UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

2025

International Foundation Programme for Computer Science

london.ac.uk/ifp-cs

World class. Worldwide.

Join the World Class

1 **A stepping stone to undergraduate study**
Upon successful completion of this programme, students will be offered a place on the BSc Computer Science, with academic direction provided by Goldsmiths, University of London.

2 **Gain a solid academic foundation in Computer Science**
The programme provides a robust introduction to mathematics, statistics and programming, equipping students with the skills and academic confidence for degree level studies.

3 **In-demand digital skills and knowledge**
Familiarise yourself with the widely used coding language Python, learn how to interpret and summarise data, and perform mathematical calculations.

4 **Study at your own pace, on your schedule**
Fill in the gaps in your knowledge of maths and statistics, on your own terms. Study independently and at your own pace, while working full-time or attending to other commitments.

5 **A mark of excellence**
Earn an internationally recognised qualification from the University of London. The University has a track record of teaching, innovation and research dating back more than 160 years.

Contents

Key dates

Applications open:
28 January 2025

Applications close:
2 June 2025

Registration open:
28 January 2025

Registration close:
16 June 2025

Study session starts:
30 June 2025

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About University of London

Dr Etain Casey

**Programme Director
International Foundation
Programme for Computer Science**

Etain Casey is the Programme Director for the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science at the University of London, with over 25 years' experience working in higher education at Russell Group universities. She has a PhD in Philology from the University of Oulu, Finland, specialising in the study of education and teaching in higher education. Etain earned her MA in Development Studies from the University of London, as part of which she researched economic, business and social engagements in areas across southern Africa.

Etain is a Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy and has held posts at King's College London and the Open University. She has worked as an expert consultant for the European Union and the Council of Europe, collaborating on various teaching and learning projects

involving students and staff from universities across Europe and Asia.

As an avid supporter of distance learning, Etain brings her varied experience and interest in learning technology to the International Foundation Programme. With computers and technology playing an increasingly important role across a range of occupations and activities, it is vital that more students can learn foundation skills in computer science.

Etain firmly believes that this course will enable students to pursue their ambitions and fully participate in the opportunities that are opening in diverse fields of employment. This course introduces them to basic mathematical and statistical concepts and provides a first step in programming. It will equip them with the skills to apply this knowledge to practical real–world problems. Additionally, the programme will teach students how regulations and governance are developing to ensure safety and security in world digital communications and critically assess how these developments reflect common values and ethics.

A trusted name in global education

The University of London is one of the world's leading universities, internationally recognised for its high academic standards. This reputation is based on the outstanding teaching and research of our 17 federation members.

Upon finishing a programme of study, graduates automatically become part of the University of London alumni community, a diverse global network. Among former students are seven Nobel Prize winners, including Nelson Mandela and Charles Kao, a pioneer in the development of fibre-optics.

London made global

Founded in 1836, the University of London is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the UK and is internationally regarded as a centre of academic excellence. In 1858, we made our degrees available to study anywhere in the world.

Today, we have more than 40,000 students in 190 countries, studying on 100-plus degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Collaboration with Coursera

An academic first approach

We are extremely proud to have been the first university to partner with Coursera when it embarked on its first bachelor's degree back in 2018. The University of London has more than 53 courses on the Coursera platform, generating over 3.4 million Coursera learner enrolments.

Coursera has over 148 million registered learners spread over more than 7,100 courses and more than 930 specialisations. They've partnered with some of the world's leading universities, which include Johns Hopkins University, University of Michigan, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Coursera's courses are used by leading brands to train and update their staff. You can read more about Coursera at: **about.coursera.org**

US-imposed restrictions

United States export control regulations prevent Coursera from offering services and content to users in certain countries or regions. More information about which countries or regions are affected can be found at: **bit.ly/intl-restrictions**

Coursera must enforce this restriction in order to remain in compliance with US law and, for that reason, we advise that all learners check this information before applying to the programme.

About Coursera

Coursera was founded by Daphne Koller and Andrew Ng with a vision of providing life-transforming learning experiences to anyone, anywhere. It is now a leading online learning platform for higher education, where learners from around the world come to learn skills of the future.

'This programme marks another milestone in our partnership with the University of London.

This programme provides a strong, comprehensive foundation that delves into the core concepts of computer science, equipping students to successfully adapt to a rapidly evolving technological landscape. Rich academic resources – including easily accessible online lectures, hands-on projects, and tutorials –allow students to learn at their preferred pace.

By bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical expertise, we believe this programme will enable students to navigate future shifts of technology and drive innovation.'
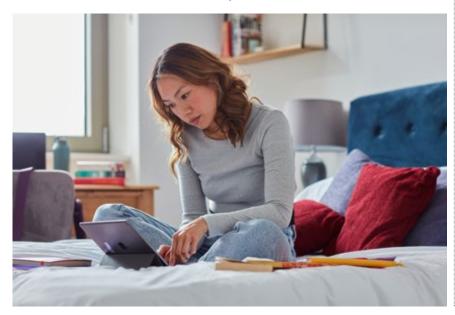
Marni Baker Stein
Chief Content Officer at Coursera

Programme structure

Mathematics for Computer Science

This module introduces the mathematical concepts and tools needed for further study in computer science and STEM. By the end of the module, you will have gained a grounding in arithmetic and algebra, and become familiar with the fundamentals of calculus and trigonometry.

Statistics for Computer Science

You will master the fundamental principles of probability theory and gain an understanding of statistical inference methods, particularly concerning common measures like means and proportions. By the end of the module, you will learn how to use simple causal models and know when it is appropriate to do so, and apply a variety of methods for explaining, summarising and presenting data and interpreting results clearly.

Introduction to Computer Science and Programming

This module aims to provide students with a solid foundation in computer science and programming using Python, a versatile and widely-used language. You will gain practical experience through hands-on exercises and learn to apply theoretical knowledge to real-life problems. Upon completion of this course, students will be proficient in implementing and manipulating various data structures such as lists, tuples, dictionaries, and arrays using libraries like NumPy and Pandas.

Academic Skills for Computer Science

You will gain the academic skills necessary to complete the programme and enter degree-level education. This module is divided into two sections that complement each other. The qualitative section develops your critical thinking and effective communication skills, while the quantitative section will introduce you to exploratory data analysis, with an emphasis on descriptive statistics and data visualisation.

How you study

The International Foundation Programme for Computer Science is offered through online learning and allows you the opportunity to flexibly fit your studies around your schedule.

The programme comprises four compulsory modules, the successful completion of which awards students the International Foundation Certificate. There are two intakes per year, in January and July, with each session lasting 16 weeks, followed by two additional weeks for revision and assessment. Modules can also be studied on an individual basis subject to availability.

Tutor support

Students will follow a planned schedule as part of social learning cohorts, overseen by a module leader and their online tutors. Much of the learning is self-directed, with rich content and self-paced activities, supported by expert tuition at key intervention points. Tutors introduce the modules, respond to queries, provide guidance on assessments, and arrange scheduled webinars for discussions with fellow students.

Online support

The programme is delivered online and there is no requirement to come to the UK as part of your studies. Our flexible online programme allows you to work around your own schedule and leads to a globally recognised qualification.

When you register, we will create your Student Portal account. You can then access your University of London email account and other key resources including:

• the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), offers online learning support, study materials and access to an online forum where students can interact, exchange ideas and network

• the Student Guide, which provides information that is common to all students and gives guidance on a range of issues relating to your study experience

• the Online Library, which provides access to over 100 million academic electronic items comprising E-books, E-journals, conference proceedings etc. In addition, students can request items that are not held in the library via the Inter-Library loans service with the British Library.

• Senate House Library, which provides free reference access for all registered distance and flexible learning students.

Study materials

All essential resources, activities, videos, discussions and support are provided through the VLE. This allows you to fit your studies around your work commitments. There is no need to purchase additional textbooks.

Assessment

Each module is assessed by an unseen written examination of two hours, 15 minutes, which is delivered and conducted online. There is no requirement to come to the UK.

January session exam is in May and July session exam is in October.

The format and mode of assessment for this programme may change due to events or circumstances beyond our control. Students will be informed of their assessment arrangements via their Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), once confirmed. For the latest information on examinations, please visit: **london.ac.uk/exams**

Entrance requirements and further information

To be eligible for the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science, you must:

- normally be aged 18 or over before 31 December in the year of registration.

  Applications will be considered from applicants who do not meet the normal minimum age requirement for admission. Each application will be considered on an individual basis, and the decision taken at the discretion of the University of London.

and

- have passed a minimum of at least four separate subjects at GCSE or GCE O level, with grades A to C, or the equivalent.

English language requirements

You must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. For more information on the requirements please visit: **bit.ly/english-reqs**

If you do not meet the English language proficiency requirements but believe that you can demonstrate the requisite proficiency, the University may, at its discretion, consider your application.

Computer requirements

The University of London sets minimum basic computer requirements because your study resources are accessed via the Student Portal and it is vital that you can access this regularly.

For this programme, you will need regular access to a computer with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems.

For some modules, you will additionally need audio and video recording programmes, Microsoft Excel, STATA, statistical or other specialist software.

For more information about computer requirements, please visit: **bit.ly/computer-reqs**

How to apply

Please refer to the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science webpages for details on how to apply: **london.ac.uk/ifp-cs**

Fees

The total fee payable to the University of London for 2024–2025 will be published on our website once confirmed. On average, fees incur a five per cent year-on-year increase. For the latest information on programme fees please visit: **london.ac.uk/fees**

Please note: student fees shown on our website are net of any local VAT, Goods and Services Tax (GST) or any other sales tax payable by the student in their country of residence. Where the University is required to add VAT, GST or any other sales tax at the local statutory rate, this will be added to the fees shown during the payment process. For students resident in the UK, our fees are exempt from VAT.

For further information on the range of programmes we offer, please visit our website (london.ac.uk) or contact us at:

Enquiry hub
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Senate House, Malet Street
London WC1E 7HU
United Kingdom

Telephone enquiries: +44 (0)20 7862 8360

Online enquiries: london.ac.uk/enquiries

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