Mathematical, Physical, and Life Sciences Division

Approved by MPLS Division's Academic Audit Committee

Title of Programme
MSc in Computer Science

Brief note about nature of change: The regulations simplify and clarify what is required to pass the Trinity Term hurdle, what constitutes failure of that hurdle and what the consequences are, and what requirements a candidate has to meet in order to re-sit the examination.

Effective date
1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013)

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2011

Detail of change
1. p.684, l.1, delete "with at least 16 units from Schedules B and C combined", and substitute: "with a maximum of 12 units to be taken from Schedule A"

2. delete from p.684, l.15, to p.685, l.3, and substitute:

"9. Not later than noon on a date in each term to be determined by the examiners, who are responsible for making sure candidates are aware of that date and that the date is announced at the head of the assignment sheet, the completed assignment for each topic must be delivered to the M.Sc. Examiners (Computer Science), c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. Not later than noon on Wednesday of Week 0 of the following term, practicals for all topics must be delivered to the M.Sc. Examiners (Computer Science), c/o the Post Graduate Taught Course Administrator, Department of Computer Science, Oxford. Topics to be assessed by written examination will take place in Week 0 of the following term. No candidate shall attend classes or receive any form of individual tuition in the subject of an assignment between the time when the assignment is made available to the candidate and the time fixed for the delivery of the
assignment to the examiners.

10. A list of those candidates who have satisfied the examiners in a particular topic shall be posted in the vestibule of the Department of Computer Science within three working weeks of the final date for submission of assignments/within two weeks of the final date for written examinations.

11. Any candidate who has not achieved an average of at least 50 in 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.

12. To satisfy the examiners for the degree of MSc in Computer Science, a candidate must attain an average of at least 50 (pass) in the assignments 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.

13. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.

14. 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."

Explanatory Notes

These regulations simplify and clarify what is required to pass both the Trinity Term hurdle and the degree course as a whole, what the consequences are of failing to pass the hurdle, and what requirements a candidate who has failed the degree course has to meet in returning to re-sit the examination. It makes clear among other things that a candidate who fails the Trinity Term hurdle may not stay on to work on their dissertation in that academic year, but must return the following year to work on the dissertation as part of their re-sit.