



DEPARTMENT OF
**COMPUTER
SCIENCE**

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE HANDBOOK

PARTS A & B

For students entering the second year of their course in 2020

Computer Science
Computer Science & Philosophy
Mathematics & Computer Science

2020

Version 1

Welcome

This is a supplement to the [Computer Science Handbook](#). It is designed to give you all the course-specific information you will need in your second and third years, complete with all important deadlines.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the academic admin staff at academic.administrator@cs.ox.ac.uk if you have any questions.

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Disclaimer

This handbook supplement applies to students entering the second year of their degree in Computer Science, Mathematics & Computer Science or Computer Science & Philosophy in Michaelmas term 2020. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting their second year in other years.

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at

[Honour School of Computer Science](#)

[Honour School of Mathematics and Computer Science](#)

[Honour School of Computer Science and Philosophy](#)

If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact the academic admin team at academic.administrator@cs.ox.ac.uk.

The information in this handbook is accurate as at October 2020. It may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges webpage. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook, together with a list of the changes, and you will be informed.

Version	Action	Date
Version 1.0	Published start of MT19	13/10/2020

1 Courses

Please find information on Course Aims and Intended Learning Outcomes for each degree in the [Undergraduate Course Handbook for the Preliminary Examinations](#).

For all undergraduate courses, you will have been entered initially for the 4-year degree, and will need to decide early in your third year whether you wish to carry on into the fourth year or leave at the end of the third year with a BA.

Please note that each third year course in Computer Science will require about 10 hours of study a week.

1.1 Computer Science

The Department of Computer Science offers the following degrees in Computer Science at undergraduate level:

- BA – Computer Science, 3-year
- MCompSci – Computer Science, 4-year

1.1.1 Second and third years

Synopses for all courses can be found at www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/courses/.

Second-year Computer Science candidates will take four core courses:

- [Compilers](#)
- [Concurrent Programming](#)
- [Algorithms and Data Structures](#)
- [Models of Computation](#)

In the second and third years you are required to take a total of 10 optional courses from Schedules S1 and S2 (with no more than two from Schedule S2). It is recommended that you take four or five of these in your second year. These lists can be found at www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/bacompsci/PartA/.

The four core courses will be examined at the end of the second year and the 10 optional courses will be examined at the end of the third year. It is strongly recommended that if you intend to study any Computer Science optional course that is scheduled in Trinity term, you do so in your second year, as they may clash with examinations if studied in your third year.

The examination papers will have three questions, and you may attempt two of them. In finals papers, questions are marked out of 25. The marks for each part of each question will be indicated on the examination paper. The intention is that Part A examinations will be in an [in-person invigilated format](#), and Part B examinations will be in an [online open-book format](#). However, it may be necessary to move Part A examinations online if the COVID-19 situation changes; students will be notified via email if this happens.

In the third year you are also required to submit a project report. [Please find more information on Computer Science Projects here.](#)

1.2 *Mathematics & Computer Science*

The Department of Computer Science offers the following joint degrees with the Department of Mathematics:

- BA – Mathematics and Computer Science, 3-year
- MMathCompSci – Mathematics and Computer Science, 4-year

1.2.1 *Second and Third years*

Second year Mathematics and Computer Science students take the following Maths papers:

- [A0 Linear Algebra](#)
- [A2 Metric Spaces and Complex Analysis](#)

In addition, you must offer either two papers from A3-A5, A7-A11 or one paper from A3-A5, A7-A11 and paper ASO.

- [A3 Rings and Modules](#)
- [A4 Integration](#)
- [A5 Topology](#)
- [A7 Numerical Analysis](#)
- [A8 Probability](#)
- [A9 Statistics](#)
- [A10 Fluids and Waves](#)
- [A11 Quantum Theory](#)
- [ASO Short Options](#)

You must also take two core Computer Science courses:

- [Algorithms and Data Structures](#)
- [Models of Computation](#)

These courses will be examined at the end of the second year. The intention is that Part A examinations will be in an [in-person invigilated format](#). However, it may be necessary to move Part A examinations online if the COVID-19 situation changes; students will be notified via email if this happens.

It is particularly important to choose courses in your second year that will lead on to the options that you wish to take in the third year, especially if you want to spend more than half of your time on Maths courses in the third year. You should consult your college tutor for advice about this.

It is strongly recommended that if you intend to study any Computer Science optional course that is scheduled in Trinity Term that you do so in your second year as they may clash with examinations if studied in your third year.

In your third year, you must choose at least two **Part B** options from [Schedule S2](#) for **Maths**.

For **Computer Science**, for **Part B** of your examination at the end of your third year, you will take at least four courses from [Schedule S1](#) across your second and third years. You should aim at taking at least two of the four courses in your second year. Part B examinations will be in an [online open-book format](#).

You must offer ten optional courses in total for your Part B examination. Apart from the minimum requirements listed above, you may fill your remaining four option courses from schedules S1 and S2 in any way you like. This is equivalent to 32 lectures.

Information about Part A courses can be found at <http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/mcs/PartA/> and Part B courses at <http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/mcs/PartB/>.

Synopses for Computer Science courses can be found at www.cs.ox.ac.uk/teaching/courses/.

Synopses for Mathematics courses can be found at <https://courses.maths.ox.ac.uk/overview/undergraduate>.

1.3 Computer Science and Philosophy

The Department of Computer Science offers the following joint degrees with the Faculty of Philosophy:

- BA – Computer Science and Philosophy, 3-year
- MCompPhil. – Computer Science and Philosophy, 4-year

1.3.1 Second and Third Years

As well as the two Computer Science Part A core courses, you have to take an equivalent of 14 option "course-equivalents", with at least four from Computer Science, and at least six from Philosophy. The remaining four may be chosen from either discipline without restriction. Each Philosophy option is worth two "course-equivalents" and each Computer Science option is worth one. The possible combinations are:

- four Computer Science options and five Philosophy options;
- six Computer Science options and four Philosophy options;
- eight Computer Science options and three Philosophy options.

Computer Science

In the second year of the degree you are required to take the core Computer Science subjects:

- [Algorithms and Data Structures](#)
- [Models of Computation](#)

These subjects will be examined at the end of the second year, in your **Part A** examination. The intention is that Part A examinations will be in an [in-person invigilated format](#). However, it may be necessary to move Part A examinations online if the COVID-19 situation changes; students will be notified via email if this happens.

You should also take four, six or eight Computer Science courses, during the second and third years, from [Schedules S1\(CS&P\) and S2\(CS&P\)](#). It is recommended that you take at least two of these courses during your second year. These options will be examined in your **Part B** examination at the end of your third year. Part B examinations will be in an [online open-book format](#).

It is strongly recommended that if you intend to study any Computer Science optional course that is scheduled in Trinity term that you do so in your second year as they may clash with examinations if studied in your third year.

Philosophy

You will take three, four or five Philosophy courses during the second and third years, from [this list of courses](#). It is recommended that you take two courses in your second year. Two of these courses must be chosen from Papers 101, 102, 103, 104, 108, 122, 124, 125 and 127.

Details of these courses on the [Philosophy Faculty Website](#).

Note that each Philosophy option is twice the weight of a Computer Science option.

2 Group Design Practical

The second year course also includes a group design practical as part of the practical requirements for the year. This will allow you to practise the skills you learnt in the core programming courses, and to begin to develop a range of further skills including team-working, project and time management, and presentation skills.

The group design practical is intended to take you 20-30 hours, mainly during Hilary term. There will be a briefing meeting early in Hilary term, setting out the aims and format of the exercise and listing several possible problems to tackle. You will then be allocated to a team of around 5 people to work on one particular problem together. Each team will be allocated a member of staff to act as a supervisor, and will have three meetings with their supervisor during the project.

The first meeting with the supervisor will take place at the beginning of Hilary term, where the group will present a specification and project plan.

The second meeting with the supervisor will take place in Hilary term: the group will present their initial module implementations and test results.

The third meeting will take place in Trinity term: the group will demonstrate their product and deliver a brief final report. Each student will also deliver to the supervisor a one-page summary of their individual contribution.

Finally, the groups will present their work to students, members of the Department, and guests. This will take the form of a demonstration session, followed by a seminar where groups will take turns to describe their projects; and prizes will be presented.

The final group report and summary of individual contribution will be assessed as S+, S, Pass or Fail. The group design practical counts as one-third of the total practical mark for the second year and candidates are required to achieve at least a Pass. Your supervisor will submit your group report and the summary of your individual contribution to the Examiners to be considered along with your other practical reports.

3 Examinations for Parts A and B

3.1 Computer Science

The examinations for Part A will be sat at the end of your second year:

[Concurrent Programming](#), [Algorithms](#) and [Models of Computation](#) will each be examined by a 2 hour written examination.

[Compilers](#) will be examined by an assessed practical (35% of the marks) and a 2 hour written examination (65%).

Instructions for the assessed practical will be handed out on Friday in week 8 of Michaelmas term, and the practical report must be uploaded to the departmental WebLearn site by noon on Friday of week 2 of Hilary term. The assessed practical will incorporate and extend elements of the lab exercises that were set during term. As always, the work you submit must be your own, except where explicitly acknowledged.

[Appendix A](#) of the Course Handbook sets out the standards that are expected in this regard. Please see also the University's [guidelines for academic good practice](#).

The intention is that Part A examinations will be in an [in-person invigilated format](#). However, it may be necessary to move Part A examinations online if the COVID-19 situation changes; students will be notified via email if this happens.

The examinations for Part B will be sat at the end of your third year.

The [examination papers](#) will be two hours long with three questions, and you may attempt two of them. In finals papers, questions are marked out of 25. The marks for each part of each question will be indicated on the examination paper.

Part B examinations will be in an [online open-book format](#).

In the third year you are also required to submit a [project report](#).

3.2 Mathematics & Computer Science

The examinations for Part A will be sat at the end of your second year:

Second year Mathematics and Computer Science students take the following Maths papers:

[A0 Linear Algebra](#) (1.5 hours). This paper includes three questions and you should answer two; each question is marked out of 25.

[A2 Metric Spaces and Complex Analysis](#) (3 hours). This paper includes six questions and you should answer four. The best four questions count towards a candidate's total mark for the paper.

In addition, candidates must offer either two papers from papers A3-A5, A7-A11 or one paper from A3-A5, A7-A11 and paper ASO.

You must also take two core Computer Science courses: [Algorithms](#) and [Models of Computation](#).

The intention is that Part A examinations will be in an [in-person invigilated format](#). However, it may be necessary to move Part A examinations online if the COVID-19 situation changes; students will be notified via email if this happens.

The examinations for Part B will be sat at the end of your third year.

In your third year, you must choose at least two **Part B** options from [Schedule S2](#) for **Maths**.

For **Computer Science Part B** at the end of your third year, the [examination papers](#) will be two hours long with three questions, and you may attempt two of them. In finals papers, questions are marked out of 25. The marks for each part of each question will be indicated on the examination paper. The Compilers course will be examined by assessed practical and written paper as for Computer Science (see above).

Part B examinations will be in an [online open-book format](#).

3.3 Computer Science and Philosophy

The examinations for Part A will be sat at the end of your second year:

Second year Computer Science and Philosophy students are examined on the two Computer Science Part A core courses ([Algorithms](#) and [Models of Computation](#)) at the end of their second year.

The intention is that Part A examinations will be in an [in-person invigilated format](#). However, it may be necessary to move Part A examinations online if the COVID-19 situation changes; students will be notified via email if this happens.

The examinations for Part B will be sat at the end of your third year.

You have to take an equivalent of 14 option "course-equivalents", with at least four from Computer Science, and at least six from Philosophy, [as outlined above](#).

Your **Computer Science** options will be examined in your **Part B** examination at the end of your third year. The [examination papers](#) will be 2-hours long three questions, and you may attempt two of them. In finals papers, questions are marked out of 25. The marks for each part of each question will be indicated on the examination paper. The Compilers course will be examined by assessed practical and written paper as for Computer Science (see above). Computer Science Part B examinations will be in an [online open-book format](#).

Your [Philosophy options](#) will also be examined in your **Part B** examination.

4 Important Dates

4.1 Dates of term 2020-21:

Michaelmas term: Sunday 11th October 2020 – Saturday 5th December 2020
Hilary term: Sunday 17th January 2021 – Saturday 13th March 2021
Trinity term: Sunday 25th April 2021 – Saturday 19th June 2021

Dates of Full Term for future years are available [on the University's website](#).

4.2 Hand-In Dates – Practicals and Project Reports

Practicals reports

By noon on Friday of week 5, Trinity term

2nd Year Compilers Practical Assignment

By noon on Friday of week 2, Hilary term (to the Computer Science [WebLearn](#) site)

2nd Year Group Design Practical

Final Report – By Friday of week 2, Trinity term – you can find more information [on the Department's website](#).

Presentation – Week 3, Trinity term – day to be confirmed.

3rd Year Computer Science Project Report

By noon on Monday of week 4, Trinity term (to the Computer Science [WebLearn](#) site).

5 Recommended Patterns of Teaching

Please compare the [list of courses on the Departmental Website](#). If in doubt, please refer to the website.

5.1 Computer Science

Paper	Term	Faculty		College		Comments
		Lectures	Classes	Tutorials	Classes	
Core courses						
1. Models of Computation	MT	16		4		
2. Compilers	MT	16		4		This course also has practicals.
3. Concurrent Programming	HT	16		4		This course also has practicals.
4. Algorithms and Data Structures	HT	16		4		
5. Group Design Practical	HT/TT	7	6-7 one-hour seminars on software engineering/testing/working in teams and version control			
Students are required to take 10 optional subjects over the course of the second and third years, to be examined at the end of the third year. The recommendation is that they take four of these in the second year.						
Computer Security	MT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Computer Aided-Formal Verification	MT	16	4			
Computer Graphics	HT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Databases	MT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Artificial Intelligence	MT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Machine Learning	MT	20	4			This course also has practicals.
Principles of Programming Languages	MT	16	4			
Computational Complexity	HT	16	6			
Computer Architecture	HT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Computers in Society	HT	16	4			
Geometric Modelling	MT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Knowledge Representation & Reasoning	HT	16	4			
Lambda Calculus and Types	HT	16	4			

Quantum Information	HT	16	4			
Logic and Proof	TT	16	4			
Concurrency	TT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Computer Networks	TT	16	4			This course also has practicals.

Notes:

- Second year core courses are accompanied by tutorials organised by colleges; the norm is 4 45-minute tutorials.

- Problem classes will be organised centrally for the computer science optional courses, although colleges may alternatively organise tutorials. The group design practical, which is part of the practical requirements for the year, is intended to take 20-30 hours, mainly during Hilary term (with some work in Trinity term).

- Students are also required to undertake a Computer Science Project in the 3rd year which is expected to take about a third of the year.

5.2 Mathematics and Computer Science

Paper	Term	Faculty		College		Comments
		Lectures	Classes	Tutorials	Classes	
Core Computer Science courses						
1. Models of Computation	MT	16		4		
2. Algorithms and Data Structures	HT	16		4		
3. Group Design Practical	HT/TT	7				6-7 one-hour seminars on software engineering/ testing/working in teams and version control
Core Mathematics courses						
A0 Linear Algebra	MT	16		4		
A2 Metric Spaces and Complex Analysis	MT	32		8		
Mathematics options A						
A3 Rings and Modules	HT	16		4		
A4 Integration	HT	16		4		
A5 Topology	HT	16		4		
A7 Numerical Analysis	HT	16		4		
A8 Probability	MT	16		4		Lectured by Department of Statistics

A9 Statistics	HT	16		4		Lectured by Department of Statistics
A10 Fluids and Waves	HT	16		4		
A11 Quantum Theory	MT	16		4		
ASO Number Theory	TT	8		2		Weeks 1-3
ASO Group Theory	TT	8		2		Weeks 1-3
ASO Projective Geometry	TT	8		2		Weeks 1-3
ASO Introduction to Manifolds	TT	8		2		Weeks 1-3
ASO Integral Transforms	HT	8		2		
ASO Calculus of Variations	TT	8		2		Weeks 1-3
ASO Graph Theory	TT	8		2		Weeks 1-3
ASO Special Relativity	TT	8		2		Weeks 1-3
ASO Mathematical Modelling in Biology	TT	8		2		Weeks 1-3
Computer Science options						
Computer Security	MT	16	4			This course has practicals.
Compilers	MT	16		4		This course has practicals.
Computer Aided-Formal Verification	MT	16	4			
Databases	MT	16	4			This course has practicals.
Geometric Modelling	MT	16	4			This course has practicals.
Artificial Intelligence	MT	16	4			This course has practicals.
Machine Learning	MT	20	4			This course has practicals.
Principles of Programming Languages	MT	16	4			This course has practicals.
Computational Complexity	HT	16	4			
Computer Architecture	HT	16	4			This course has practicals.
Concurrent Programming	HT	16		4		This course has practicals.
Knowledge Representation & Reasoning	HT	16	4			
Lambda Calculus and Types	HT	16	4			
Quantum Information	HT	16	4			
Logic and Proof	TT	16	4			
Concurrency	TT	16	4			This course has practicals.
Computer Graphics	HT	16	4			This course has practicals.
Computer Networks	TT	16	4			This course has practicals.

Mathematics Options B

B1.1 – B8.5

MT/HT

16

6

Notes:

- Second year core courses are accompanied by tutorials organised by colleges; the norm is 4 45-minute tutorials.
- Problem classes will be organised centrally for the computer science optional courses, although colleges may alternatively organise tutorials.
- The group design practical, which is part of the practical requirements for the year, is intended to take 20-30 hours, mainly during Hilary term (with some work in Trinity term).

5.3 Computer Science and Philosophy

Paper	Term	Faculty		College		Comments
		Lectures	Classes	Tutorials	Classes	
Core courses						
1. Models of Computation	MT	16		4		
2. Algorithms and Data Structures	HT	16		4		
3. Group Design Practical	HT/TT	7	6-7 one-hour seminars on software engineering/testing/working in teams and version control			
Students are required to take 10 optional subjects over the course of the second and third years, to be examined at the end of the third year. The recommendation is that they take four of these in the second year.						
Computer Science options						
Mathematics for Computer Science and Philosophy	MT	17			4	
Computer Security	MT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Computer Aided-Formal Verification	MT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Computer Graphics	HT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Databases	MT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Artificial Intelligence	HT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Machine Learning	MT	20	4			This course also has practicals.
Principles of Programming Languages	MT	16	4			
Computational Complexity	HT	16	4			
Computer Architecture	HT	16	4			This course also has practicals.

Computers in Society	HT	16	4			
Concurrent Programming	HT	16				
Database Systems Implementation	HT	22				
Geometric Modelling	MT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Knowledge Representation & Reasoning	HT	16	4			
Lambda Calculus and Types	HT	16	4			
Quantum Information	HT	16	4			
Logic and Proof	TT	16	4			
Concurrency	TT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
Computer Networks	TT	16	4			This course also has practicals.
B8.4 Information Theory						Taught by the Mathematics Institute
B1.2 Set Theory						Taught by the Mathematics Institute

Notes:

- Second year core courses are accompanied by tutorials organised by colleges; the norm is 4 45-minute tutorials.
- Problem classes will be organised centrally for the computer science optional courses, although colleges may alternatively organise tutorials.
- The group design practical, which is part of the practical requirements for the year, is intended to take 20-30 hours, mainly during Hilary term (with some work in Trinity term).