

Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences (MPLS) Division

Approved at the meeting of MSc Supervisory Committee on 29 October 2015 and Faculty Board Meeting on 19 November 2015.

MSc in Computer Science

Brief note about nature of change: revision to texts and general simplification of the regulations.

- (a) switch to referring to courses rather than units, which also simplifies the text [clause 3(i) and 6].
- (b) Remove the opportunity for candidates to offer two alternative topics to replace those in schedules B and C [clause 8].
- (c) This will remove the overall upper limit of units (now courses) a student can take, giving them more opportunity of redemption. [clause 10].
- (d) Define the pass mark in terms of courses rather than units [clause 11].

Effective date

For all MSc Computer Science students starting in MT 2016

For first examination from 2016-17

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2015 and <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2015-16/mosbcincompacie/administratorview/>

Detail of change

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2. Candidates must follow a course of instruction in Computer Science for at least three terms and a substantial part of the three subsequent vacations, as determined by the course timetable, ~~and will be required to produce a certificate from their supervisors to that effect.~~

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3. The examination shall be in three parts, as follows:

(i) Candidates shall be assessed on a selection of ~~at least twenty-eight and no more than thirty-four units of topics~~ six courses, including at most two from Schedule A and at least two from Schedule C, chosen from a list of topics approved by the Organising Committee ~~and published in the University Gazette~~ by the beginning of Michaelmas Full Term in the academic year of the examination. The mode of assessment shall be either written assignment or written examination, as detailed in the Course Handbook and on the website www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/MSCinCS/. The list of courses shall be divided into three sections: Schedule A, Schedule B and Schedule C, as detailed on the website www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/MSCinCS/.

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6. By a date in each term to be specified in the Course Handbook, each candidate in consultation with their supervisor must submit for approval by the director of the course a list of topics which will be taken in that term. The choice must exclude any topics which substantially overlap the candidate's undergraduate degree or other recent academic study. Candidates are allowed to take examinations in a maximum of four courses per term. ~~At least twenty-eight units of topics must be selected with a maximum of 12 units to be taken from Schedule A; candidates shall be allowed to choose a maximum of thirty-four units of topics. The choice must exclude any topics which substantially overlap the topics of the candidate's undergraduate degree or other recent academic study.~~

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8. ~~With the permission of the Organising Committee, a candidate may offer up to two alternative topics to replace any of the topics listed in Schedules B and C. An application for such replacement must be made to the director of the course by the end of the first week of the term in which the lecture course on the topic is given; it must be approved by the student's supervisor and by the lecturer on the course, who thereby undertakes to accept appointment as assessor for the topic.~~

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10. Any candidate who has not achieved an average of at least 50 in ~~their best four courses~~ ~~24 units of topics~~ by the beginning of Trinity Term shall be deemed to have failed the degree course and will not be permitted to submit a dissertation.

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11. To satisfy the examiners for the degree of MSc in Computer Science, a candidate must attain an average of at least 50 (pass) on a selection of their best six courses, including at most two courses from Schedule A and at least two courses from Schedule C in assignment or written examination in their best 28 units of topics, pass in the dissertation, pursue an adequate course of practical work and achieve an overall pass in practicals, and unless dispensed under cl.3 (iii) above satisfy the examiners in the viva voce examination.

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13. ~~A candidate who fails the examination will be permitted to retake it on one further occasion only, not later than one year after the initial attempt. Such a candidate whose dissertation has been of satisfactory standard may resubmit the same piece of work, while a candidate who has reached a satisfactory standard on the assignments or written examinations will not be required to retake that~~

~~part of the examination.~~

If a candidate receives a failing mark for any of the summative assessments, they may retake the assessment (or equivalent) in the year following the initial attempt as set out in the Course Handbook.

Re-number current clause 9 to be clause 8

Re-number current clause [9 10](#) to be clause [9 9](#)

Re-number current clauses [112, 12](#) and 13 as 10, ~~and~~ 11 [and 12](#) respectively

Explanatory Notes

The main proposals here remove the 'units' previously listed, and instead replaces them with course limits. The idea of this is to simplify the regulations so that they can be better understood by the students, and not to drastically change the requirements of the course. This change will remove the overall upper limit of units (now courses) a student can take, giving them more opportunity of redemption. It is currently the case that the large majority of students take no more than 2 schedule A courses and at least 2 schedule C courses.

These changes will be communicated to offer-holders for 2016/17.