UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

MSc

Computer Science

Study mode	Duration	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **11 September 2026**
Part-time	24 months	Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

If you didn’t study computer science at degree level, this MSc combines a wide-ranging introduction to the analysis, design and implementation of computer systems, with a comprehensive understanding of cutting-edge research. You'll be immersed in software design, programming, datasets, information systems and web applications and develop all the skills needed to conduct independent research in computer science.

Introduction

This MSc provides a depth of knowledge in computer science, underpinned by a thorough understanding of key issues at the forefront of current research in this discipline.

You’ll learn how to design and create software, gain experience of modern programming languages, and discover how databases are used in modern information systems, from supermarket checkouts to online banking.

We’ll also equip you with a good understanding of the most significant technologies for developing web applications. These include HTML, Cascading Style Sheets, JavaScript, and PHP.

Further opportunities to specialise and enhance your knowledge are available through a range of optional modules. You could choose to focus on topics including artificial intelligence, biologically inspired optimisation, neural networks, data mining, machine learning, multi-agent systems, e-commerce, online map visualisations, or software safety and dependability.

You'll have the opportunity to work as part of a small group on a practical project to find a solution to a computer science problem. We'll also provide a thorough grounding in how to plan and conduct research in preparation for your dissertation.

Who is this course for?

This MSc is suitable for graduates with a science or engineering background, such as a degree in mathematics or physical sciences, who wish to build upon the IT skills and knowledge gained during undergraduate study. The programme is not suitable for computer science graduates. If you already have a degree in computer science, you may be interested in Advanced Computer Science MSc.

Which postgraduate degree is right for you?
The Department of Computer Science offers master's programmes for students with undergraduate degrees in Computer Science and other disciplines.

If you have a Computer Science related degree, you could be eligible for the following master's courses:

- Advanced Computer Science MSc
- Advanced Computer Science with a Year in Industry MSc
- Advanced Data Science and Artificial Intelligence MSc
- Advanced Data Science and Artificial Intelligence with a Year in Industry MSc
- Theoretical Computer Science MSc
- Theoretical Computer Science with a Year in Industry MSc
- Cyber Security MSc.

Computer Science related degrees may include degree titles such as: Computer Applications, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Computer Applications and Engineering, and Software Engineering. Please note that this list is not exhaustive.
Any Computer Science related degree should contain a significant amount of computer science related modules to be relevant (as assessed by the Department of Computer Science).

If you don’t have a Computer Science related degree and you are interested in learning more about the field, you may be eligible to study:

- Data Science and Artificial Intelligence MSc
- Data Science and Artificial Intelligence with a Year in Industry MSc
- Computer Science MSc
- Computer Science with a Year in Industry MSc
- Cyber Security MSc.

Please check individual course pages for detailed entry requirements.

What you'll learn

- Research skills in computer science
- How to design and create software using a modern programming language
- The role of structured query language, SQL, in information systems
- Algorithmic techniques and data structures for large datasets
- Key technologies for developing web applications
- Data mining techniques and challenges using real-world datasets
- Bio-inspired algorithms for optimisation and machine learning
- Applications of multi-agent systems
- Privacy, security, encryption and other technologies behind e-commerce
- An understanding of all aspects of software safety and dependability
- Neural networks for artificial intelligence
- How maps can be visualised online

Accreditation

The programme is accredited by BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, for the purposes of partially meeting the academic requirement for registration as a Chartered IT Professional.

Accreditation in detail

BCS

The Chartered Institute for IT for the purposes of fully meeting the academic requirement for registration as a Chartered IT Professional.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

In Semester one, you'll study four compulsory taught modules.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH METHODS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (COMP516)	15
PROGRAMMING FUNDAMENTALS (COMP517)	15
DATABASE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS (COMP518)	15
EFFICIENT ALGORITHMS (COMP526)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

In Semester two, you'll study one compulsory taught module and three optional taught modules.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
WEB PROGRAMMING (COMP519)	15

Optional modules	Credits
COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (COMP575)	15
DATA MINING AND VISUALISATION (COMP527)	15
MACHINE LEARNING AND BIOINSPIRED OPTIMISATION (COMP532)	15
ADVANCED ALGORITHMIC TECHNIQUES (COMP523)	15
SAFETY AND DEPENDABILITY (COMP524)	15
REASONING ABOUT ACTION AND CHANGE (COMP525)	15
MULTI-AGENT SYSTEMS (COMP310)	15
ONTOLOGIES AND SEMANTIC WEB (COMP318)	15
ADVANCED GEOVISUALISATION (ENVS456)	15
MSC GROUP PROJECT (COMP530)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Your final project, undertaken over the summer, will give you the opportunity to work independently to explore a substantial problem in depth, making practical use of principles, techniques and methodologies you have acquired during the programme.

You'll create a proposal, deliver a presentation with a Q&A, and submit a final dissertation.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
MSC PROJECT (COMP702)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching comprises formal lectures, small group tutorials and practical sessions in computer laboratories. You may also take part in one or more group projects. In addition, you complete an individual project under academic supervision.

How you're assessed

Taught modules are assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework. The examinations take place at the end of each semester and typically take the form of an in-person written assignment, usually to be completed in a couple of hours. You'll be assigned coursework across the length of each semester. This typically takes the form of class tests, programming assignments or small projects.

Your dissertation is assessed through a combination of written reports and a presentation of your achievements.

For your final project, you will create a proposal, deliver a presentation with a Q&A, and submit a final dissertation, all of which will be assessed.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence

- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching - learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning - taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment - assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We’re committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

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Careers and employability

You'll graduate ready for a wide range of careers in the IT industry. You may wish to join the many students who seek employment at the interface of the IT domain and the subject matter of your first degree. The programme also provides a strong foundation for potential PhD research.

The University of Liverpool is one of the most targeted universities by top employers, according to The Graduate Market 2024, High Fliers Research. This means our graduates are in demand for employment and sought after by top employers worldwide.

Qualifying with an Computer Science MSc degree from Liverpool will equip you with the knowledge, skills and confidence to explore a vast range of opportunities across the globe, in leading companies across various industries.

Potential roles you would be well placed to secure on completion of this MSc include:

- Database administrator
- Information systems manager
- Applications developer
- IT consultant
- Network engineer
- Systems designer.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £14,000
Part-time place, per year - £7,000

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £34,000
Part-time place, per year - £17,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,858 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. You can find information on the general and subject-specific costs you could expect to incur on our study costs webpage.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in a science or engineering related subject, such as Mathematics or Physical Sciences, but should not be in Computer Science.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our Pre-Sessional English courses to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 95.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit overall and no band below B2 Pass

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or the equivalent score in selected other English language tests, to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English

course length you require.

Please see our guide to Pre-sessional English entry requirements for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

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