, techniques and tools for engineering large information systems for all types of enterprise, including requirements capture, specification, design, implementation, deployment in the organisation, maintenance and evolution over the life time of the system. |
| A5. | Demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge of the domain creatively in the solution to partially specified or complex problems (not diploma or certificate). |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning &amp; Teaching Processes (to allow students to achieve intended learning outcomes)</th>
<th>Assessment (of intended learning outcomes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The programme is based on a holistic view of teaching and learning, namely that each learning outcome is determined by the student’s total experience imparted by the programme as a whole.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> The acquisition of theoretical knowledge is assessed by marked coursework, tests under examination conditions and examinations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> The ability to apply theory (A2), per se and as further evidence of deep understanding, is developed through case studies discussed in lectures and seminars, elementary and comprehensive exercises and tutorials to discuss emerging difficulties and provide feedback.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> The ability to apply theory is assessed by marked coursework of a problem-solving nature, and test and examination questions of the same type.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.</strong> The dissertation is assessed with respect to a common list of general criteria, taking into</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**  
**Postgraduate Programme Specification**

**dissertation project**, which contains a substantial research element (problem-solving in the sense of A2). Each project will involve the application of a significant proportion of the material covered in taught course units including, directly or indirectly, the universal principles of the discipline (A1). It must be noted that the relative importance of any aspect of the discipline may vary greatly from project to project.

B. Intellectual Skills

On successful completion of the programme, students should be able to:

| B1. | Formulate research goals; investigate, analyse and critically evaluate multiple sources of information; identify appropriate research methods; develop and carry out a plan of work according to stated aims. *(not diploma or certificate)* |
| B2. | Establish criteria for the analysis and evaluation of existing systems, establish a plan of analysis and evaluation of such systems, carry out the plan effectively, record observations systematically and draw appropriate conclusions. *(not certificate)* |
| B3. | Establish the significant elements of an application domain which intended users of a software system may be concerned with and how these elements relate to one another. |
| B4. | Critically evaluate a range of industrial applications in relation to current literature in the subject domain. |

Learning & Teaching Processes

1. Outcome B1 is supported by a course unit on research methods, a substantial research report acting as preparation for the dissertation project, some items of coursework, and the dissertation project itself.

2. Items B2 to B5 are supported by coursework during the taught part of the programme, the preparatory report mentioned under (1) and, mainly, the dissertation project introduced in Item (3) of the Learning Process for Learning Outcomes A.

| Assessment | 1. Assessment of coursework including the preparatory research report, by the methods described in Section A. |
| Assessment of the dissertation project by the methods described in Section A. |

C. Practical Skills

On successful completion of the programme, students should be able to:

| C1. | Design and carry out a substantial research project involving, and critically reflect on the use of appropriate research methods. *(not diploma or certificate)* |
| C2. | Devise a project plan for an individual project, execute it and monitor progress. *(not certificate)* |
| C3. | Record, tabulate and/or graphically represent observations of unstructured and structured types from various sources e.g. narrative documents or factual data. |
### D. Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

On successful completion of the programme, students should be able to:

| D1. | Access, evaluate, use, communicate and reflect upon state-of-the-art technical information and research material from a variety of sources, e.g. scientific journals, textbooks, documentation Web sites or manuals. |
| D2. | Write reports and/or research-oriented papers. *(not certificate)* |
| D3. | Plan activities of a research and/or software development type effectively, execute plans, monitor their outcome at suitable control points and respond to deviations from plans appropriately. *(not diploma or certificate)* |
| D4. | Communicate effectively with the various stakeholders of a project, including colleagues, supervisors, and clients. *(not certificate)* |

### Learning & Teaching Processes

1. Outcomes D1, D2, D3 and D4 are supported by the course unit on research methods, the research report acting as preparation for the dissertation project, some items of coursework, and mainly by the conduct of the dissertation project.

### Assessment

1. Assessment of coursework including the preparatory research report, by the methods described in Section A. Assessment of the dissertation project by the methods described in Section A.

This applies especially to outcome D4.
### 4. THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme structure and credits</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please indicate both compulsory units and optional units (including Choice of _ from _), as well as requirements for exit awards and any specified pathways.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### MSc Total Credits 180

**MSc Compulsory**
- **T Leadership Forum**: 15
- **Distributed Systems and Internet Technology**: 15
- **IS Strategy and Enterprise Systems**: 15
- **Research Skills and Professional Issues**: 30

**MSc Optional – three from the following six options** 45
- **Advanced Database Management Systems**: 15
- **E-Business**: 15
- **Building Web Applications**: 15
- **Patterns for E-Business Applications**: 15
- **Information and Knowledge Management**: 15
- **Semi-structured Data and the Web**: 15
- **Dissertation**: 60

#### Diploma total credits 120

**Diploma Compulsory**
- **T Leadership Forum**: 15
- **Distributed Systems and Internet Technology**: 15
- **IS Strategy and Enterprise Systems**: 15
- **Research Skills and Professional Issues**: 30

**Diploma Optional – three from the following six options** 45
- **Advanced Database Management Systems**: 15
- **E-Business**: 15
- **Building Web Applications**: 15
- **Patterns for E-Business Applications**: 15
- **Information and Knowledge Management**: 15
- **Semi-structured Data and the Web**: 15

#### Certificate total credits from the following:
- **T Leadership Forum**: 15
- **Distributed Systems and Internet Technology**: 15
- **IS Strategy and Enterprise Systems**: 15
- **Research Skills and Professional Issues**: 30
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Database Management Systems</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Business</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Web Applications</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterns for E-Business Applications</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and Knowledge Management</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-structured Data and the Web</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. STUDENT INDUCTION, SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT (in order to deliver the intended learning outcomes, including dissertation support and guidance)

Induction

A programme of events is held in Introductory Week, which takes place immediately prior to the start of teaching. This week includes: registration and information relating to the programme and school; library and IT facilities; and options to join university/faculty run events.

Choice of compulsory and optional modules is made at the end of this introductory week.

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 (50%) and end-of-semester examination (50%). However, flexibility is allowed in the delivery and assessment, allowing methods appropriate for each subject. Further information is available at: http://intranet.cs.man.ac.uk/Intranet_subweb/Postgrad/infocurrentstudents.php

January – May

To continue towards the research project for MSc award, students need to pass the taught component and the COMP60990 assessment. For PG Certificate exit award, students need to pass 60 credits of taught course units. For PG Diploma, a short research project is undertaken as part of the COMP60990 module finishing in May. For PG Diploma, students need to pass the taught component at the 40% level and the COMP60990 assessment at the 40% level. MSc and Diploma students select their research project from a wide range of proposed projects, and also by individual agreement with supervisors.

January – September MSc dissertation

All students are allocated an individual project supervisor who will guide and advise students on their dissertation. Students will normally see their project supervisor once a week from the start of Semester 2. Other forms of communication, e.g. email, are also regularly used and further foster the links between students and supervisors. The bulk of the work on the dissertation takes place after the completion of the taught part of the programme. The dissertation work, by involving the student over the various stages of planning and control of a complete 3.5 month project, follows closely the pattern of work and interaction with the supervisor (and any other stakeholders) that similar activities would entail in an industrial setting.

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 second Semester and the research project, an individual assigned supervisor is also available. Relationship with the supervisor is outlined in the Programme Handbook and the Research Skills and Professional Issues course unit COMP60990.
### Academic support and development

Support to students is closely integrated with the course units. Each taught course unit seeks to connect the methods presented to their application in professional practice. The course unit on Research and Professional Development covers a number of professional development issues, including working life skills and professional ethics.

Further support is provided by the following measures:

- Each student is allocated a personal tutor to contact for pastoral matters.
- Academic matters relating to the programme(s) are dealt with by a Programme Director. In practice most matters are resolved either by the relevant Course Unit Leader or the Programme Director.
- The English proficiency of students with a non-English mother tongue is monitored at various stages, and where necessary students are encouraged to attend session courses run by the English Language Teaching Centre.
### 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>Knowledge &amp; Understanding</th>
<th>Intellectual Skills</th>
<th>Practical Skills</th>
<th>Transferable Skills &amp; Personal Qualities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C/O A1 A2 A3 A4 A5</td>
<td>B1 B2 B3 B4</td>
<td>C1 C2 C3 D1 D2 D3 D4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>System Construction using B</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Distributed Systems and Internet Technology</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Advances in Advanced Database Management</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>IS Strategy &amp; Enterprise Systems</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Information and Knowledge Management</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6</td>
<td>IT Leadership Forum</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A7</td>
<td>Research Methods and Professional Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A8</td>
<td>Patterns for eBusiness Applications</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A9</td>
<td>MSc Dissertation Project (MSc only)</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A10</td>
<td>Diploma project (Diploma only)</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</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
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:

The programme is open to applicants with a good Honours degree (2:1 or 1st) or equivalent in any discipline of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), provided it includes programming, database systems and network technology.

- 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. Candidates with a good Honours Degree or equivalent in a science (Non CS) subject may enter via the Foundation Route. 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), reading English literature, speaking and writing English wherever possible.

8. PROGRESSION AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The defining regulations and procedures for the MSc programme are laid down in the University’s Ordinances and Regulations

General Requirements

The assessment consists of two parts (1) an assessment of the taught course units undertaken, and (2) an assessment of the Research Project. In order to be allowed to complete the Research Project, students must pass the taught part of the programme. The award of an MSc is then made on the basis of the output from the Research Project.

Taught Part

Taught course units are normally assessed by coursework and examination.

Coursework

Coursework is likely to include practical laboratory exercises (individually or in groups), written...
Discipline and conduct
The University’s policy on student ‘Discipline and Conduct’ is also available on the policies webpage.

Examinations
The examinations usually consist of a two-hour paper for those course units with examinations. The examinations take place at the end of each Semester. Past examination papers are available via the School's information page for MSc students. Some examinations may be “Open Book”, in which case material may be taken into the examination room. Sometimes this material will be prescribed. Most examinations however are not of this form and no supporting material may be taken into the examination room.

Use of language translation dictionaries in the examinations. Students who are registered on this programme of study are not allowed the use of a dictionary during examinations.

Pass Rules
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 (and group and individual reports in the case of group-based projects). In order to be allowed to progress to the research project, students must successfully pass the taught part of the programme and the COMP60990 unit. The award of an MSc is then dependent upon passing the assessment of the project.

The assessment regulations for programme Including Diplomas and PG Certificates

Taught Course Units
Each student will be assessed on 90 credits’ worth of coursework and/or 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 half of the marks but this varies from course to course, and take place after the teaching in each Semester. The University regulations are at: http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/tlao/pgt-regulations-june2007.doc

Individual Course Units
Pass Rules for Individual Course Units. Individual course units are assessed as follows: a pass at MSc level is awarded if the overall mark for the course unit is at least 50%. For a pass at diploma or certificate level, an overall mark for the course unit of 40% is sufficient. A candidate is required for the MSc degree to register for 90 credits’ worth of taught course units, and will normally be considered as passing the units if all course units have been passed at 50% or more. The failed course units can be re-sat once and the maximum mark to be awarded for re-submitted coursework or re-taken examination will normally be 50%.

Compensated pass:
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.

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.

Pass rules for Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate

Postgraduate Diploma
The University regulations are at: http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/tlaopgt-regulations-june2007.doc 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 all course units have been passed at 40% or more.
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.
The maximum allowable accumulative failure at Postgraduate Diploma level at first attempt is 45 credits of the taught component of the programme. These failed course units can be re-sat at Postgraduate Diploma level. The maximum mark to be awarded for re-submitted coursework or re-taken examination will normally be 40%.
In addition, for the Diploma, students are required to successfully complete the Project Background Assessment and achieve a mark of 40% or more.

Postgraduate Certificate
The University regulations are at: http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/tlaopgt-regulations-june2007.doc 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. 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.

MSc Project
The MSc Project comprises two parts:
Part 1 – Background research, specification, design studies (February to May/June)
   Assessment: Project Background Report
Part 2 – Completion of MSc project (June to early September)
   Assessment: Dissertation (and Group Report for group projects) (60 credits)

Project Background Report (COMP60990)
The assessment for COMP60990 (Research Skills and Professional Issues) is through the Project Background Report in the case of an individual MSc Research Project, and a group report and
individual report in case of a group based MSc Research Project. The precise content of the report depends upon the nature of the Research Project, but typically will include (1) Description of the project and its context and aims, (2) Survey of relevant literature, (3) Study of relevant research methods, design methodology, and implementation tools, (4) Requirements and specification, (5) Criteria of success, and (6) Project plan for overall project. The report(s) will be assessed according to the standards expected of the Masters Dissertation with respect to substance, soundness of contents, and quality of presentation. The report is/are assessed in the same way. The supervisor and a second marker make independent assessments. The individual MSc Dissertation, and group report are assessed internally, see Section 10.3 below. The report(s) contribute(s) 30 credits to the MSc. The report(s) is/are assessed and, in order to be allowed to complete the Research Project and gain an MSc the report(s) must pass at the 50% level. If the report(s) receive(s) marks of 40% or above, but below 50%, the student exits the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma. No resit of COMP60990 is allowed, except where mitigating circumstances have been approved.

Research Project and Dissertation

Individual MSc Dissertation
The general requirements for presentation of an individual dissertation are set out in the University’s Ordinances and Regulations. All work must be original: students presenting work from another source, including from other students, without explicit acknowledgement may be regarded as attempting a fraud and will be dealt with under the University's disciplinary procedures. A more extensive discussion of what is and what is not permitted in this area can be found in Plagiarism (Section 17.3)

Group-Based MSc Projects
The assessment of group –based MSc projects is based on

The group report 40%
The individual report 60%

The group report is prepared by the group as a whole. The group report should include a brief description of the organisation of the project tasks, how decisions were reached and a summary of all joint and individual contributions to various aspects of the group report (typically this will include contribution to the specification and design, research, program code, program documentation, project management logs, minutes of meetings, editorship of group report). The group report, together with any supporting documents which are prepared jointly, should be submitted as a separate document under joint ownership. Each member of the group will normally get the same group report mark.

Each member of the group should prepare and submit an individual dissertation which should follow the University’s guidance on the presentation of taught Masters dissertations. http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/researchoffice/graduateeducation/g-pres-diss-pgt.pdf

The Individual dissertation must include the following:
Details about the individual contribution to the project and a summary of the other group member's contributions to the project.

A suitably formulated declaration about authorship. The declaration should state that the work
referred to in the dissertation was completed as part of a group project, what portion of the work referred to in the dissertation has been (or will be) submitted by which members other members of the group, and what portion (possibly none) of the work referred to in the dissertation has been submitted in support of an application for another degree or qualification of this or any other university or other institute of learning.

Dissertation Examination
The MSc dissertation/reports is/are evaluated by two internal examiners at Manchester (normally your supervisor and another not involved with your work on the project) who submit written reports. These reports and the dissertations themselves are considered by the external examiner at a specially convened examination meeting in November.

The MSc Project Mark is the credit-weighted average of the marks for the Project Background Report (rated 30 credits) and the MSc dissertation, and Group Project Report were applicable (rated 60 credits). A pass for the project is awarded for a project mark of 50% or above.

At the recommendation of the board of examiners, students will normally be allowed one resubmission of a failed dissertation or group project report and this will normally be within four months of the date of the publication of the result. Resubmission will not be allowed if the mark is below 40%.

Students who achieve a MSc project mark mark of between 40-49% may accept the award of Postgraduate Diploma with no further work required or resubmit the dissertation/reports on one occasion, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners. A student achieving a mark below 50% for a resubmitted dissertation/reports 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 by Credit Accumulation
As well as the one-year MSc programme, the School offers a MSc, Diploma and a Postgraduate Certificate, by accumulating credits over a period, normally no more than four years. These qualifications are suitable for part-time students and for those who are on release for training and skills enhancement.

The MSc Programme requires a total of 90 credits in taught course units (6 course units), assessed as described above, and a 90 credit full project. The whole must normally be taken within four years, and students are encouraged to take it within a shorter period, either over two years; or in a three-year scheme in which 45 taught credits (3 course units) are taken in each of the first two years and the research project in the third. These arrangements can be modified to suit personal circumstances.

There are two routes to achieving the Diploma.

This route is open to only part-time or part-time modular students and requires a total of 120 credits in taught course units (8 course units), assessed as follows: To pass at Diploma level the credit weighted average of the course units must be 40% or more and no more than 30 credits shall fall below the 40% mark, and these failed credits should be between 30% and 39%. The selection of these course units must fulfil the same criteria as selection for the MSc programme. Candidates would select this option at (a) entry point into the programme or (b) on successful completion of 90 credits (6 course units).

This route is open to all students and requires a total of 90 credits in taught course units (6 course
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
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Units), assessed as described above, with a credit weighted average of 50%. The selection of
these course units must fulfil the same criteria as selection for the MSc programme and a
research project of 30 credits.

The Postgraduate Certificate is awarded to students who have successfully taken 60 taught
credits (4 course units) with a result of 40% or more in each course unit.
Individual course units may be taken and these are awarded a pass when the marks for the unit
are 50% or more.

The results for every student are presented to the Computer Science MSc examination board and
provided they fulfil the stated criteria will be confirmed as a pass.
Upgrading from a Certificate to a Diploma or to an MSc, or from a Diploma to an MSc is permitted
as long as the final award is achieved within a four-year period from first registering for the lower
qualification.

MSc with Distinction
An MSc with Distinction is awardable under the following circumstances:
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.
The examiners award a project 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.
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.
Diploma students can gain a Distinction if they satisfy the same rules.

MSc with Merit
An MSc with Merit is awardable under the following circumstances:
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.
The examiners award a project mark of at least 60%.
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.
Diploma students can gain a Merit if they satisfy the same rules.

MSc with Pass
To obtain a pass for an MSc degree, the student is required both to pass the taught course units
at Masters level as described above and to achieve at least 50% as a project mark.

Procedures for Students Who Fail
Students who fail the assessment for the taught part of the programme are permitted single resits
of failed examinations on the next occasion that the examinations are normally set. This normally
means that the student needs to interrupt her/his studies and retake the examinations in the next
year. It is not possible to continue with the project until the taught part of the programme has been
passed. There is no resit for COMP60990 (see regulations Section 6.3). If a candidate satisfies
the criteria for a Diploma or Certificate, they may, at the discretion of the Examiners, be given the
option to re-register accordingly. If in the opinion of the Examiners a candidate fails to meet
acceptable standards of performance, they will be excluded from the programme and their
registration will be cancelled. In all such circumstances the Programme Director will discuss the
candidate's circumstances with the aim of achieving the most satisfactory outcome.
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