

MPLS Divisional Board**Approved by officers on behalf of Education Committee on 5 September 2022****Title of Programme**

Software Engineering Programme

Brief note about nature of change: Clarification of entry and exit points, assessment requirements, and suspension and extension provisions; discontinuation of PGCert Object Technology.**Location of change**

Examination Regulations 2021/22

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=softengiproq>**Effective date****For students starting from MT22****Detail of change****Software Engineering Programme**

For students registering on the M.Sc. in Software Engineering or the M.Sc. in Software and Systems Security on or after 1 April 2010.

A. Definition of the Programme

- 1. The Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Divisional Board shall offer a Programme of Studies in Software Engineering at postgraduate level.

- 2. The subjects of the Programme shall be Software Engineering and Software and Systems Security. ~~and Object Technology.~~
- 3. The following awards shall be available within the Programme:
 - i. M.Sc. in Software Engineering
 - ii. M.Sc. in Software and Systems Security
 - iii. Postgraduate Diploma in Software Engineering
 - iv. Postgraduate Diploma in Software and Systems Security
 - v. Postgraduate Certificate in Software Engineering
 - vi. Postgraduate Certificate in Software and Systems Security
 - ~~vii. Postgraduate Certificate in Object Technology~~
- 4. The Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Divisional Board shall elect for the supervision of the Programme a Supervisory Committee which shall have the power to arrange lectures and other instruction.

B. Progression

- 5. Entry to the Programme is to the M.Sc. ~~Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate in Software Engineering,~~ in Software Engineering ~~and or~~ the M.Sc. ~~Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate in Software and Systems Security. or the Postgraduate Certificate in Object Technology.~~
- 6. ~~Based on satisfactory performance and~~ With the approval of the Programme Director, a candidate may transfer from the M.Sc., ~~Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate in Software Engineering to the M.Sc., Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate in Software Engineering, and from the MSc in Software and Systems Security to the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate in Software and Systems Security, or vice versa, subject to being eligible to study for the relevant award as set out in sections C and D below.~~ Transfer is also permitted from the ~~Postgraduate Certificate in Object Technology to one of Postgraduate Certificates or Postgraduate Diplomas set out in clause 3 above.~~
- ~~7. Based on satisfactory performance and with the approval of the Programme Director, a candidate for the M.Sc. in Software Engineering or for the M.Sc. in Software and Systems Security may be awarded one of the Postgraduate Certificates or Postgraduate Diplomas set out in clause 3 above, or a candidate for the Postgraduate Diploma in in Software Engineering or Software and Systems Security may be awarded one of the Postgraduate Certificates set out in clause 3 above, subject to such a candidate having satisfied the criteria for the award of the relevant Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma as set out in section D below.~~ 7. Candidates who do not enter for or do not successfully complete the dissertation or do not otherwise meet the requirements for either the

MSc Software Engineering or the MSc Software and Systems Security may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate provided they meet the requirements for those awards given in Section D.

C. Eligibility for awards: duration of study

- ~~8.7.~~ To be eligible for the award of an M.Sc., a student must have been on the Register for the Programme for a period of not less than two years, and not more than four years. The minimum period of registration for the award is two years and the maximum period of registration is four years.
- ~~9. 8.~~ To be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, a student must have been on the Register for the Programme for a period of not less than one year, and not more than three years.
- ~~10. 9.~~ To be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate, a student must have been on the Register for the Programme for a period of not less than one year, and not more than two years.
- ~~11.~~ The Programme Director shall have power
 - ~~a.~~ to grant suspension from the Register for a period or periods totalling not more than three terms during each of the maximum periods given in clauses 8, 9, and 10 above;
 - ~~b.~~ to approve an extension of time of not more than three terms to each of the maximum periods given in clauses 8, 9, and 10 above;
- ~~subject to the total periods of suspensions and extensions not exceeding six terms overall.~~
- 8. If, for good cause, a student is temporarily unable to study, the Programme Director may grant the student's request for a temporary suspension of status up to a maximum of three terms. Applications for suspension of status should be made to the Programme Office and should be accompanied by statements of support from the student's supervisor and society.

D. Eligibility for awards: study and examinations

- ~~12. 9.~~ Schedules A-C I and II of modules will be published at <http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/softeng/handbook/schedules.html> on the programme's website. If insufficient students register for a module the Programme Director may make the decision not to offer that iteration of the module.
- ~~13. 10.~~ Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in the following:
 - **a. M.Sc. in Software Engineering**
 - (i) ~~attendance at a minimum of at~~ assessment for ten modules chosen from those in ~~the~~ Schedules I and II, as specified in the

~~course handbook, comprising a programme of study approved by the Supervisory Committee;~~

- ~~▪ (ii) submission of at least ten written assignments corresponding to these modules;~~
- (iii)-(ii) participation in a project module
- (iv) ~~submission of (iii)~~ a dissertation of not more than 20,000 words (including appendices and footnotes but excluding bibliography) on a subject selected by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor and approved by the Supervisory Committee. In preparation for the dissertation, candidates will be required to submit a proposal following participation in the project module. Dissertations submitted which differ from the topic approved by the Supervisory Committee may not be marked by the examiners;

○ **b. M.Sc. in Software and Systems Security**

- (i) ~~attendance at a minimum of~~ assessment for ten modules chosen from those in the Schedules I and II, as specified in the course handbook, of which at least six should come from Schedule C, together comprising a programme of study approved by the Supervisory Committee;
- ~~▪ (ii) submission of at least ten written assignments corresponding to these modules attended;~~
- (iii)-(ii) participation in a project module;
- (iv) ~~submission of (iii)~~ a dissertation of not more than 20,000 words (including appendices and footnotes but excluding bibliography) on a subject selected by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor and approved by the Supervisory Committee. In preparation for the dissertation, candidates will be required to submit a proposal following participation in the project module. Dissertations submitted which differ from the topic approved by the Supervisory Committee may not be marked by the examiners;
- ~~▪ (v) the subject of the projects and dissertation shall relate to software and systems security, and must have been approved as such by the Supervisory Committee.~~

○ **c. Postgraduate Diploma in Software Engineering**

- (i) ~~attendance at a minimum of~~ at assessment for eight modules chosen from those in the Schedules I and II, as specified in the course handbook, comprising a programme of study approved by the Supervisory Committee;

- ~~(ii) submission of at least eight written assignments corresponding to those modules attended.~~
- **d. Postgraduate Diploma in Software and Systems Security**
 - (i) ~~attendance at a minimum of assessment for eight modules chosen from those in the Schedule I and II, as specified in the course handbook, of which at least five should come from Schedule C, comprising a programme of study approved by the Supervisory Committee;~~
 - ~~(ii) submission of at least eight written assignments corresponding to those modules attended.~~
- **e. Postgraduate Certificate in Software Engineering**
 - (i) ~~attendance at a minimum of assessment for four modules, chosen from the Schedule, I and II, as specified in the course handbook, together comprising a programme of study approved by the Supervisory Committee;~~
 - ~~(ii) submission of at least four written assignments, corresponding to those modules attended.~~
- **f. Postgraduate Certificate in Software and Systems Security**
 - (i) ~~attendance at a minimum of assessment for four modules, chosen from the Schedules I and II, as specified in the course handbook, at least three of which chosen from Schedule C, together comprising a programme of study approved by the Supervisory Committee;~~
 - ~~(ii) submission of at least four written assignments, corresponding to those modules attended.~~
- ~~**g. Postgraduate Certificate in Object Technology**~~
 - ~~(i) attendance at a minimum of four modules, chosen from the Schedule, at least three of which chosen from Schedule B, together comprising a programme of study approved by the Supervisory Committee;~~
 - ~~(ii) submission of at least four written assignments, corresponding to those modules attended.~~
- ~~14. 11. The assignments, assessments, the project and, for the M.Sc., two typewritten or printed copies of the dissertation, shall be submitted as described in, and by the date given in the Course Handbook. forwarded to the examiners for consideration by such dates as the examiners shall determine and shall notify to candidates, supervisors and tutors. The assignments and the dissertation must be accompanied by a statement~~

that it is the candidate's work except where otherwise indicated. Candidates are usually required to submit the assignments electronically. Details will be given in the programme handbook. Any candidate who is unable, for some reason, to submit practical work electronically must apply to the Programme Director for permission to submit the work in paper form. Such applications must reach the Programme Director two weeks before the deadline for submitting the work. The two copies of the dissertation shall be addressed to the Chair of Examiners, Software Engineering Programme, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, OX1 4BG.

- ~~14.12.~~ Provided the Supervisory Committee is satisfied that a candidate has undertaken equivalent study, of an appropriate standard, normally at another institution of higher education, the committee shall have the discretion to permit the candidate to be exempted from attending, and submitting the written assignment for, completing modules chosen from Schedule I and II, as required under clause ~~12~~ 10 above as follows:
 - a. For the M.Sc.: up to two of the total of ten modules for which written assignments are required;
 - b. For the award of the Postgraduate Diploma: up to two of the total of eight modules;
 - c. For the award of the Postgraduate Certificate: up to one of the total of four modules.
 - That equivalent study might consist of modules from Schedules I or II A, B, or C completed and assessed prior to the commencement of the student's period of study; or it might take the form of courses of an appropriate standard from another institution of higher education. In either case, the equivalent study should have been completed no longer than 2 years prior to matriculation first registration for the programme.
- ~~15.13.~~ Candidates may be required to attend a viva voce examination as part of the examination for each award at the discretion of the examiners.
- ~~16.~~ The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination for each award.
- ~~17.~~ 14. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the assignments under clause ~~13~~ 10 above may be permitted to resubmit work in respect of the part or parts of the examination which they have failed for examination reassessment on not more than one occasion which shall normally be within one year of the initial failure. ~~No written assignment shall be submitted to the examiners on more than one occasion.~~

E. Subsuming of previous awards under the Programme

- ~~18.~~ 15. In the exceptional circumstances that a candidate granted approval under clause 7 above to be awarded of one of the Postgraduate Certificates or

Postgraduate Diplomas (set out in clause 3 above) is readmitted to one of the M.Sc.s (set out in clause 3 above), then the following apply:

- a. If any candidate who is successful in the examination for the Postgraduate Diploma has previously successfully completed the Postgraduate Certificate, and for that examination has incorporated the assignments submitted for the Postgraduate Certificate into the Postgraduate Diploma, then the Postgraduate Diploma will subsume ~~his or her~~ their Certificate.
- b. If any candidate who is successful in the examination for the M.Sc. has previously successfully completed the Postgraduate Diploma or the Postgraduate Certificate, and for that examination has incorporated the assignments submitted for the Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma into the M.Sc., then the subsequent award will subsume ~~his or her~~ their previous award.

~~F. Examination Conventions and Readmission~~

- ~~● 19. In the case of a candidate who is readmitted they will be subject to the Examination Conventions in force at the date of their readmission.~~

Explanatory Notes

Changes in suspension and extension provisions are intended to prevent issues which have arisen around the length of time it has taken some students to complete the course and the relevancy of initial modules and to provide greater consistency of treatment with other programmes.

Removal of PGCert Object Technology to reflect its discontinuation as a course available for admission.

Changes to reflect that students are admitted for an MSc but may opt to transfer and exit with a PGCert or PGDip.

Clarification of assessment requirements to reflect more accurately current practice.

Removal of binary gender references.

Removal of provisions that are more appropriately recorded in other regulations, in the course handbook and in exam conventions.