MSc in Computer Science

Hilary Term Examinations 2014

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

Full particulars of the examinations are given in the Examination Regulations 2013, and the Examination Conventions for 2013/14 can be found at

http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/examconventions/MSCinCS.html

Take-home assignments
Each of the following courses will be examined by a take-home assignment. The assignment for each course may be collected from Wendy Adams in Room 112 of the Department of Computer Science after 12 noon on the date shown.

Monday 10th March 2014
Concurrency
Lambda Calculus and Types
Theory of Data & Knowledge Bases

Friday 14th March 2014
Concurrent Programming
Advanced Machine Learning
Advanced Security
Software Verification
Visual Analytics
Computational Linguistics

The completed assignments are due by **12 noon on Monday, 7th April, 2014**. Each assignment should be put in a separate envelope, clearly marked with your candidate number (but not your name) and the name of the course, and addressed to the Chairman of Examiners, MSc in Computer Science. You are required to submit a completed declaration of authorship form with each assignment, declaring that the assignment is your own work (except where indicated)

Please note you should ensure that scripts are firmly secured using the coversheet provided (a treasury tag is recommended), but in a manner that allows the script to be read without detachment.

The envelopes must be handed in to the Examination Schools, High St, by 12 noon on the date above. Assignments cannot be handed in at the Department of Computer Science, or anywhere else other than at the Examination Schools.

Written Examinations

The following courses will be examined by a 3-hour written examination in week 0 of Trinity Term. You will be notified of the date and time once set.

Computational Complexity
Intelligent Systems
Knowledge Representation and Reasoning

Exams will take place at the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. You are required to wear academic dress, *subfusc*, for these examinations.

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 your college by Friday of week 8.

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), who will advise you of the next steps. You must do so by no later **than 12 noon on Wednesday, 26th March 2014.**

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.

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 and are considering dropping one of them altogether please 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. Practicals should be submitted on Monday of week 4; details of the submission will be circulated in the Trinity Term notice to candidates.

<u>Results</u>

It is anticipated that results will be available sometime after 6th May **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