



DEPARTMENT OF
**COMPUTER
SCIENCE**

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October 2018

MSc in Computer Science

Michaelmas Term examination 2018

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

Fourteen courses are scheduled for examination at the end of Michaelmas Term 2018. This notice gives information about what to hand in and when, and guidelines for mini-projects (Appendix A).

Please note that the Examination Regulations for the MSc in Computer Science 2018-19 are available online:

<https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/mosbcincompscie/studentview/>

The Examination Conventions will be uploaded to the following page:
<http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/examconventions/MSCinCS.html>

1. Examination Entry

Please note that you will need to enter for your examinations using Student Self Service. For further information please see the Examination Entry website: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry?wssl=1> and your Course Handbook:

<https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/files/5740/MSc%20Handbook%2018-19%20V1.1.pdf>

2. Written Examination

Date and Papers

The following courses will be examined by a sit down exam which will take place in week 0 of Hilary Term (dates of term can be viewed here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term?wssl=1>), the actual day and time to be determined:

- Databases
- Functional Programming
- Machine Learning
- Computational Game Theory
- Probabilistic Model Checking

Exams will take place at the [Examination Schools](#), High Street, Oxford, OX1 4BG. You will have three hours to complete each exam.

Please note that previous years' papers can be viewed here: <https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/internal/papers/MSCinCS/2017/> and on [OXAM](#).

Examination Timetable

You will find your personal examination timetable under the link, 'Examination Timetable', in the 'My Exams' section of Student Self Service. Until your timetables are available, the screen will display no examinations information.

Sitting your exams

Subfusc (academic dress)

You will be required to wear academic dress with subfusc clothing at these exams, as specified here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/dress?wssl=1>

1. one of:
 - dark suit with dark socks, or
 - dark skirt with black tights or stockings, or
 - dark trousers with dark socks or dark hosiery
2. dark coat, if required - worn underneath the gown
3. black shoes
4. plain white collared shirt or blouse
5. white bow tie, black bow tie, black full-length tie, or black ribbon.

PLUS:

1. the appropriate academic gown (see [Academic Gowns for Students](#))
2. mortar board or soft cap

Taking items into an examination

For information on the required and permitted items you may take into an examination, when to arrive, and examination conduct, please visit: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance?wssl=1>

3. Submitted Mini-project(s)

Release Date

The mini-projects (take-home assignments) for each course may be downloaded from WebLearn from 12:00 noon on the date shown:

Monday of week 8, Michaelmas Term (26th November):

- Foundations of Computer Science
- Computer Aided Formal Verification
- Categories Proofs & Processes
- Computational Learning Theory
- Quantum Computer Science

Friday of week 8, Michaelmas Term (30th November):

- Computer Security
- Principles of Programming Languages
- Concurrent Algorithms and Data Structures
- Physically Based Rendering

Submitting a mini-project

Mini-projects must be submitted online through WebLearn.

Please note that your candidate number should be the only means of identification of your work. Please ensure that you include your candidate number on the front page of each mini-project submitted. **DO NOT include your name or Student Number.** You can obtain your candidate number through Student Self Service (for guidance on using the Student Self Service, please visit: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/selfservice/>). Should you encounter any problems doing this then please contact Tim Jones (tim.jones@cs.ox.ac.uk).

Submission Date

Submission Date: 12.00 noon, Wednesday 2 January 2019

Schedule A

Foundations of Computer Science

Schedule B

Computer Aided Formal Verification
Computer Security
Principles of Programming Languages

Schedule C

Categories, Proofs & Processes
Computational Learning Theory

Concurrent Algorithms and Data Structures
Physically Based Rendering
Quantum Computer Science

Guidelines for mini-projects

Please refer to [Appendix A](#).

4. Practicals

You will be required to submit your practical work for all your courses in one bundle in Trinity Term. Details of the submission date and time will follow in Hilary Term.

Please do not submit the practical work from your Michaelmas Term courses with your mini-projects, **but please do keep the work in a safe place until required for submission.**

Please remember that you need to obtain an overall pass in your practicals to be able to pass the MSc in Computer Science. See the Course Handbook for details.

5. Problems

You **MUST NOT** contact any member of the Examination Board, your supervisor, or lecturer in charge of the course with any queries about the mini-project. Please address any such queries to Tim Jones (tim.jones@cs.ox.ac.uk), who will advise you of the next steps. You must do so no later than **12 noon on Wednesday 12th December 2018.**

For questions about your exams in general, please feel free to contact Tim Jones, or any other member of the academic administration team.

If other problems arise (e.g. personal issues, health issues, bereavement) please consult your supervisor (or the Director of the MSc course) in the first instance. It is possible to apply for an extension of time to complete your mini-projects due to reasons like the ones listed above. In such cases, you must apply via your College as soon as possible, and please also inform Tim Jones that you are doing so. Your College will then write to the Proctors to request an extension. Please note that evidence will be required.

Supervisors will not be able to help you answer the questions in the mini-projects, but they may be able to help you with your reading and planning. If you need to contact your supervisor but have difficulty doing so, you should contact Tim Jones.

6. Results

It is anticipated that results will be available sometime after **Wednesday 30th January 2018**. You will be able to view your results by logging on to Student Self Service, using your single sign-on.

7. Examination Board

Dr Jonathan Whiteley (Chair)
Prof Sadie Creese
Prof David Kay
Dr Mark Kaminski
Prof Daniel Kroening
Prof Elizabeth Scott (External)

Dr Jonathan Whiteley
Chairman of Examiners
MSc in Computer Science

Enc.

Copy: Supervisors

Appendix A

Guidelines for mini-projects

A mini-project will normally take the form of a tutorial sheet containing several questions on the course, and will also contain new exercises. While you are free to work until the hand-in date, the expectation is that you will spend around 2/3 days per mini-project for topics under Schedules A and B, and around 3/4 days per mini-project for topics under Schedule C, including preparatory reading.

1. If you plan to complete your mini-projects away from Oxford, make sure that you have access to adequate computing resources, including email.

Please note that some of your mini-projects have page limits, as set out in your student handbook. Even if there is no page limit, you should aim at writing about 10 pages. For any mini-projects which are submitted on paper (which does not apply to any courses taught in Michaelmas Term, but might apply to some courses later in the academic year), use one side of the paper only, and use standard A4. If you write by hand, write legibly. Illegible scripts will be transcribed at your cost, as laid out in the [examination regulations](#).

2. If prior to entering for your exams, you think you will have trouble with completing all the mini-projects you planned to do, and want to drop one of them, discuss this with your supervisor. If you do decide to drop a mini-project, make sure you advise Tim Jones and the tutor of the relevant class **before 26th November**. The same applies if you change your mind about which mini-projects you want to take, or if you want to complete an additional one. To change an option outside the examination entry window you must apply for permission in writing through your senior tutor or college officer. Please note that a payment will be required. For more information on this, please visit: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry>. Failure to submit a required element of assessment will result in the failure of the assessment.
3. When submitting your mini-projects as a paper copy, you will have to complete a Declaration Form attesting that they are your own work, except where indicated. For assessed work submitted online, the declaration will be an on-screen form. Failure to correctly acknowledge your sources is plagiarism, which is treated as a very serious disciplinary offence. Please consult (a) the University web site regarding plagiarism (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>) and (b) the detailed guidance on plagiarism in Appendix E of the MSc Computer Science Handbook.

YOU SHOULD NOT show your mini-project to, or discuss it with, any other student. **YOU SHOULD NOT** ask or seek to look at anybody else's work.

If you use material from any other source such as textbooks, lecture notes or the web, then you should reference it explicitly at the relevant point. Your supervisor can give you guidance on proper referencing, or for more guidance see

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills> and
<http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/files/3161/Referencing.pdf>

There is also an online course on WebLearn, a link to which can be found at:
<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>, which provides an overview of plagiarism and the issues surrounding it, and will be beneficial for you to take.