



Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2024/25

Date created: 04/11/2022

Last amended: 05/12/2023

Version no. 1

1. Programme title(s) and code(s)

MSc in Cloud Computing / Postgraduate Diploma in Cloud Computing

MSc in Cloud Computing with Industry

Note: the Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Computer Science is an exit award, students cannot be awarded a PG Certificate in Cloud Computing.

[HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
100373	100%

2. Awarding body or institution

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods

a) MSc October Intake

The normal period of registration is 12 months

The maximum period of registration is 24 months

b) MSc January Intake

The normal period of registration is 16 months

The maximum period of registration is 28 months

c) MSc with Industry October Intake

The normal period of registration is 24 months

The maximum period of registration is 36 months

d) MSc with Industry January Intake

The normal period of registration is 28 months

The maximum period of registration is 40 months

e) PG Diploma October Intake

The normal period of registration is 9 months

The maximum period of registration is 18 months

f) PG Diploma January Intake

The normal period of registration is 12 months

The maximum period of registration is 18 months

5. Typical entry requirements

The same entry requirements that apply to all MSc programmes in Computer Science apply. Specifically, candidates should have, or expect to gain, at least a good second class honours BSc degree or qualification of equivalent standard recognised by the University in a subject with a substantial element of Computing. Applicants for the “with Industry” variant should have or expect to gain at least a very good second class honours BSc degree or qualification of equivalent standard recognised by the University in a subject with a substantial element of Computing. Where a student holds an unrelated first degree at an acceptable level, they may be considered for admission on the basis of significant work experience in the field of study that they have applied for. In this case we would expect the experience to be significant (several years) and expect the candidate to provide details about this experience (e.g. details of the job they have been conducting in Industry) in addition to employer’s statements for evaluation by the admissions team. Where English is not the first language of the candidate, the successful applicant must have IELTS 6.0.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

N/A

7. Programme aims

The general aims of the programme leading to a PG Diploma in Cloud Computing are to:

- Develop a deep understanding of the nature and impact of current challenges faced by the IT industry, so that students know what is expected from them as mature professionals.
- Develop an awareness of the methodologies and technologies that are available within computer science to address these challenges, so that students can evaluate and analyse specific situations and make informed choices.
- Foster confidence, convey knowledge and develop practical skills in the use of some of these technologies, including both fundamental concepts and state-of-the-art support tools.
- Encourage students to develop their interpersonal, communication, decision-making, and problem-solving skills, and to use these in an imaginative way.
- Train students in the design, analysis and engineering of systems for handling big data in a distributed environment based on dynamically scalable architectures such as cloud computing.
- Develop students’ career management and development skills.

The programme leading to an MSc has the following additional aims:

- Provide experience of both team-based and individual project work.
- Secure knowledge and research skills so that students are able to take their studies further to do a PhD, in case they complete the full MSc.

The ‘year in industry’ variant of this programme is offered in accordance with the University’s [standard specification for year in industry programme variants](#).

In addition to the aims above, the “with Industry” variant of the programme aims to:

- Enable first-hand experience of the requirements, opportunities and modes of operation of the programme related software engineering and computer industry;
- Place students on challenging and relevant industrial placements;
- Enable students to use and develop the knowledge and skills gained during the taught part of the programme;

- Further enhance and enable students to apply their career management and development skills.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Benchmark [Computing \(2022\)](#)
- QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland
- QAA [Master's Degree Characteristics](#)
- PDR report (January 2010)
- [University Education Strategy](#)
- [University Assessment Strategy](#) [log in required]
- University Employability Strategy
- Graduate Survey (2014)
- First Destination Survey
- External Examiner's Reports

9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate knowledge and mastery of a [wide (MSc)] range of advanced computer science subjects and the way they relate to IT practice. Integration of knowledge across subjects.	Independent research (MSc), lectures, and the seminar/discussion groups that are part of the Personal and Group Skills module.	Written examinations, oral presentations, participation in group discussions, essays/demos, project planning and dissertation (MSc).
Demonstrate understanding of the core elements of industrial practice and organisation ("with Industry").	Work placement.	Work placement report.

ii) Concepts

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate enhanced grasp of principles of computer science methodology and technology.	Independent research, lectures, seminars, group-discussions.	Written examinations, assessed coursework, group essays, oral presentations, dissertation (MSc) and reports.

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Master advanced modelling and design techniques for the development of distributed, software intensive, and web-based systems.	Independent research, lectures, seminars, group-discussions, along with laboratory work and individual project (MSc).	Written examinations, assessed coursework, group essays, oral presentations, dissertation (MSc) and reports.
Engineer and follow software development processes, make use of model-based techniques, target service-oriented architectures.	As above.	As above.
Use problem-solving techniques, and select and apply suitable technologies in different application areas.	As above.	As above.
Apply current technologies in distributed systems engineering.	As above.	As above.
Master research methods and project planning techniques (MSc).	Personal and Group Skills module, and individual project (MSc).	Individual project components (MSc); group discussions and essays.

iv) Critical analysis

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour & self-reflexivity.	Independent research, lectures, Personal and Group Skills module, and individual project (MSc).	Oral presentations, participation in group discussions, essays/demos, project plan, dissertation (MSc), and work placement report.
Critically appraise problem solutions, and project work. Demonstrate consideration of professional issues.	As above.	As above.

v) Presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Organise research material and/or technology demonstration; distinguish between relevant and non-relevant material; write-up and deliver oral reports on findings to a professional standard; engage in scientific discussion with peers. These aspects are explored in more depth and with greater rigour by students studying for the MSc.	Lectures, seminars, group discussions. Personal and Group Skills module. Work placement.	Oral presentations, participation in group discussions, essays/demos, project plan, and dissertation (MSc).

vi) Appraisal of evidence

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Analyse and assess a variety of requirements for system development and/or engineering. Assess the relevance and quality of proposed methods, techniques and technologies. Mount and sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level (MSc).	Independent research, lectures, seminars, group-discussion, and the Personal and Group Skills module.	Oral presentations, participation in group discussions, essays/demos, project plan, and dissertation (MSc).

b) Transferable skills

i) Research skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Conduct [significant (MSc)] background research and literature surveys, organise and marshal evidence, report on findings, analyse complex ideas and construct [sophisticated (MSc)] critical arguments.	Project supervision (MSc). Seminars, group discussions, collective essay, and specific workshops delivered by the Student Learning Centre.	Collective essay, group discussions, and individual project reports and dissertation (MSc).

ii) Communication skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Produce properly structured, clear, advanced technical reports or dissertations (MSc).	As above.	Group essay. Intermediate individual project reports and dissertation (MSc).

iii) Data presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Organise and present information gathered through research clearly and effectively using appropriate IT resources.	Independent research. Lectures. Workshops delivered by the Student Learning Centre. Work placement.	Oral presentations, essays/demos, work placement report, and dissertation (MSc).

iv) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Use of software development tools across different languages and environments, including the ability to set up and configure them as required.	Lab based instruction and independent research. Work placement.	Coursework and lab-based demos. Dissertation. Work placement.
Ability to use online tools for independent research and collaboration.	Workshops delivered by the Student Learning Centre.	Coursework and dissertations.

v) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Discovering, querying and resolving ambiguities in requirements.	Lab based instruction and independent research. Work placement.	Coursework and lab-based demos. Dissertation. Work placement.
Testing, debugging and correcting code. Troubleshooting technical problems.	Lab based instruction and independent research. Work placement.	Coursework and lab-based demos. Dissertation. Work placement.

vi) Working relationships

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Know how and when to draw on the knowledge & expertise of others; contribute and comment on ideas in syndicate groups	Lectures. Group discussions and collective essay. Work placement.	Oral presentations, participation in group discussions, work placement report.

vii) Managing learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate independence and time management skills.	Tutor system. Career development workshop delivered by the Student Learning Centre.	Meeting coursework deadlines. Collective essay.
Identifying a credible research project, drawing up a realistic research timetable, reflecting on and 'writing up' results. Design a long-term personal career plan (MSc).	Project supervision (MSc).	Individual project topic choice and plan, intermediate reports and dissertation (MSc).

viii) Career management

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Plan personal professional development, understand how to prepare for job market and how to apply for employment.	Career development workshop.	Personal Tutor meetings. Obtaining placement ("with Industry")

10. Special features

The courses share the compulsory Personal and Group Skills module which combines attendance of seminars especially commissioned from speakers selected for their presentation skills and state-of-the-art research, group discussions and collective essay writing on topics selected for the seminars, as well as a series of workshops on transferable skills and career planning run by the Student Learning Centre of the university. This module forms a highly praised (by previous referees and the external examiners) component of the existing MSc offering in the department and is well liked by the students.

The department is research active in all areas covered by the programmes, which means that students will be able to benefit from the projects that are going on through special lectures, tutorials and discussions with national and international collaborators, as well as being able to conduct their projects in topics that are at the cutting edge of science and technology.

11. Indicators of programme quality

QAA subject review; external examiner's report.

12. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of taught postgraduate award and classification set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

13. Progression points

As defined in [Senate Regulations](#) - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

The programme will follow the standard University progression rules, as defined in the Scheme of Assessment. See: [Senate Regulation 6](#) governing taught postgraduate programmes

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate. Students who fail to fulfil the requirements of the named awards, but have completed 60 credits of level 7 modules will be considered for the award of a PG Certificate in Advanced Computer Science (subject to fulfilling the requirements in the Scheme of Assessment for award of PG Certificates).

Additionally, students on the “with Industry” programme are subject to the following two rules:

1. Students will normally revert to the degree without industry if they (a) fail exams in their first semester of study or (b) do not achieve an average of at least 60% taken across the 4 modules they studied in their first semester of study. A Progression Board of Examiners will be held after the students’ first semester, which will determine if students remain on the “with industry” variant of their programme.
2. If students fail to acquire a placement by the start of the exam period in their second semester of study, they will revert to the degree without industry.

14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions

Resit examinations for modules examined in January are scheduled in the Midsummer exam period, and resit examinations for modules examined in Midsummer are offered in September. Re-assessment rules for taught postgraduate programmes apply.

As defined in [Senate Regulations](#) - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

15. External Examiners reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners’ reports for this programme can be found at exampapers@Leicester [log-in required]

16. Additional features (e.g. timetable for admissions)

Admissions are in September and January.

Students admitted in September undertake their individual project during the summer of the following year and submit their dissertation in September (12 months in total).

Students admitted in January start by following semester 2 modules and break during the summer; in September they follow semester 1 modules and start their project in the second half of February of the following year, submitting their dissertation at the end of May. Although this implies 16 months in total, only 12 are actually spent in the course.

Examinations are taken in January for first semester modules and in May/June for second semester ones.

Additionally, “With Industry” programmes will be longer as the placement, which can be either of 3, 6, 9 or 12 months length depending on the interest of the student, and the placement that can be secured, is an integral part of the programme and hence adds the respective time to the programme length. Students will automatically be registered as if they were to take a 12 month placement and the length of study will be corrected when the placement is secured and the actual length of the placement is decided upon.

Students may transfer from this programme to other MSc programmes offered by the Department of Computer Science, with the permission of the programme director and under advice from their

personal tutor until week 2 of their first semester. Transfers should normally only take place when a student wishes to study modules that are not compatible with the specialisation chosen at registration or when the student wishes to take an individual project outside their specialisation chosen at registration.

17. Programme structure (programme regulations)

In line with the other MSc offerings in the Department of Computer Science, there are three kinds of modules in the programmes. Details of the modules, including the semesters when they are delivered are shown in Table 1.

Personal and Group Skills (PGS) (15 credits)

This module is offered in both semesters and provides students with skills that are highly valued by any IT employer. Students attend a series of seminars given by researchers from universities or companies followed by group discussions moderated by a member of staff. Each group prepares a joint essay based on the seminar and the discussions. Students also attend workshops organised by the Student Learning Centre on topics like project planning, writing and presentation skills, as well as career management.

Taught Modules (105 credits)

Taught modules are taken to a total of 105 credits. The programme requires 45 credits of core modules, as indicated in Table 1 (with **C**). The remaining 60 credits are filled by selecting four more options from the remaining modules shown below (with at most 30 credits selected from CO70xx modules).

Optional modules are chosen, with the approval of the personal tutor, before the end of the second teaching week of each semester. Some optional modules may have pre-requisites (e.g. experience in certain programming languages or mathematical maturity) and, therefore, inadvisable to certain students. Any such pre-requisite will be explicitly stated in the corresponding module form available in the student's handbook.

Individual Project (60 credits)

Candidates entitled to proceed to a full MSc degree undertake, after examinations, an individual project on an approved topic according to the profile of each course, leading to the submission of a 15,000 word dissertation. The project is expected to contain some element of original work, and may involve informal collaboration with other organisations, subject to the previous approval of the project supervisor.

Table 1

	Module Title	Semester offered	Credits	Level	Module Code
	Analysis and Design of Algorithms	2	15	M	CO7002
	Computational Intelligence and Software Engineering	1	15	M	CO7091
	Big Data and Predictive Analysis	2	15	M	CO7093
	Software Measurements and Quality Assurance	1	15	M	CO7095
	Foundations of Cybersecurity	2	15	M	CO7099

C	Mobile and Web Applications	1	15	M	CO7102
	Technology and Innovation Management	1	15	M	CO7103
	Advanced C++ Programming	1	15	M	CO7105
	Algorithms for Bioinformatics	2	15	M	CO7200
✓	Individual Project		60	M	CO7201
✓	Personal and Group Skills	1 or 2	15	M	CO7210
C	Service-Oriented Architectures	2	15	M	CO7214
C	Advanced Web Technologies	1	15	M	CO7215
	Agile Cloud Automation	1	15	M	CO7217
C	Internet and Cloud Computing	1	15	M	CO7219
	User Experience and Interaction Design	1	15	M	CO7223
	Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing	1	15	M	CO7224
	Service Design	2	15	M	CO7225

Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2024/25

Date created: n/a Last amended: 25/04/2024 Version no. 1

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

Updates to the programme

Academic year affected	Module Code(s)	Update
2024/25	CO7215 Advanced Web Technologies	Removal of core module
2024/25	CO7103 Technology Innovation Management	Addition of optional module
2024/25	CO7102 Mobile and Web Applications	Changed from optional to core.

MSc Cloud Computing – September Intake

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	30 credits	15 credits	n/a
Optional	n/a	30 credits	45 credits	n/a
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 credits

180 credits in total

Level 7/Year 1 2024/25

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	CO7102	Mobile and Web Applications	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7219	Internet and Cloud Computing	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7214	Service Oriented Architectures	15 credits

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	CO7210	Personal and Group Skills*	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7210	Personal and Group Skills*	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7091	Computational Intelligence and Software Engineering	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7095	Software Measurement and Quality Assurance	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7103	Technology Innovation Management	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7105	Advanced C++ Programming	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7217	Agile Cloud Automation	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7219	Internet and Cloud Computing	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7223	User Experience and Interaction Design**	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7224	Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing**	15 credits
Semester 1	MA7077	Operational Research	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7002	Analysis and Design of Algorithms	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7093	Big Data and Predictive Analysis	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7099	Foundations of Cybersecurity	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	CO7113	AI for Space	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7200	Algorithms for Bioinformatics	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7225	Service Design	15 credits

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Term 3	CO7201	Individual Project	60 credits

Notes

* Students must take CO7210, but can take it in either semester 1 or 2.

** Students can only choose one of CO7223 and CO7224, they cannot choose both.

Students on a 'with industry' degree will take CO7201 Individual Project after their industry placement is complete at the nearest available start time (Feb, June, or Oct).

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

MSc Cloud Computing – January Intake

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	30 credits	15 credits	n/a
Optional	n/a	30 credits	45 credits	n/a

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	60 credits	n/a

180 credits in total

Level 7/Year 1 2024/25

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	CO7214	Service Oriented Architectures	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7102	Mobile and Web Applications	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7219	Internet and Cloud Computing	15 credits

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	CO7210	Personal and Group Skills*	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7210	Personal and Group Skills*	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7002	Analysis and Design of Algorithms	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7093	Big Data and Predictive Analytics	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7099	Foundations of Cybersecurity	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7113	AI for Space	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7200	Algorithms for Bioinformatics	15 credits
Semester 2	CO7225	Service Design	15 credits
2025/6			
Semester 1	CO7091	Computational Intelligence and Software Engineering	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	CO7095	Software Measurement and Quality Assurance	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7103	Technology Innovation Management	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7105	Advanced C++ Programming	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7217	Agile Cloud Automation	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7219	Internet and Cloud Computing	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7223	User Experience and Interaction Design**	15 credits
Semester 1	CO7224	Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing**	15 credits
Semester 1	MA7077	Operational Research	15 credits

Core modules (2024/5)

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	CO7201	Individual Project	60 credits

Notes

* Students must take CO7210, but can take it in either semester 1 or 2.

** Students can only choose one of CO7223 and CO7224, they cannot choose both.

Students on a 'with industry' degree will take CO7201 Individual Project after their industry placement is complete at the nearest available start time (Feb, June, or Oct).

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See taught postgraduate [module specification database](#) [login required]. (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).