

## **MSc IN COMPUTER SCIENCE EXAMINATION CONVENTIONS 2006/07**

The Supervisory Committee for the MSc in Computer Science *directs* that examinations for which it is responsible are conducted in accordance with these conventions. Examiners are reminded that deviation from these conventions is permitted only after reference to the Supervisory Committee.

Candidates are required to

- submit written assignments in seven or eight topics (with at least 4 from Schedule B) and
- to submit a dissertation which must demonstrate an appreciation of the role of methods studied in the course
- to attend an examination *viva voce*, unless individually dispensed

To satisfy the examiners a candidate must

- attain a minimum standard of Grade C and above in seven of the assignments
- pass five assignments (including at least three from Schedule B or alternative topics approved by the organising committee)
- pass the project
- pursue an adequate course of practical work
- attain an adequate level of achievement in all three parts of the examination

Assignments and dissertations are graded on a nine-point scale (attached). The first five grades, A+ down to B, are passing grades, and the remainder, B- to C-, are failing grades, with B- indicating borderline failure.

Anonymised assignments are marked by the course lecturer and moderated by the examiners. Moderation is intended to ensure consistency and fairness across courses, and the moderators may adjust grades, or take any other necessary steps, to achieve this goal.

The dissertation is read and graded by two assessors, one of whom is an examiner. Neither assessor will be the student's supervisor for the project.

A candidate who obtains a minimum standard in seven assignments, and at least B grades in five assignments and the project, is normally dispensed from attending a viva. The examiners may moderate a B- grade to a B grade if they judge the candidate's overall performance merits it.

### *Late submission or failure to submit coursework*

Under the provisions permitted by the 2006 regulation, late submission of coursework (i.e. practical and project reports) will normally result in the following penalties:

Where permission for late submission has been granted by the Proctors (under clause (1) of para. 16.8, page 45), no penalty will be imposed.

Where permission for late submission has not been granted by the Proctors, but the Proctors have given leave for the candidate to remain in the exam (under clauses (3) and (4) of para. 16.8), the Examiners may impose a penalty not exceeding the credit available for that piece of work. The Examiners should take into account such factors as:

1. the evidence forwarded to them by the Proctors and (insofar as the following matters are not dealt with by such evidence);

2. the degree of advantage gained by the extra time made available to the candidate relative to the time that was available to complete coursework by the original deadline;
3. the weight to be attached to the reason given, if any, for late submission.

Where the candidate is not permitted by the Proctors to remain in the examination he or she will be deemed to have failed the examination as a whole.

#### *Distinction*

The award of a Distinction is governed by the following rule: The grades B, B+, A-, A, A+ are first converted into numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. The sum of the grades for the five best assignments is then combined with four times the project grade to obtain a total T. This total may then be increased by up to two marks if the project was considered by the examiners to be at the high end of its grade. If  $T \geq 73$ , then a Distinction is awarded.

#### *Prize*

A prize, value £200, may be awarded, if there is a candidate of sufficient merit, by the Examiners each year to the candidate whose performance in the examination they judge to be the best.

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Nothing contained in this document supersedes the University's regulations and policy set out in the current *Examination Regulations (pp.755-756)* and the documents *Notes for the Guidance of Examiners and Chairmen of Examiners* and *Notes of Guidance on Examinations and Assessment*.