Mathematical and Physical Life Sciences Divisional Board

Approved on behalf of Education Committee on 18 March 2025

Title of Programme

MSc Advanced Computer Science

Brief note about nature of change:

1. Addition of new clauses to outline streams, entry, and transfer between streams

2. Removal of requirement for lecturer reporting to Board of Examiners to reflect current practice

3. Addition of specific deadline for dissertation

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2024-2025:*
https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mosbciadvacompscie

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2025

For first examination from 2025-2026

Detail of change

Insert citation 1.2-1.4, amend citation 1.8, and amend citation numbering:

- ¹·¹1. The Divisional Board of Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences, in consultation with the Department of Computer Science, shall elect for the supervision of the course an Organising Committee which shall have power to arrange lectures and other instruction.
- ¹·²2. The following awards shall be available to candidates admitted to the MSc in Advanced Computer Science:
    i.   MSc in Advanced Computer Science

- ii. MSc in Advanced Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence)
  - iii. MSc in Advanced Computer Science (Foundations of Computer Science)
- 1.3 3. Entry to the Programme is to the MSc in Advanced Computer Science.
- 1.4 4. A candidate may transfer from the MSc in Advanced Computer Science to another award in the programme not later than the third week in July in the year the programme is completed provided that for the award they wish to transfer to they have completed at least three option courses identified as a requirement for that award as published in the Course Handbook.

  1.2 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.

  - 1.3 3. Candidates must satisfy the examiners in the following:
    o 1.4 (i) Six options. The list of options will be published in the Course Handbook and on the website of the Department of Computer Science, by the beginning of Michaelmas Full Term. The mode of assessment shall be as detailed in the Course Handbook.
    o 1.5 (ii) A dissertation of not more than 30,000 words, plus not more than 30 pages of diagrams, tables, listing etc., and (where applicable) the source code, on a subject selected by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor and approved by the MSc Course Director. The associated source code is neither included in the word count nor the 30-page limit of additional material.
  - 1.6 4. Candidates may be required to attend a viva voce examination at the end of the course of studies at the discretion of the examiners.
  - 1.7 5. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate in their dissertation an understanding of relevant areas of Computer Science.
  - 1.8 6. An electronic copy of the dissertation and, where applicable, associated source code, must be submitted as specified in the Course Handbook by not later than 12 noon on the last Tuesday in August. Tuesday of week minus 5, of Michaelmas Term, as stated in the Course Handbook.
  - 1.9 7. No candidate is permitted to choose any options 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 options per term.
  - 1.10 8. For each option, the lecturer on the course of instruction shall prescribe a schedule of practical work, class exercises and a written assignment or written examination., and shall make available to the Board of Examiners evidence showing the extent to which each candidate has pursued an adequate course of practical and class work.
  - 1.11 9. By not later than noon on the date given in the Course Handbook, practicals for all options must be submitted as described in the Course Handbook.
  - 1.12 10. 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.

Explanatory Notes

This change allows the inclusion of two specific streams for the MSc in Advanced Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence and Foundations of Computer Science).

The deadline for the dissertation has been updated to make it easier to understand the actual date of submission.

There has also been an amendment to clause 8 which removes the requirement that lecturers provide evidence to the Board of Examiners as this does not reflect current practice.