

Computer Science MEng (Hons) 2014-2015 Summary

UCAS code	Award	Title	Duration	Mode
G401	MEng	Computer Science MEng (Hons)	4 years	FT

Schools	Computer Science
Faculty	Engineering and Physical Sciences
Awarding Institution	University of Manchester
Programme Accreditation	BCS, IET
Relevant QAA benchmark(s)	Computing

Aims and intended learning outcomes

Our Computer Science programmes, the most popular and most flexible of our offerings, offer students the opportunity to choose a study pathway which reflects their developing, possibly changing, interests. It aims to develop strengths in both the principles and practice of Computer Science, and includes extensive practical work.

Our Bachelors programmes aim to:

- 1) enable graduates to exhibit a high level of practical and theoretical skills over a broad range of Computer Science together with a knowledge of currently available techniques and technologies.
- 2) explore the principles that support developments in a rapidly changing subject.
- 3) provide opportunities for students to understand the wide range of research challenges facing Computer Science, as well as the breadth and depth of research undertaken in this top-rated school, so they are prepared to embark on research here or elsewhere.
- 4) develop competent professionals able to play a leading part in many different commercial, industrial and academic activities and adapt rapidly to changing technology.
- 5) meet industry demand for high calibre graduates who will take a lead in continuing technological change.
- 6) prepare students for the social, organisational and professional context in which they will be working.
- 7) meet the educational requirements of the Engineering Council, as outlined in UK-SPEC, thus enabling graduates to progress to professional membership of the BCS and IET and attain the highest professional status of Chartered Engineer.

In addition to the aims of the Bachelors programmes, our MEng programmes aim to enhance the skills and achievements developed in the Bachelors programmes in a number of ways:

- 1) All MEng students spend a period working in industry with the option to extend this to a complete year. This gives them experience of developing design solutions in the presence of critical constraints and evaluating their success in an industrial context, while interacting with other project stakeholders. They also further develop their communication and presentation skills.
- 2) By following a number of postgraduate level course units, they broaden and develop their theoretical and technological capabilities beyond those attained at Bachelor's level to equip them for the analysis and solution of Computer Science problems.
- 3) The level 4 Business Feasibility Study course unit (MCEL40042) emphasises industrial relevance through industrially-related group projects. Each student team works on a typical business brief supplied by a real client and explores how to utilise their subject specialism, together with business and management tools and techniques, to identify ways in which value may be created for the client/stakeholders. Students gain experience of legal and regulatory frameworks and professional codes of practice.

Intended learning outcomes (UG)

Knowledge & understanding

- A1 ^(UG) Know and understand the essential mathematics relevant to computer science.
- A2 ^(UG) Understand and apply a wide range of principles and tools available to the software engineer, such as design methodologies, choice of algorithm, language, software libraries and user interface techniques
- A3 ^(UG) Demonstrate a grasp of the principles of computer systems, including architecture, networks and communication
- A4 ^(UG) Recognise and appreciate the professional and ethical responsibilities of the practising computer professional, including understanding the need for quality
- A5 ^(UG) Know and understand the principles and techniques of a number of application areas informed by the research directions of the subject, such as artificial intelligence, databases and computer graphics
- A6 ^(UG) Apply their knowledge of computing in a commercial or industrial context
- A7 ^(UG) Show a critical understanding of the broad context within which Computer Science resides, including issues such as quality, reliability, enterprise, employment law, accounting and health and safety

A8 (UG) Have a comprehensive knowledge and critical awareness of selected specialist fields at the forefront of computer science, studied at masters level

Intellectual (thinking) skills

B1 (UG) Solve a wide range of problems related to the analysis, design and construction of computer systems.

B2 (UG) Design and implement a software or hardware system of significant size

B3 (UG) Identify a range of solutions and critically evaluate and justify proposed design solutions

B4 (UG) Solve computer science problems with pressing commercial or industrial constraints

B5 (UG) Generate an innovative design to solve a problem containing a range of commercial and industrial constraints

Practical skills

C1 (UG) Plan and undertake a major individual project

C2 (UG) Prepare and deliver coherent and structured verbal and written technical reports

C3 (UG) Give technical presentations suitable for the time, place and audience

C4 (UG) Use the scientific literature effectively and make discriminating use of Web resources

C5 (UG) Design, write and debug computer programs in appropriate languages

C6 (UG) Use appropriate computer-based design support tools

C7 (UG) Apply computer science skills in a commercial or industrial environment

C8 (UG) Demonstrate initiative taking, innovation and self-management in an industrially related group project

C9 (UG) Integrate previously acquired skills and apply them to new, demanding situations

Transferable skills

D1 (UG) Display an integrated approach to the deployment of communication skills

D2 (UG) Use IT skills and display mature computer literacy

D3 (UG) Work effectively with and for others

D4 (UG) Strike the balance between self-reliance and seeking help when necessary in new situations

D5 (UG) Display personal responsibility by working to multiple deadlines in complex activities

D6 (UG) Employ discrete and continuous mathematical skills as appropriate

D7 (UG) Demonstrate significantly enhanced group working abilities

D8 (UG) Further develop career plans and personal objectives

D9 (UG) Communicate effectively with non-specialist as well as computer scientist professionals at a range of levels

D10(UG) Undertake a range of technical roles within a team and be able to display leadership

Intended learning outcomes (PG)

Knowledge and Understanding

A1 ^(PG) (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 ^(PG) (At all levels) Understand, apply and develop leading-edge technologies in two of the following themes: Advanced Web Technologies, Computational Biology, Concurrency, Data Management, Health Informatics, Learning from Data, Logic and Automated Reasoning, Management, Mobile Computing, Text Mining, Security, Software Engineering, Visual Computing

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

Intellectual Skills

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

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

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

Practical Skills

C1 ^(PG) Develop applications to satisfy given requirements

C2 ^(PG) Organise & pursue a scientific or industrial research project (MSc and PG Diploma only)

C3 ^(PG) Use, manipulate and develop large computational systems

C4 ^(PG) Perform independent information acquisition and management

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

D1 ^(PG) Work and communicate effectively as a team member

D2 ^(PG) Prepare and present seminars to a professional standard (MSc level only)

D3 ^(PG) Understand ethical issues related to professional activities

D4 ^(PG) Write theses and reports to a professional standard (MSc and PG Diploma)

D5 ^(PG) Perform independent and efficient time-management

Generic reference to outcome group

G1 ^(PG) Knowledge and Understanding

G2 ^(PG) Intellectual Skills

G3 ^(PG) Practical Skills

G4 ^(PG) Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

G5 ^(PG) Not specified

Teaching, learning and assessment methods

Learning and Teaching on all our programmes aims to combine an understanding of fundamental CS principles, development of strong practical skills and the group-working, learning and communication skills that are essential for any computing professional.

Course units which involve practical elements all have associated laboratory exercises, usually in timetabled sessions with staff and demonstrator support. Most labs operate a system of face-to-face marking in the lab so that students receive immediate feedback on their work. Units without labs all have regular coursework exercises to support skills development and feedback.

Most units are lecture based, with lab or coursework exercises used to reinforce and enhance knowledge and skills first encountered in lectures. The first year team project deviates significantly from this model and takes an Enquiry Based Learning approach. This unit aims to encourage students to be more actively engaged with, and responsible for, their own learning, to develop skills in problem solving, communication, independent learning, and group work, and to signal the importance we attach to independent learning. This approach is followed up in the second year with the workshop based approach used in the compulsory Software Engineering unit, which also contains a major group working component.

The choice of units offered to students on our programmes is very broad, but they also require depth in particular subject areas. This is achieved using the notion of **Themes**. A theme is a group of related second and third year course units which form a coherent whole; usually one second year and two third year units. All single honours students are required to complete at least two themes; those on the Computer Science programme can choose any pair of themes, but those on specialist programmes must complete at least two themes associated with their specialism. It is the choice of these themes that characterises the specialist programmes. The Programme Structure section below indicates the Themes for this group of programmes and the tables in that section show the Theme for each course unit.

All students undertake an individual 3rd year project, supervised by a member of academic staff, which usually involves the development of significant software or hardware product. Assessment of this unit involves presentations of plans and results and a major written report.

Assessment in almost all units is a combination of lab/coursework and examination.

Students from a related Honours School can transfer into MEng and MEng with IE programmes at the end of first or (second) year provided required options have been taken, a minimum 2.1 standard attained and a suitable industrial summer placement has been obtained. Students registering in 2012 onwards who have more than 20 compensated credits, in any year of study, cannot transfer onto an MEng programme.

Students who fail to reach 2(i) (60%) standard or who do not pass at the first attempt will normally be required to transfer to the 3 year programme. In addition, students registering in 2012 onwards who have more than 20 credits in the range 30-39% will normally be required to transfer to the 3 year programme.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment of intended learning outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

Learning and Teaching Processes	Assessment
Lectures (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8)	Unseen written examinations (A1, A2, A3, A4)
Laboratory sessions (A2, A3)	Marked tutorial exercises (A1, A2, A3, A4)
Personal tutorials (A1, A2, A3, A4, A7)	Laboratory reports (A2, A3)
Problem solving classes (A1, A2, A3, A4)	Project reports (individual and group) (A3, A4, A5, A6, A7)
Problem-based learning (A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7)	Oral presentations (individual and group) (A3, A4, A5, A6, A7)
Projects (A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8)	
Industrial seminars (A4, A5, A6, A7, A8)	

Intellectual Skills

Learning and Teaching Processes	Assessment
Lectures (B1, B2, B4, B5)	Unseen written examinations (B1, B2, B4)
Laboratory sessions (B1, B2)	Marked tutorial exercises (B1, B2)
Personal tutorials (B1, B2, B4)	Laboratory reports (B1, B2)
Problem solving classes (B1, B2, B4)	Project reports (individual and group) (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5)
Problem-based learning (B1, B2, B4)	Oral presentations (individual and group) (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5)
Projects (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5)	

Practical Skills

Learning and Teaching Processes	Assessment
Lectures (C4, C6)	Laboratory reports (C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7)
Laboratory sessions (C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7)	Project reports (individual and group) (C3, C4, C5,C6)
Projects (C3, C4, C5, C6,C9)	Oral presentations (individual and group) (C6, C8,C9)
Industrial placement (C8,C9)	Industrial placement reports (C8,C9)

Transferable skills

Learning and Teaching Processes	Assessment
Lectures (D3, D4, D5, D7)	Laboratory reports (D1, D3, D5, D6)
Laboratory sessions (D1, D3, D5, D6)	Essays (D2, D3)
Personal tutorials (D1,D2, D3, D4, D7)	Project reports (individual and group) (D1, D2, D3,D4, D5, D6, D7)
Problem solving classes (D4)	Oral presentations (individual and group) (D1, D3, D6, D7, D8)
Problem-based learning (D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6)	Industrial placement reports (D8)
Projects (D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7)	
Industrial placement (D8)	

Programme structure

If you wish to take an external unit which is not listed on your programme course unit list you must get permission from your Year Tutor. This applies for every year of your programme. If your choices do not meet the Department's course unit and theme requirements you will be contacted and be required to change your choices.

Level 1 - compulsory units

All of the units in this pool are mandatory.

Code	Title	Credits
COMP10120	First Year Team Project	20
COMP11120	Mathematical Techniques for Computer Science	20
COMP11212	Fundamentals of Computation	10
COMP12111	Fundamentals of Computer Engineering	10
COMP14112	Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence	10
COMP15111	Fundamentals of Computer Architecture	10
COMP16121	Object Oriented Programming with Java 1	20
COMP16212	Object Oriented Programming with Java 2	10
COMP18112	Fundamentals of Distributed Systems	10

Level 2 options

You have 60 credits of compulsory course units listed in the table "compulsory units" below.

Out of the remaining 60 credits of free choice:

You must choose at least 40 credits of optional COMP course units - minimum of 20 and maximum 30 from "option pool 1" below and of minimum of 20 and maximum 30 from "option pool 2" below. The minimum number of credits selected from both "option pool 1" and "option pool 2" is 40, the maximum is 60 credits.

If you take a 20 credit whole year course unit you are not permitted to drop this unit when course unit selection reopens at the start of semester 2.

You can also choose up to 20 credits of optional course units that are external to the Department. You can choose any Level 1 or 2 options for which you meet any pre-requisites and fits with your timetable, these may be:

- Business and Management course units: <https://www.ambs.ug handbook.manchester.ac.uk/non-ambs-students/>
- University College course units
- Language course units: <https://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/study/university-language-centre-leap-courses/course-information/leap-courses/courses-for-all/>
- HSTM20282 Information Visions <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2021/00485/bsc-biology-with-science-and-society/course-details/HSTM20282#course-unit-details>

Please note: to enrol on some external course units (such as Language) will require permission from the associated School/Department.

To select any external course units outside of the list given above will require permission from the [2nd Year Tutor](/ugt/index.php#tutors).

You must ensure your credits are balanced over the academic year (60 credits in each semester).

Level 2 - compulsory units

All of the units in this pool are mandatory.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP23111	Fundamentals of Databases	10	Web and Distributed Systems
COMP23420	Software Engineering	20	Agile Methods
COMP25111	Operating Systems	10	Computer Architecture
COMP26120	Algorithms and Imperative Programming	20	Computer Languages

Level 2 - option pool 1

From this option pool choose a maximum of 20 credits and a minimum of 10 credits.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP21111	Logic and Modelling	10	Rigorous Development
COMP22111	Processor Microarchitecture	10	System-on-Chip
COMP24111	Machine Learning and Optimisation	10	Learning and Search in Artificial Intelligence
COMP28411	Computer Networks	10	Mobile Computing and Networks

Level 2 - option pool 2

From this option pool choose a maximum of 40 credits and a minimum of 30 credits.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP22712	Microcontrollers	10	None
COMP24412	Symbolic AI	10	Natural Language, Representation and Reasoning
COMP25212	System Architecture	10	Computer Architecture
COMP27112	Computer Graphics and Image Processing	10	Visual Computing
COMP28112	Distributed Computing	10	Web and Distributed Systems
COMP28512	Mobile Systems	10	Mobile Computing and Networks

Level 2 - option pool 3

From this option pool choose a maximum of 20 credits and a minimum of 0 credits.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
BIOL20882	An Introduction to Current Topics in Biology	10	None
HSTM20282	The Information Age	10	None
UCIL20021	Leadership in Action	10	None
UCIL20022	Leadership in Action	10	None

Level 3 options

You have 60 credits of compulsory course units listed in the table "compulsory units" below.

Out of the remaining 60 credits of free choice:

You must choose 60 credits of optional COMP course units from option pool 1 - 2 below. Maximum 30 from "option pool 1", maximum 30 from "option pool 2".

If you take a 20 credit whole year course unit you are not permitted to drop this unit when course unit selection reopens at the start of semester 2.

You must ensure your credits are balanced over the academic year (60 credits in each semester).

Level 3 - compulsory units

All of the units in this pool are mandatory.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP30040	3rd Year Project (Single Honours 40 Credits)	40	None
MCEL30031	Enterprise Management for Computer Scientists	10	None
MCEL30032	Managing Finance in Enterprises for Computer Scientists	10	None

Level 3 - option pool 1

From this option pool choose a maximum of 30 credits and a minimum of 20 credits.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP31111	Verified Development	10	Rigorous Development
COMP33411	Software Design using Patterns	10	Software Engineering
COMP33711	Agile Software Engineering	10	Agile Methods
COMP34411	Natural Language Systems	10	Natural Language, Representation and Reasoning
COMP36111	Advanced Algorithms I	10	Programming and Algorithms
COMP37111	Advanced Computer Graphics	10	Visual Computing
COMP38411	Cryptography and Network Security	10	Mobile Computing and Networks

Level 3 - option pool 2

From this option pool choose a maximum of 30 credits and a minimum of 20 credits.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP31212	Concurrency and Process Algebra	10	Rigorous Development
COMP32212	Implementing System-on-Chip Designs	10	System-on-Chip
COMP33512	User Experience	10	Software Engineering
COMP33812	Software Evolution	10	Agile Methods
COMP35112	Chip Multiprocessors	10	Computer Architecture
COMP36212	Advanced Algorithms II	10	Programming and Algorithms
COMP36512	Compilers	10	Computer Languages
COMP37212	Computer Vision	10	Visual Computing
COMP38512	Digital Wireless Communication and Networks	10	Mobile Computing and Networks

Level 3 - option pool 3

From this option pool choose a maximum of 40 credits and a minimum of 0 credits.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP34120	AI and Games	20	Learning and Search in Artificial Intelligence
COMP38120	Documents, Services and Data on the Web	20	Web and Distributed Systems

You should aim to do 45 or 60 credits in each semester 1 and semester 2.

Pools 1 to 4 map to periods 1 to 4 in the PGT timetable. You must pick exactly one module from Pool 5 avoiding timetable clashes.

Mandatory units - 40 credits

Optional units - 90 credits

Level 4 - compulsory units

All of the units in this pool are mandatory.

Code	Title	Credits
COMP40901	Industrial Group Project	25
MCEL40021	Entrepreneurial Commercialisation of Knowledge	15
MCEL40042	Business Feasibility Study	15

Level 4 - option pool 1

From this option pool choose 15 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
COMP60411	Semi-structured Data and the Web	15
COMP60611	Parallel Programs and their Performance	15
COMP60711	Data Engineering	15
COMP61011	Foundations of Machine Learning	15

Level 4 - option pool 2

From this option pool choose a maximum of 30 credits and a minimum of 15 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
COMP60421	Ontology Engineering for the Semantic Web	15
COMP60621	Designing for Parallelism and Future Multi-core Computing	15
COMP60731	Advanced Database Management Systems	15
COMP61021	Modelling and visualization of high-dimensional data	15
COMP61421	Computer and Network Security	15
COMP61521	Component-based Software Development	15

Level 4 - option pool 3

From this option pool choose a maximum of 30 credits and a minimum of 15 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
COMP60332	Automated Reasoning and Verification	15
COMP60532	Principles of Digital Biology	15
COMP61232	Mobile Systems	15
COMP61332	Text Mining	15

Level 4 - option pool 4

From this option pool choose a maximum of 15 credits and a minimum of 0 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
COMP60342	Optimization for learning, planning and problem-solving	15
COMP60542	Introduction to Health Informatics	15
COMP61242	Mobile Communications	15
COMP61342	Computer Vision	15
COMP61542	Agile and Test-Driven Development	15

Code	Title	CO	A1 UG	A2 UG	A3 UG	A4 UG	A5 UG	A6 UG	A7 UG	A8 UG	B1 UG	B2 UG	B3 UG	B4 UG	B5 UG	C1 UG	C2 UG	C3 UG	C4 UG	C5 UG	C6 UG	C7 UG	C8 UG	C9 UG	D1 UG	D2 UG	D3 UG	D4 UG	D5 UG	D6 UG	D7 UG	D8 UG	D9 UG	D10 UG	
BIOL20882	An Introduction to Current Topics in Biology	O																																	
COMP10120	First Year Team Project	C																																	

Mechanisms for programme revision

Course units are reviewed annually by the Undergraduate Committee, as part of the Annual Review process, taking into account the results and comments from Course Unit Evaluation Questionnaires. Input is also received from the Teaching Assessment Panel, which has a responsibility for monitoring teaching quality in the School.

Programmes have been reviewed regularly by groups created specifically for this purpose; the last major review resulted in a new programme portfolio design which started in the first year in 2008-9. The responsibility for leadership of programme review is now in the hands of the Director of Teaching Strategy (currently Dr Steve Pettifer) who chairs a School Teaching Strategy Committee.