

## MSc in Computer Science

### Michaelmas Term examination 2013

#### NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

Fourteen courses are scheduled for examination at the end of Michaelmas Term, 2013. This notice gives information about what to hand in and when, advice on practical work, advice on how much time to spend on each assignment, the sit down exam, and general hints on the content of the examination. Attached to this circular you will find details of the marking system used to assess your examined work.

Please note that you will be required to complete a formal examination entry form for your Michaelmas Term topics. You will receive this form in the next couple of weeks through your college, and will be required to return it to the Exam Schools by Friday of week 8.

#### Written Exam

The following courses will be examined by a sit down exam which will take place early in week 0 of Hilary Term, the actual day and time to be determined:

- Object Oriented Programming
- Functional Programming
- Databases

Exams will take place at the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. You will have three hours to complete each exam.

You will be required to wear academic dress with *subfusc* clothing at these exams, which comprises of the following:

- a dark suit with dark socks, or a dark skirt with black stockings or trousers with dark socks and an optional dark coat; black shoes; plain white collared shirt; a black tie or white bow tie.

#### Assignment

The other courses will be examined by a take-home assignment. The assignments for each of the courses given this term will be available on **Friday of week 8 (6<sup>th</sup> December) except:**

- Foundations of Computer Science
- Computer Aided Formal Verification
- Machine Learning
- Automata Logic & Games
- Categories Proofs & Processes
- Probability & Computing
- Quantum Computer Science

which will be available on **Monday of week 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> December).**

You should collect your assignments from Wendy Adams in Room 112 after 12 noon on the appropriate day.

The assignment must be handed in, in an envelope and clearly marked with your candidate number, to the Examination Schools, High St, by noon sharp on the following date:

**Hand-in: 12 noon, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

Schedule A

Foundations of Computer Science  
Introduction to Specification  
Object Oriented Programming (**assessed practical**)

Schedule B

Computer Aided Formal Verification  
Computer Security  
Machine Learning  
Principles of Programming Languages

Schedule C

Automata Logic & Games  
Categories Proofs & Processes  
Probabilistic Model Checking  
Probability & Computing  
Quantum Computer Science

Practicals

Your practical work should be handed in to Wendy Adams (room 112) at the Department of Computer Science **between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (week 5)**. Please note that the **absolute deadline is 2.00 p.m. that day**. The work should be submitted in one bundle in a single envelope addressed to the Chairman of Examiners, MSc in Computer Science and must be marked clearly on the outside with your name and candidate number.

Please note that you have to sign a declaration stating that the work you are submitting is all your own, except for marks and comments by demonstrators and other material clearly indicated. This will be sent to you in due course.

Please also note that each separate report of practical work should be conspicuously labelled with your candidate number **only**, and **not** with your name or college.

**All practical work must be signed off by a demonstrator before you submit it.**

Problems

You should never make direct contact with either the Lecturer in charge of the course or the Examiners.

If there is any part of the assignment about which you require clarification, please **DO NOT** contact your supervisor, or the Lecturer or the Examiners. Please address any such queries to Wendy Adams ([wendy.adams@cs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:wendy.adams@cs.ox.ac.uk)), who will advise you of the next steps. You must do so no later **than 12 noon on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013**.

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 assignments due to reasons like the ones listed above. In such cases, you must apply via your College as soon as possible, and please inform Wendy Adams that you are doing so. Your College will then write to the Proctors to request an extension. Evidence will be required.

Supervisors will not be able to help you answer the assignments, but they may be able to help you with your reading and your planning. If you need to contact your supervisor but have difficulty doing so, you should contact Wendy Adams.

### Submitting Assignments

You will need to complete a **declaration form for each assignment** (enclosed with each assignment), to be handed in **stating that it is entirely your own work (except where otherwise indicated)**.

**Please remember that you must put your examination number on the assignment. This should be the only means of identification of your work – you MUST NOT include your name or your OSS id number.** You can obtain your candidate number through student self-service; if you have a problem doing this, then please see Wendy Adams.

Please can you put each assignment in the appropriate envelope (enclosed). **Please note you should ensure that scripts are firmly tied or stapled, but in a manner that allows the script to be read without detachment.** A separate declaration form should be included in each envelope but not attached to your work.

### Guidelines for assignments

An assignment will normally take the form of a tutorial sheet containing several questions on the course, and will contain bookwork questions and new exercises. While you are free to work until the hand-in date, the expectation is that you will spend around 3/4 days per assignment for topics under Schedules A and B, and around 4/5 days per assignment for topics under Schedule C, including preparatory reading.

1. Although the assignments may be carried out while you are resident in Oxford, some may be prepared over the Vacation period. Students who wish to complete their assignments away from Oxford should make sure that they have access to a computer.
2. Your answer to an assignment should not normally exceed 20 pages, (10 pages would be more typical). Write on one side of the paper only, and use standard A4. Write legibly and allow time to polish answers. Illegible and poorly laid out answers will be penalised more severely than in a standard 3-hour written exam. Typewritten or word-processed answers are acceptable, provided the mathematical notation is clear, but do not waste your precious time in presenting your answers in Word format or in LaTeX-ing your answers (unless you are accomplished at this).
3. You should aim to do significantly more than half of each assignment. If you complete less than half of an assignment, you should still hand it in. Even if you fail in that subject, the work will earn you credit in the overall assessment. Furthermore, your work may suggest remedial action to your supervisor.
4. If prior to submitting your exam entry form you think you will have trouble with completing all the assignments, consider dropping one of them altogether; discuss this with your supervisor. If you do decide to drop one assignment you must make sure you advise Wendy Adams. **However, you cannot withdraw once you have submitted the exam entry form.** If you fail to submit an assignment for one of the topics listed on your Exam entry form, the Examination Schools will notify the Proctors that you have failed to submit an assignment. As a result, the Proctors may deem you to have failed the entire course!
5. When submitting your assignments you will have to complete a Declaration Form attesting that they are your own work, except where indicated. Failure to correctly acknowledge your sources is plagiarism, which is treated as a very serious disciplinary offence. The consequences of copying can never be remedied. Please consult (a) the University web site regarding plagiarism (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/epsc/plagiarism/index.shtml>), and (b) your supervisor if you are worried about possible suspicion of irregularity in examination procedures.

**You should not** show your assignment 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 <http://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/200232/referencing>

You will not receive any credit for simply copying information verbatim because that displays very little understanding. The assessors will be more impressed if you synthesise information from a number of sources (properly cited, of course), and combine it with your own ideas.

6. 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.

### Results

It is anticipated that results will be available sometime after **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014**. You will be able to view your results by logging on to OSS, using your single sign-on.

Prof. S G Pulman  
Chairman of Examiners  
MSc in Computer Science

Enc.

Copy: Supervisors