MSc Computer and Internet Applications

Introduction

There has been massive growth in demand for computer programmers over recent years. While the economic climate has undergone change, with some smaller companies suffering as the "dotcom" bubble burst, there has remained a need for programmers with the ability to display and manipulate information over the Internet. As Computer Weekly states, "IT spending in Europe has bottomed out, and the beginnings of a gradual recovery are already appearing, according to IDC's monthly-updated index of technology expenditure across Western Europe.

Not only does the new MSc Computer Science programme seek to provide students following this course with specialist Internet knowledge and programming skills, but it also aims to address those key areas in which there is a widely acknowledged skills gap in what businesses are seeking and are afforded to students on an undergraduate programme.
This award is intended for individuals who require not simply a broad overview of computer and Internet applications but significant technical knowledge in the area. Specifically, individuals requiring proficiency in e-commerce, computing and Internet security, databases, networking and Internet development and media design, will form the target group.

Course Requirements

- For standard entry, applicants should have a good honours degree or equivalent qualifications, or a post-graduate qualification, in a science related subject area, with a significant (generally one third) element in computing. Example subjects may be first awards in Physics, Mathematics, Electronics or Computer Engineering.
- For mature applicants with non-standard academic profiles, entry and exemption on the basis of Accreditation by Prior Learning, certificated or experiential (APL/APEL) is available.
- For overseas students, evidence of sufficient skill in English is required, with a minimum requirement being an IELTS score of 6.0, a TOEFL score of 580, or an equivalent score in TELAS, the University of Luton's own testing scheme

Start Dates

September and February

Duration

12 months Full-time (September start)
16 months Full-time (February start)
2 or 3 years Part-time

Assessment

Assessment is by a mixture of Assignments, exams, and group work

Full-time or Part-time?

There are two modes of delivery:
Full-time, primarily for graduates wishing to expand upon their existing skills, and part-time, primarily for those employed in a computing area of the IT industry, wishing to enhance their knowledge and continue education to a higher level.
Part-time study can be taken either in the form of a day-release programme, or as evening classes, typically starting at 6.30pm, for two evenings a week.

Course Content

The course is divided into 3 blocks of study material, with the taught modules delivered in the first two blocks, Block A and Block B, with Block C being the Dissertation.

Block A
Core Modules:
- E-Commerce Technology
- Computer and Internet Security
- Online Databases

Option Module:
- Internet Programming
OR
- Intelligent Agents

Block B
Core Modules:
- Internet Media Design
- Internet Development
- Network Systems

Option Module:
- Web Server Programming
OR
- Internet Usability

Option modules are offered subject to staff availability and student numbers

Career Prospects

There is a clear market for graduates of the MSc programme in Computer Science. A survey conducted by the e-Skills National Training Organisation (NTO) reveals that there is a 'skills gap', and that IT and telecoms businesses suffered most from the skills shortage, with one in four companies affected (Computer Weekly, 2002).

More specifically, where jobs involving the Internet are concerned, there is an even greater expectation that these skills will be in demand. Recent research has found that one of the top areas for projects in the next six months would be e-commerce. It is expected that there will be much demand for skills in customer service, Web development and middleware … David Metcalfe, an analyst at Forrester Research, believes there will be further demand for skills in Web services using XML to expose application interfaces to the outside world (From the article: The skills you need to succeed in 2002, Computer Weekly, 2001).

Related Courses

Other MSc courses available in the field of Computing include Computing and Information Technology, Internet Technologies, and Computer Science

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