



University of Luton
Education that works

MSc Computer Science

Introduction

The MSc Computer Science programme seeks to provide students following this course with specialist Internet knowledge and programming skills and 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 an advanced level of proficiency in computer and internet applications, and more specifically discipline areas such as online databases, Internet programming, intelligent systems, multimedia applications, networking systems, distributed and parallel processing, web-server design and Internet usability. Successful students may go on to become high-level Internet programmers and software designers.

Course Requirements

- For standard entry, applicants should have a good honours degree or equivalent qualifications, or a postgraduate qualification, in a computer science related subject area. Example subjects may be first awards in Computing and Computer Science/Studies.
- 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:

- Online Database Applications
- Internet Programming
- Intelligent Agents
- Multimedia Applications

Block B

Core Modules:

- Networking Technologies
- Distributed and Parallel Computing
- Web Server Programming
- Internet Usability

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 and Internet Applications

Contact Details

Course Manager: nik.bessis@luton.ac.uk

Programme Administrator: richard.hearing@luton.ac.uk

Website: www.luton.ac.uk/departments/computing