DEPARTMENT OF
COMPUTER SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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November 2020

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MSc in Computer Science

Michaelmas Term examination 2020

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

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Eight courses are scheduled for examination at the end of Michaelmas Term 2020. 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 2020-21 are available online:
https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2020-21/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 and your Course Handbook:
   https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/files/5740/MSc%20Handbook%2020-21%20v1.pdf

2. **Written Examination**

   Date and Papers
   The following courses will be examined by an online 'open-book' 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) , the actual day and time to be determined:

   - Databases
   - Functional Programming

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Oxford exams usually take the form of invigilated, handwritten exams taken by large cohorts dressed in formal dress (sub fusc) usually in the Examination Schools or Ewert House. Open-book exams, on the other hand, are sat remotely by students on their own – usually in their own homes. Students are able to access their textbooks, notes and other resources. Once you have finished, you will submit your response in WebLearn. You will have slightly longer than conventional exams to account for the different format. For further information please see the open-book exam guide for candidates: https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/open-book.

Your personal timetable showing your papers and the dates, times and location at which they will take place will be published online at least two weeks before your first examination: https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables.

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 (UK time) on the date shown:

Friday of week 8, Michaelmas Term (4th December):

- Foundations of Computer Science
- Computer Aided Formal Verification
- Automata, Logic and Games
- Categories, Proofs & Processes
- Concurrent Algorithms and Data Structures
- Quantum Processes and Computation

Submitting a mini-project
Mini-projects must be submitted online through WebLearn. Please name your file with your candidate number and the name of the assignment.

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

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encounter any problems doing this then please contact Lucy Traves (lucy.traves@cs.ox.ac.uk).

Once mini projects have been collected they are not to be shared or discussed with other students on or outside of the course. Please note, where mini-projects are set for candidates studying a different degree programme the material covered in the mini-project may be similar but may not be identical

Submission Date
Submission Date: 12.00 noon, **Monday 4th January 2021**

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 Lucy Traves (lucy.traves@cs.ox.ac.uk), who will advise you of the next steps. You must do so no later than **12 noon on Wednesday 16th December 2020.**

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

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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 Lucy Traves 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 Lucy Traves.

6. Results

It is anticipated that results will be available sometime after **Wednesday 6th February 2021**. You will be able to view your results by logging on to Student Self Service, using your single sign-on.

7. Examination Board

Prof Sadie Creese
Prof Elias Koutsoupias
Prof David Kay
Prof Rahul Santhanam (Chair)
Prof Georg Gottlob
Prof Sara Kalvala (External)

Prof Rahul Santhanam
Chairman of Examiners
MSc in Computer Science

Enc.   Copy:
Supervisors

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Appendix A

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 **Lucy Traves, lucy.traves@cs.ox.ac.uk**. 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.

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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.