



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Programme Regulations 2024–2025

International Foundation Programme for Computer Science

International Foundation
Certificate

Important document – please read
This document contains important
information that governs your
registration, assessment and
programme of study



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Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

Last revised: 18 September 2024

As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

These Programme Regulations are designed and developed by University of London. The Programme Regulations will provide the detailed rules and guidance for your programme of study. Programme Regulations, together with the [Programme Handbook](#), will provide the detailed rules and guidance for your programme of study.

In addition to Programme Regulations, you will have to abide by the [General Regulations](#). These regulations apply to all students registered for a programme of study with the University of London and provide the rules governing registration and assessment on all programmes; they also indicate what you may expect on completion of your programme of study and how you may pursue a complaint, should that be necessary. Programme Regulations should be read in conjunction with the General Regulations.

The relevant General Regulations and the Programme Regulations relating to your registration with us are for the current year and not the year in which you initially registered.

On all matters where the regulations are to be interpreted, or are silent, our decision will be final.

Further information about your programme of study is outlined in the Programme Specification which is available on the relevant [Programme page](#) of the website. The Programme Specification gives a broad overview of the structure and content of the programme as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress.

Terminology

For the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science, you should note the following terminology:

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.

If you have a query about any of the Programme information provided please contact us via the *Ask a Question* button in the [Student portal](#).

Changes to the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science Regulations 2024-2025

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

These regulations are referred to as 'International Foundation Programme for Computer Science' as they are for independent learners, and to differentiate from the International Foundation Programme which is taught via recognised teaching centre only to students who register with and attend a teaching centre recognised to offer the programme.

1 Programme overview

1.1

The International Foundation Programme for Computer Science consists of four modules:

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

Module information including the module description, topics covered, learning outcomes, assessment and essential reading, can be viewed on the Programme [webpage](#).

Individual modules

1.2

All modules are available for study on a stand-alone basis, subject to availability.

1.3

You may take up to a maximum of three modules on a stand-alone basis without being registered for the full programme.

Further details on Individual modules can be found in [Section 7](#).

2 Registration

Effective date of registration

The launch date for this programme is January 2025.

2.1

The effective date of registration will be:

- 1 January, if you first register before the December registration deadline.
- 1 July, if you first register before the June registration deadline.

Period of registration

2.2

If you start by taking an individual module on a standalone basis and then register for the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science, we will give you a new maximum period of registration.

Details of minimum and maximum periods of registration can be found in the Programme Specification.

3 Recognition of Prior Learning and Credit transfer

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a generic term for the process by which we recognise and, where appropriate, award credit for learning that has taken place at the University of London, or elsewhere, before entry onto a Programme of study.

3.1

No credit transfer or recognition of prior learning (RPL) is allowed for students who register on the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science.

4 Assessment for the Programme

See the General Regulations for information on mitigating circumstances and how to report these.

Number of modules

4.1

When you enter for online examinations, you may enter for a maximum of four modules.

Date of examinations

4.2

The online examinations take place in May and October each year. You will receive an Admission Notice approximately two weeks before the examinations are scheduled to take place.

Assessment methods

4.3

Each International Foundation Programme for Computer Science module is examined by a two-hour fifteen-minute unseen examination.

Number of attempts permitted

4.4

You have a maximum number of three attempts at the online examination for each module.

If you fail the assessment for a module, you can choose to either resit the examination or retake the module in full, provided that you have not exceeded the maximum number of attempts at the assessment/s.

4.5

If you have not yet met the conditions for an award, you can resit a failed assessment up to the permitted maximum number of attempts, as long as your registration has not expired.

Resitting examinations

4.6

If you fail the assessment in May, your first resit opportunity will be in October.

If you fail the assessment in October, your first resit opportunity will be in May.

4.7

You will not be able to resit the assessment for a module which you have passed.

Examination fees

4.8

If you fail an assessment and you choose to resit the examination, you will be required to pay an examination re-entry fee for any subsequent examination entries for that module.

If you complete examination entry for a module but are then absent from the examination, you will be required to pay an examination re-entry fee for all subsequent examination entries for that module.

Repeating a failed module

4.9

If you fail an examination and you choose to retake the module, you will have to pay the full module fee when you re-register for the module.

Materials and aids allowed during online examinations

Calculators

4.10

If you are allowed to use a calculator during the online examination, it must meet the requirements set out below.

You are encouraged to show the examiners the steps taken in arriving at the answer to demonstrate understanding of the material. Credit will only be given if all workings are shown.

4.11

You may not store information in the memory of your calculator.

4.12

If you are allowed to use a calculator in an examination, you may use any standard non-graphing scientific calculator for your calculations, but you may not use any computer software or programme to obtain graph solutions.

4.13

If you are allowed to use a calculator in an examination, calculators must not have any feature that enables communication.

4.14

If you use a calculator in an examination, you must indicate the name and type of calculator you used. If you use a non-approved calculator you may be considered to have committed an assessment offence.

4.15

Calculators that meet the requirements above may be used for the following modules:

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

5 Scheme of award

5.1

To be considered for the award of the International Foundation Certificate, you must have attempted and passed the assessment for four modules.

5.2

The International Foundation Certificate is awarded with Distinction, Merit or Pass. You will also receive percentage marks for each module.

5.3

All modules are weighted equally. For each module, you will receive a numerical mark and the corresponding grade. The grading for each module is as follows:

Mark	Grade
70+	Distinction
60-69	Merit
40-59	Pass
30-39	Marginal fail
0-29	Fail

5.4

The International Foundation Certificate is awarded with an overall Pass, Merit or Distinction.

5.5

The International Foundation Certificate is only awarded with Distinction or Merit if completed with a maximum of one resit. If completed with more than one resit, either for one module, or for resits in two or more modules, an overall Pass grade is awarded. In exceptional circumstances, a grade higher than a pass can be permitted, at the discretion of the Programme Director.

5.6

The minimum requirements for the grading scheme are as follows:

Distinction – awarded to students who have achieved one of the following sets of marks:

three marks of 70 or above and one mark of 40 or above

two marks of 70 or above and two marks of 60 or above

Merit – awarded to students who have achieved one of the following sets of marks:

three marks of 60 or above and one mark of 40 or above

one mark of 70 or above, one mark of 60 or above, one mark of 50 or above, and one mark of 40 or above

two marks of 60 or above and two marks of 50 or above

Pass – awarded to all students who are eligible for award of an International Foundation Certificate as described in [5.1](#) above but not eligible for the award with Distinction or Merit.

5.7

All stand-alone individual module assessments are marked and graded according to the assessment criteria for the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science.

6 Progression and transfer to a higher qualification

Progressing to a qualification at levels 4, 5 and 6 of the FHEQ through the University of London

6.1

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

6.2

On completion of the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science, you can register on BSc Computer Science, offered through the University of London under the academic direction of Goldsmiths, in the next available registration session.

6.3

If you successfully complete the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science and then apply to register on a Programme offered by the University of London, you will not carry any credit for the modules passed.

Transferring to a higher qualification through the University of London

6.4

If you end your registration for the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science without passing all four modules and without receiving an award, you may still be considered for transfer to a Programme offered through the University of London.

7 Individual modules

7.1

The following credit-bearing individual modules from the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science may be studied on a stand-alone basis:

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

7.2

You may take up to a maximum of three stand-alone individual modules without being registered on the full qualification.

7.3

Each individual module will normally be examined by a two-hour fifteen minute examination.

7.4

The maximum number of attempts permitted at any assessment for an individual module is three.

Progression and transfer to a higher qualification

If you request to transfer from standalone individual modules to the main Programme and are currently undertaking the study for the module, transfer of registration cannot take place before results for this session are confirmed by the Board of Examiners.

7.5

If you apply to progress to the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science and this is approved, you may be credited with any individual modules successfully completed.

7.6

Credit for an individual module may be considered provided that an application is made within three years of the completion of the relevant module.

7.7

A mark awarded for completion of an individual module may not be used to replace any mark for a certificate already awarded.

7.8

Successful completion of an individual module may partially or fully meet the entrance requirements for an undergraduate Programme. Some Programmes have Programme-specific requirements and you will also need to meet these requirements.

Appendix A: Module outlines

Full module descriptions are published on the [Programme page](#) of the website.

FC0001 Mathematics for Computer Science

This module introduces the mathematical concepts and tools needed for further study in computer science and STEMM. The major aims of this module are to provide a grounding in arithmetic and algebra, an overview of functions and the fundamentals of calculus and trigonometry, as well as an introduction to various other mathematical concepts that will be useful in further study.

The topics covered in this module are:

1. Arithmetic and algebra
2. Linear equations and straight lines
3. Quadratic equations and parabolae
4. Functions
5. Calculus I - Differentiation
6. Calculus II - More differentiation
7. Calculus III - Optimisation
8. Sequences and series
9. Logic, proof and sets I - Introducing logic and proof
10. Logic, proof and sets II - Logical equivalence
11. Logic, proof and sets III - Quantifiers and more proof
12. Logic, proof and sets IV - Sets
13. Trigonometry I - Functions, identities and equations
14. Trigonometry II - More trigonometric identities
15. Vectors I - Introducing vectors
16. Vectors II - Vector geometry

By the end of the module, students are expected to be able to manipulate algebraic expressions; to graph and differentiate simple functions; to perform calculations involving sequences, series, and vectors; finally, to use and prove simple statements involving logical symbols and set notation.

Assessment: Unseen examination (Two-hours 15 minutes).

FC0002 Statistics for Computer Science

This module introduces students to the basic statistical concepts and tools needed for further study in computer science and STEMM. The emphasis of the module is on the application of statistical methods. This course is at an elementary mathematical level and introduces the ideas of probability and statistical inference which may be further developed during undergraduate study.

The major aims of this module are for students to master the fundamental principles of probability theory, enabling the understanding and application of various statistical operators and recalling essential probability distributions and their properties; to acquire competence in statistical inference methods, particularly concerning common measures like means and proportions, for making informed decisions based on data analysis; to cultivate the ability to construct and use simple causal models, discerning their appropriateness in different contexts, thereby fostering a deeper understanding of causality in statistical analysis; finally, to establish a strong foundational knowledge in statistics essential for subsequent STEMM modules, laying the groundwork for further statistical analysis at undergraduate level.

The topics covered in this module are:

1. Descriptive statistics: measures of central tendency and dispersion
2. Graphical displays of univariate data
3. Comparing distributions and exploring bivariate data
4. Probability fundamentals
5. Random variables and their properties
6. Common discrete probability distributions
7. Common continuous probability distributions
8. Sampling distributions of statistics
9. Interval estimation: one population
10. Interval estimation: two populations
11. Hypothesis testing principles
12. Hypothesis testing: one population
13. Hypothesis testing: two populations
14. Contingency tables and the chi-squared test
15. Correlation coefficients
16. Simple linear regression

By the end of the module, students are expected to be able to apply a variety of methods for explaining, summarising and presenting data and interpreting results clearly; to apply and be competent users of standard statistical operators and be able to recall a variety of well-known distributions and their statistical properties; to perform statistical inference related to common measures such as means and proportions; finally, to use simple causal models and know when it is appropriate to do so.

Assessment: Unseen examination (Two-hours 15 minutes).

FC0003 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. By introducing fundamental concepts such as control structures, data structures, and object-oriented programming, students develop problem-solving skills essential for further studies and practical applications in various fields. Through hands-on exercises, students gain practical experience in applying theoretical concepts, fostering critical thinking and creativity in tackling real-world problems. This module equips students with essential skills for success in the digital age and for progression to a computer science undergraduate degree.

The topics covered in this module are:

1. Introduction to programming and Python
2. Control flow statements
3. Functions
4. Data structures
5. Modules and testing
6. Simulation and NumPy library
7. Pandas library
8. Classes
9. Object-oriented programming
10. Functional programming
11. Managing and visualising data in Python
12. Working with data in Python
13. Data wrangling with Pandas
14. Exploratory data analysis with data visualisation
15. Effective visualisation
16. Introduction to databases

By the end of the module, students are expected to be able to grasp the foundational concepts of programming, including variables, data types, and control flow statements, with a focus on Python as the programming language; to be proficient in implementing and manipulating various data structures such as lists, tuples, dictionaries, and arrays using libraries like NumPy and Pandas; finally, to acquire skills in managing and analysing data in Python, including data wrangling, exploratory data analysis, and effective visualisation techniques.

Assessment: Unseen examination (Two-hours 15 minutes).

FC0004 Academic Skills for Computer Science

This module offers an introduction to academic skills that are necessary to be successful on both the International Foundation Programme for Computer Science and subsequent undergraduate study, with a particular focus on students proceeding to study computer science. The course is evenly divided between a qualitative section covering computer ethics, critical thinking and effective communication, and a quantitative section covering exploratory data analysis, with an emphasis on descriptive statistics and data visualisation.

The topics covered in this module are:

1. Developing critical thinking skills (Part 1)
2. Developing critical thinking skills (Part 2)
3. Developing effective presentation skills (Part 1)
4. Developing effective presentation skills (Part 2)
5. Writing short proposals and reports (Part 1)
6. Writing short proposals and reports (Part 2)
7. Identifying legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues (Part 1)
8. Identifying legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues (Part 2)
9. Identifying and working with different types of data (Part 1)
10. Identifying and working with different types of data (Part 2)
11. Calculating and interpreting measures of location
12. Calculating and interpreting measures of dispersion
13. Producing different types of data visualisation (Part 1)
14. Producing different types of data visualisation (Part 2)
15. Drawing conclusions from different types of data visualisation (Part 1)
16. Drawing conclusions from different types of data visualisation (Part 2)

By the end of the module, students are expected to write short proposals and reports; to identify and critically evaluate legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues; to apply and interpret common descriptive statistics to summarise datasets numerically; finally, to draw conclusions from different types of data visualisation by exploring patterns and relationship between variables.

Assessment: Unseen examination (Two-hours 15 minutes).

Appendix B: Assessment Criteria

Mark	Grade	Characteristics
70 - 100	Distinction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates an excellent grasp of the relevant knowledge base. • Answer is consistently informed by the major conventions and practices of the area of study, with high levels of breadth and depth. • Clearly demonstrates excellent, or outstanding, understanding of the different perspectives or approaches associated with the area of study. • Evidence of excellent, or outstanding, analysis and discussion. • Evidence of the ability to answer more unusual or demanding questions, involving application of in-depth and advanced understanding of the subject and its methods. • Excellent, or outstanding, presentation and structure.
60 - 69	Merit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a very good grasp of the relevant knowledge base. Answer is generally well informed by the major conventions and practices of the area of study. • Demonstrates wide and accurate understanding of the different perspectives or approaches associated with the area of study. With good breadth and depth. • Evidence of very good analysis and discussion. • Evidence of the ability to solve some of the more unusual or demanding questions involving the use of significant understanding of the subject. • Very good levels of consistency and accuracy.
40 - 59	Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of a basic understanding and competence in the subject. Some knowledge and application of relevant methods and techniques. • Basic analysis on a standard range of information and knowledge, with some inaccuracy. • Evidence of essential reading and acceptable quality of presentation and structure. • Demonstrates ability to address standard problems, but does not show evidence of significant, in depth understanding of the subject.
30 - 39	Marginal fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial coverage of questions that is highly descriptive. Contains serious omissions and/or significant errors. • Some understanding evident, but shows no ability to present anything other than very basic and simplistic answers. • Disorganised in structure and poor clarity of expression. • Limited evidence of reading or thought of an appropriate nature. • Limited competence in core basic techniques of the subject area or competence only in a small part of the module material.
0-29	Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information or very little information presented. Almost entirely inaccurate information. No evidence of understanding. • No evidence or very little evidence of reading of appropriate and relevant material. No competence or limited competence in core basic techniques of the subject. • Poor, or extremely poor, structure. Lack of direction and clarity. No evidence of understanding of the basic syllabus.