



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Programme Specification 2024–2025

International Foundation Programme for Computer Science

International Foundation
Certificate

Important document – please read

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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

About this document

Last revised: 04 September 2024

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry-level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London website. Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpages are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

For queries about any of the programme information provided, whether here or on the website, registered students should use the *Ask a question* button in the [Student Portal](#); otherwise the Contact Us button on each webpage should be used.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science:

Module: Individual units of the Programme are called modules. Each module is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Key revisions made

Programme specifications are revised annually. The quality committee with responsibility for the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science, as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any developments in student support.

Where changes have been made which may impact on continuing students, these are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

Significant changes made to the programme specification 2024-2025

The International Foundation Programme for Computer Science is being offered for the first time in 2024-25.

Programme title and qualification

Programme title

International Foundation Programme for Computer Science

Qualification

International Foundation Certificate

Individual modules

There is also provision for individual modules to be studied on a stand-alone basis. You may take up to three modules on a stand-alone basis without being registered for the full programme.

Credit for stand-alone individual modules will be considered provided that the application for a related qualification is made within 3 years of the completion of the relevant modules. Neither progression nor credit is automatic.

Level of the programme

Equivalent to RQF Level 3

Awarding body

University of London

Registering body

University of London

Accreditation by professional or statutory body

Not applicable

Language of study and assessment

English

Mode of study

Flexible and online study

Programme structure

The International Foundation Programme for Computer Science consists of four modules, which total 60 credits:

- FC0001 Mathematics for Computer Science
- FC0002 Statistics for Computer Science
- FC0003 Introduction to Computer Science and Programming
- FC0004 Academic Skills for Computer Science

Full details of the Scheme of Award are included in the [Programme Regulations](#).

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

The minimum periods of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

	Minimum
International Foundation Programme for Computer Science	6 months
Individual modules	6 months

See the [General Regulations](#) for the maximum periods of registration for these qualifications.

Students will retain the period of registration initially given to them on registration if the maximum registration period for their qualification changes during their studies.

Study materials are made available after registration and on payment of the applicable fee.

Credit value of modules

For the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science, credits are assigned to the modules as follows:

- Each module of the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science is worth 15 credits.
- The total credit value for the award of the International Foundation Certificate is 60 credits.

One credit equates to a notional ten hours of study.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Prior learning will not be recognised or accredited for this programme.

Entrance requirements

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out in the Application guidelines, which are available to download from the [website](#).

To be considered for registration for the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science, applicants must:

- normally be aged 18 or over before 31 December in the year of registration;
- have passed at least four separate subjects at GCSE or GCE O level, with grades A to C, or the equivalent.

The Qualifications for Entrance schedule can be found on the University of London [webpage](#). Details of the programme specific requirements are given on the [programme page](#), under the Requirements tab.

English language requirements

Applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under the Requirements tab. All teaching is in

English. Therefore, students need to have the required level of written and spoken English to cope with their studies right from the start.

Additional information on English language proficiency tests for the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science is given on the [website](#).

Where an applicant does not meet the prescribed English language proficiency requirements but believes that they can demonstrate the requisite proficiency for admission, the University may, at its discretion, consider the application.

Internet access and computer specification

Students will require regular access to a portable computer with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems.

Students must be able to download and install software to their Windows or MacOS device to include secure examination browsers for online assessment purposes (if offered on their programme of study). Depending on the security settings for each assessment, students may be required to have full administrator rights on their computer to install and run the software needed to take part in the assessment. Full administration rights are likely to apply to a computer that they own but not to one provided by their employer, for example.

Computer requirements

The portable computer must have at least the following minimum specification:

- Windows: 10 and 11 on 64-bit platforms;
- MacOS Big Sur (version 11) and higher;
- CPUs newer than 2011 (Intel Sandy Bridge (Core i3, i5 and i7 or newer));
- OpenGL 2.0 graphics driver;
- Local storage for the recording of proctored examinations (75MB per hour), if applicable;
- Web camera & microphone (internal or external);
- A broadband internet connection capable of streaming video and a minimum of 0.15Mbps upload speed;
- Minimum device requirements are subject to change and older operating systems may become obsolete over time.

It should also have the following applications installed:

- Word processor (for Microsoft Word documents);
- A PDF reader (e.g. Adobe).

Some modules/courses may have additional requirements such as video and audio recording options, Microsoft Excel, STATA, statistical or other specialist software. Where this is the case, students will find information on the [programme webpages](#).

We are developing further security protocols and therefore students will require a mobile device (such as a mobile phone or tablet/iPad) to approve for our services. Full details, including specifications, will be provided ahead of the implementation.

Please note: Full mobile access is not available for all programmes. Proctored assessments will not work on any smartphone, tablet, Chromebook, Linux Operating Systems or other mobile device of any kind.

Students with access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty or access requirements to have the same opportunity as all other students to successfully complete their studies.

The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. Students with a disability, or others who may need access arrangements to assist in taking assessments, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). A separate room or other arrangements may be considered.

Requests are considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or specific access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes.

For further information, see our [Inclusive Practice Policy](#).

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programme

Learning outcomes of the programme

By the end of the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science, successful students will be able to:

- demonstrate that they are familiar with key concepts from their modules;
- discuss key issue areas in the study of their modules;
- apply statistical and mathematical techniques appropriately;
- assess research practices and compare theoretical positions and contributors;
- apply theoretical perspectives and module input to real-life situations and challenges.

Skills outcomes

By the end of the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science, successful students will be able to:

- read and use academic texts and other sources relevant to their chosen subject;
- identify key ideas and combine input from across different sources into an ordered overview;
- write persuasive arguments that include reference to relevant literature and appropriate evidence.

Learning, teaching and assessment

This programme has been designed to encourage intellectual curiosity. The underlying principles of the programme revolve around accessible learning and knowledge, and content that is simple to navigate. A range of integrated knowledge and skills development approaches are used to encourage learning: pre-recorded videos, readings, formative discussion forums, formative multiple-choice quizzes (MCQs) and live tutorials. Hyperlinks are embedded to relevant book chapters, journal articles and worthy topical news items.

Students can communicate with others via the VLE and other platforms. Students will have access to study materials and be able to talk to (and develop and negotiate conclusions with) others, which is vital in gaining knowledge, understanding and skills which can be transferred to other situations.

For each module students are assessed by timed examination. Questions are structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding. The way that students manage data, solve problems, evaluate ideas and the organisational skills they use to structure their written answers allows the standard of intellectual and transferable skills to be assessed.

Assessment criteria for the programme take into account the level at which these skills have been achieved.

Assessment methods

All assessments are submitted online via a University of London platform. Students must ensure that their device is kept up to date and complies with University Computer Requirements.

An examination is defined as an element of assessment that takes place in a controlled environment. Students will be given details of how the modules on their programme are assessed, the specific environment or location that is permitted and the time allowed for the assessment.

Each module of the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science is assessed by one two-hour fifteen-minute unseen examination.

Examinations will take place in May and October every year.

Resit sessions will be held in October for students who fail the assessment in May.

Resit sessions will be held in May for students who fail the assessment in October.

Full details of the dates of all examinations are available on the University of London [website](#).

Student support and guidance

The following summarises the support and guidance available to students provided by the University of London:

- [Student Portal](#): for accessing student induction, study skills support, careers and employability resources, student wellbeing advice;

- The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for this programme will be the Coursera platform. This gives access to materials (including lessons, activities and assignments) for each module studied and discussion forums for student and tutor interaction;
- The VLE also includes a range of study resources such as sample examination questions and formative MCQs to aid revision;
- Online tutors: Online tutors hold live tutorial webinars and provide support and guidance throughout each study session;
- Orientation module: this tells students how to access available resources and assessment and examination procedures;
- Recommended reading lists are provided online;
- Student Guide: This provides information which is common to all students and gives information about matters of importance from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation;
- Communication tools such as discussion forums, Slack (a cloud-based instant messaging system) and Zoom (video conferencing software);
- [Programme Regulations](#);
- [The Online Library](#) provides a range of e-books, along with full-text and multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found;
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management;
- University of London Careers Service – offers tailored careers and employability support to students whatever their course, wherever they are studying, and whether they are starting, developing, or changing their career. Support includes webinars led by careers consultants, employer and alumni panel events and a range of online careers resources.

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London delivers the majority of its online and distance learning programmes through a collaboration between the University of London Worldwide and University of London federation members. However, some of the online and distance learning programmes draw solely on academic input from the University of London and are delivered without academic lead by a federation member; this is the case for the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science. The policies, partnerships (where applicable) and quality assurance mechanisms applicable for the programmes are defined in the following key documents: The [Quality Assurance Schedules, Guidelines for Examinations, General Regulations](#) and, for each programme, programme specific regulations.

Awards standards

All University of London qualifications must comply with the Office for Students' (OfS) [Conditions of Registration](#) relating to quality and standards, which includes condition B5

([sector-recognised standards](#)). This is to ensure appropriate standards for each qualification. In addition, every online and distance learning programme that is developed by a federation member of the University of London (or a consortium with representation by more than one federation member) will be developed to the same standard as would be applied within the institution concerned. Proportionate and robust approval procedures, including external scrutiny and student engagement, are in place for all programmes. Learning materials are written and all assessments are set and marked by academic staff who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Some of the key mechanisms in place to assure the standards of all University of London qualifications and the quality of the student experience, include:

- Annual programme reports: produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;
- Independent external examiners: submit reports every year to confirm that a programme has been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student performance, progression and completion statistics;
- Periodic programme reviews: carried out every 4-6 years to review how a programme has developed over time and to make sure that it remains current and continues to provide a good student experience.

Enhancements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

Student feedback and engagement

On completion of their programme of study students will be invited to take a survey that seeks to measure what they have gained from their studies.

There are also opportunities for students to get involved in governance. An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. Some programmes also recruit student members at the programme level. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and ad hoc focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the website. More information can be found on the [website](#).

Students can also apply to join the Careers Feedback Panel, as well as the Student Voice Group, which meets four times a year to consider initiatives for enhancing student experience. Notes from these meetings are published on the Student Portal.

After completing the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science

Further study

Successful completion of the programme can allow students to progress to a higher-level qualification.

If a student successfully completes the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science, they will meet the entry requirements for the BSc Computer Science delivered by the University of London, under the academic direction of Goldsmiths, University of London.

Students who wish to apply to other universities based in the UK and around the world, should contact their intended institution for onward study to check programme-specific admissions criteria.

More details of how the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science meets the requirements for other programmes offered through the University of London can be found on the website: <https://london.ac.uk/entrance-qualifications>

The Alumni Community

Upon finishing a programme of study, graduates automatically become part of the University of London alumni community, a diverse global network of more than one million graduates in over 180 countries, providing lifelong links to the University and to each other.

Alumni are encouraged to keep in touch after they graduate and to become active members of the alumni community; in return they receive a number of benefits and services, including an extensive programme of events and engagement opportunities.

More information is available on the alumni [webpage](#).

Follow the alumni community on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)