MSc IT

Induction 2018/19
MSc IT vs MSc CS

• Higher flexibility
  – Only 3 compulsory modules
  – Options in both computing and management

• Slower pace (in studying programming)
  – ISD = 2/3 (POP1+POP2)
    • Spread in two terms
    • Less steep learning curve:
      using Python rather than Java
  – COC is more practical than FOC
I Have a Question

• First, check the programme handbook!
  – The most up-to-date version is always online
  – The version = the date of last edit
• Second, check the intranet!
• Third, ask the programme administrator!
• Then, ask the corresponding module tutor!
• Last but not least, contact the programme director 8-)

Module Choices

• 7 modules altogether
  – Note that ISD has 30 credits, while each other module has 15 credits.
  – FT students: all in one year
  – PT students: 3/4 in year 1 + 4/3 in year 2; all the 3 compulsory modules must be in year 1
• It will be done *online*!
• Due in two weeks!
Three Possible Paths

• (1) **Computing** Oriented
  – Possibility to top-up

• (2) **Management** Oriented
  – Research Dissertation instead of Software Implementation Project

• (3) **Transfer** to MSc CS halfway
  – Only available to Part-Time (PT) students who have passed the **primer course**.
(1) Computing Oriented

• Choose **ISD, IS, COC, INS/IWT** + *Software Implementation* Project
  – All (or more) optional modules from the Dept of CSIS, e.g., DM
  – Project: Software Implementation
    • Same as MSc CS students
    • Accredited by the BCS
  – Possibility to top-up the degree to MSc CS
    • Add POP1, POP2, DKM, FOC, CS, SDP
(2) Management Oriented

- Choose ISD, IS, COC, and RMM + Research Dissertation Project or Learning Technologies Project
  - PT: Enough modules for year 1
  - All (or more) optional modules from the Dept of MGMT or GEDS
  - Project: Research Dissertation
(3) Transfer to MSc CS

• Choose ISD, IS, FOC, and CS
  – PT: Pass all of them in the 1\textsuperscript{st} year, and then you will become an MSc CS student in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} year
Major Changes

• COC
  – The Software Engineering in Practice (SEP) module has been superseded by the Concepts of Computation (COC) module.

• SEWN
  – In 2018/19, SEWN will not run due to the module tutor’s teaching sabbatical.
  – In 2019/20, SEWN will be scheduled on Thursdays in the evening (18:00 – 21:00) and therefore become available for 2nd year PT students.
Major Changes

- Project in Learning Technologies
  - A wide range of learning technology-related topics is acceptable so long as there is a substantial computing content and the project is predominantly of a practical, problem-solving nature.
  - You may wish to look at the research projects carried out at the Birkbeck Knowledge Lab for inspiration.
Feedback

• Unlike many other disciplines, feedback on computer science coursework/tests is often given in the form of model answers/solutions (e.g., program code), rather than textual comments.
Mentoring Pathways

• Find the information here.
• If you would like to get involved please email mentoring@bbk.ac.uk
Career Development
http://www.bbk.ac.uk/careers/

• Careers and Employability Service
  – http://www.bbk.ac.uk/careers/careers-service

• Birkbeck Talent Recruitment Service
  – http://www.bbk.ac.uk/careers/birkbeck-talent

• UpScale Programme
  – http://www.upscaleprogramme.com/

• Careers Group, University of London
  – https://www.thecareersgroup.co.uk/
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