

## Computer Systems Engineering wIE MEng (Hons) 2020-2021

### Summary

UCAS code	Award	Title	Duration	Mode
	MEng	Computer Systems Engineering wIE MEng (Hons)	5 years	FT + Placement year

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

Sophisticated electronic systems permeate all aspects of life. Typical examples include MP3 players, games consoles, mobile phones, vehicle control systems and radar. All of these are embedded systems, which typically contain one or more microprocessors, memory, a communications capability, and application-specific hardware and software. Our Computer Systems Engineering programmes aim to develop the wide range of knowledge and skills are needed to support their development, including digital electronics, software engineering and computer architecture.

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 <sup>(UG)</sup> Know and understand the essential mathematics relevant to computer science.
- A2 <sup>(UG)</sup> 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 <sup>(UG)</sup> Demonstrate a grasp of the principles of computer systems, including architecture, networks and communication
- A4 <sup>(UG)</sup> Recognise and appreciate the professional and ethical responsibilities of the practising computer professional, including understanding the need for quality
- A5 <sup>(UG)</sup> 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 <sup>(UG)</sup> Apply their knowledge of computing in a commercial or industrial context
- A7 <sup>(UG)</sup> 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 <sup>(PG)</sup> (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 <sup>(PG)</sup> (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 <sup>(PG)</sup> (MSc & PG Diploma) Have a knowledge & understanding of research methodology & practice

### **Intellectual Skills**

- B1 <sup>(PG)</sup> Develop and evaluate original ideas in a research context (MSc and PG Diploma levels only)
- B2 <sup>(PG)</sup> Use methodologies for development of computational systems at an advanced level (All)
- B3 <sup>(PG)</sup> Perform problem-solving in academic and industrial environments (All)

### **Practical Skills**

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

### **Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities**

- D1 <sup>(PG)</sup> Work and communicate effectively as a team member
- D2 <sup>(PG)</sup> Prepare and present seminars to a professional standard (MSc level only)
- D3 <sup>(PG)</sup> Understand ethical issues related to professional activities
- D4 <sup>(PG)</sup> Write theses and reports to a professional standard (MSc and PG Diploma)
- D5 <sup>(PG)</sup> Perform independent and efficient time-management

### **Generic reference to outcome group**

- G1 <sup>(PG)</sup> Knowledge and Understanding
- G2 <sup>(PG)</sup> Intellectual Skills
- G3 <sup>(PG)</sup> Practical Skills
- G4 <sup>(PG)</sup> Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities
- G5 <sup>(PG)</sup> 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

<strong>You will be automatically enrolled on these nine course units which total 120 credits. </strong>

### 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
COMP15111	Fundamentals of Computer Architecture	10
COMP13212	Data Science	10
COMP15212	Operating Systems	10
COMP16321	Introduction to Programming 1	20
COMP16412	Introduction to Programming 2	10

### Level 2 options

<strong>You will be automatically enrolled on these seven course units which total <u>90 credits</u></strong>

<strong>You need to select a minimum of one course unit totalling <u>10 credits</u> or a maximum of two course units totalling <u>20 credits</u> from Option Pool 1. You may select a minimum of zero course units or a maximum of one course unit totalling <u>10 credits</u> from Option Pool 2. You may choose a maximum of <u>10 credits</u> of external units from External Option Pool 1 and a maximum of <u>10 credits</u> of external units from External Option Pool 2.</strong>

<strong>You can choose up to <u>20 credits</u> 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 <a href="/ugt/index.php#tutors">2nd Year Tutor</a>.

If you take a <u>20 credit</u> 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 (<u>60 credits</u> in each semester).</strong>  
This programme requires 2 themes to be completed from the following list.

- \* Computer Architecture (COMP25111, COMP25212 & COMP35112)
- \* System-on-Chip (COMP22111 & COMP32211)

### Level 2 - compulsory units

All of the units in this pool are mandatory.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP22111	Processor Microarchitecture	10	System-on-Chip
COMP22712	Microcontrollers	10	None
COMP23311	Software Engineering 1	10	Agile Methods
COMP23412	Software Engineering 2	10	Agile Methods
COMP25212	System Architecture	10	Computer Architecture
COMP26120	Algorithms and Data Structures	20	Computer Languages
COMP26020	Programming Languages & Paradigms	20	None

### 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
COMP23111	Database Systems	10	Web and Distributed Systems
COMP24011	Introduction to AI	10	None

### Level 2 - option pool 2

From this option pool choose a maximum of 10 credits and a minimum of 0 credits.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP24112	Machine Learning	10	None
COMP24412	Knowledge Based AI	10	Natural Language, Representation and Reasoning
COMP27112	Introduction to Visual Computing	10	Visual Computing
COMP28112	Distributed Systems	10	Web and Distributed Systems

### Level 3 options

**You will be automatically enrolled on five course units, including the Third Year Project course unit, totalling 80 credits.**

**You need to select two courses units totalling <u>20 credits</u> from Option Pool 1. You need to select two courses units totalling <u>20 credits</u> from Option Pool 2.**

This programme requires 2 themes to be completed from the following list.

- \* Computer Architecture (COMP25111, COMP25212 & COMP35112)
- \* System-on-Chip (COMP22111 & COMP32211)

### Level 3 - compulsory units

All of the units in this pool are mandatory.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP30040	Third Year Project Laboratory	40	None
COMP32211	Implementing System-on-Chip Designs	10	System-on-Chip
COMP35112	Chip Multiprocessors	10	Computer Architecture
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 20 credits and a minimum of 10 credits.

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP33511	User Experience	10	Interactive Systems Design
COMP36111	Algorithms and Complexity	10	Programming and Algorithms
COMP36511	Compilers	10	None
COMP37111	Advanced Computer Graphics	10	Visual Computing
COMP38411	Cryptography and System Security	10	Mobile Computing and Networks
COMP38211	Documents and Data on the Web	10	None

### Level 3 - option pool 2

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

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP33712	Agile Software Engineering	10	None
COMP34412	Natural Language Systems	10	Natural Language, Representation and Reasoning
COMP36212	Mathematical Systems and Computation	10	Programming and Algorithms
COMP37212	Computer Vision	10	Visual Computing
COMP32412	The Internet of Things: Architectures and Applications	10	Web and Distributed Systems

### Level 3 - option pool 3

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

Code	Title	Credits	Theme
COMP34120	AI and Games	20	Learning and Search in Artificial Intelligence

**You will be automatically enrolled on the Summer Industrial Project and MCEL 40042: Business Feasibility Study which totals <u>40 credits</u>**



**You need to select a minimum of one course unit totalling <u>15 credits</u> or a maximum of two course units totalling <u>30 credits</u> from Option Pool 1. You need to select a minimum of one course unit totalling <u>15 credits</u> or a maximum of two course units totalling <u>30 credits</u> from Option Pool 2. You need to select a minimum of one course unit totalling <u>15 credits</u> or a maximum of two course units totalling <u>30 credits</u> from Option Pool 3. You need to select a minimum of one course unit totalling <u>15 credits</u> or a maximum of two course units totalling <u>30 credits</u> from Option Pool 4. You need to select one course unit totalling <u>15 credits</u> from Option Pool 5.</strong>**

#### Level 4 - compulsory units

All of the units in this pool are mandatory.

Code	Title	Credits
COMP40901	Summer Industrial Project	25
MCEL40042	Business Feasibility Study	15

#### Level 4 - option pool 1

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

Code	Title	Credits
COMP60411	Modelling Data on the Web	15
COMP60711	Data Engineering	15
COMP61011	Foundations of Machine Learning	15
COMP61411	Cryptography	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
COMP61021	Representation Learning	15
COMP61421	Cyber Security	15
COMP62421	Querying Data on the Web	15
COMP62521	Agile and Test-Driven Development	15

#### Level 4 - option pool 3

From this option pool choose a maximum of 30 credits and a minimum of 0 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
COMP60332	Automated Reasoning and Verification	15
COMP60532	Principles of Digital Biology	15
COMP61332	Text Mining	15
COMP62532	Component-based Software Development	15

#### Level 4 - option pool 4

From this option pool choose a maximum of 30 credits and a minimum of 0 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
COMP60542	Introduction to Health Informatics	15
COMP61342	Computer Vision	15
COMP63342	Software Security	15

#### Level 4 - option pool 5

From this option pool choose 15 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
BMAN60422	Data Analytics for Business Decision Making	15
BMAN70391	Strategic Project Organising	15
BMAN71652	Information and Knowledge Management	15
BMAN73271	Decision Behaviour, Analysis and Support	15
MCEL63402	Essential Risk Management for Business	15

---

Code	Title	C/O	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10
COMP10120	First Year Team Project	C			DA	D					DA	DA					DA	DA	D	DA				DA		DA	DA	DA	DA		DA		D	DA

[illegible][illegible]

## **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.