

Frequently Asked Questions from MSc(CS+) applicants

School of Computing Science, University of Glasgow

MSc(Computing Science)

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/computingsciencemsc/>

MSc(Information Security)

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/informationsecuritymsc/>

MSc(Data Science)

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/datascience/>

These three MSc degree programmes are intended for students who already have an Honours degree in Computing Science.

(1) What preparation should I do in advance?

There are two stages of possible preparation you might do: (A) you can make sure that you know and are familiar with the concepts that we expect you to know already from your previous Computing Science studies, and (B) you can do some advance reading that includes material that will be covered in the courses we will teach you, so as to get a head start.

Neither (A) nor (B) are compulsory, but you are strongly advised to make sure you know all the material in list (A).

(A) This list includes subject matter that we will assume you already know.

- Some basic Java programming skills.
 - A useful introduction to Java is *Big Java* (Horstmann, 2009).
- Some basic Python programming skills.
 - A useful introduction to Python is *How to Think Like a Computer Scientist: Learning with Python* (Downey, Elkner & Myers, 2002)
- The basics of relational databases.
 - https://youtu.be/vyVGM_2iFwU?list=PLSE8ODhjZXja3hgmuwhf89qboV1kOxMx7&t=1076 (lecture 01)
 - <https://youtu.be/80atcA6gBU8?list=PLSE8ODhjZXja3hgmuwhf89qboV1kOxMx7&t=673> (lecture 02)
- The fundamentals of operating systems.
 - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLggteCHMfYHA7j2rF7nZFGnepu_uPuYws_ (most of the 1st lecture can be omitted)
- Basic probability.
 - *Artificial intelligence: a modern approach* (Russell & Norvig, 2010) Chapter 13, or
 - <https://github.com/norvig/pytudes/blob/master/ipynb/Probability.ipynb> (if you prefer a Python-based introduction)
- Basic linear algebra including vectors, matrices and linear transformations
 - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZHQObOWTQDPD3MizzM2xVFitgF8hE_ab (videos 1-6).

(B) This list includes subject matter we will cover the courses; if you have time, you might want to look at these materials in advance:

- Programming and Systems Development fundamentals:
 - <http://dcs.gla.ac.uk/bootcamp/> (username: *student* ; password: *Letmein*)
- Introduction to Data Science and Systems:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSE8ODhjZXja3hgmuwhf89qboV1kOxMx7> (lecture 03 onwards)
- Research and Professional Skills:
 - *The ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct* (<https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics>).
- Enterprise Cyber Security (not Data Science students):
 - *Cyber-Risk Management* (Refsdal, Solhaug & Stølen, 2015)
 - *Cyber Security Policy Guidebook* (Bayuk, Healey, Rohmeyer, Sachs, Schmidt & Weiss, 2012)
- Artificial Intelligence (Data Science students only):
 - *Computing Machinery and Intelligence* (A. M. Turing, 1950)
<https://academic.oup.com/mind/article/LIX/236/433/986238>
 - *Artificial Intelligence — The Revolution Hasn't Happened Yet* (Michael I Jordan, 2018),
<https://rise.cs.berkeley.edu/blog/michael-i-jordan-artificial-intelligence%E2%80%8A-%E2%80%8Athe-revolution-hasnt-happened-yet/>
 - *Artificial intelligence: a modern approach* (Russell & Norvig, 2010): material corresponding to chapters 14,17,18 and 21 will be covered in the course
- Machine Learning for Data Scientists (Data Science students only):
 - *A first course in Machine Learning* (Rogers & Girolami, 2012)

(2) What are the dates of the programme?

These are the planned dates, but please note that they are subject to change if unexpected circumstances arise.

Orientation week starts:	Monday 16 September 2019
Semester 1 teaching period starts:	Monday 23 September 2019
Semester 1 teaching period finishes:	Friday 6 December 2019
Winter revision period starts:	Monday 9 December 2019
Winter exam period starts:	Monday 9 December 2019
Winter exam period ends:	Friday 20 December 2019
Semester 2 teaching period starts:	Monday 13 January 2020
Semester 2 teaching period ends:	Friday 27 March 2020
Spring revision period starts:	Monday 20 April 2020
Spring exam period starts:	Monday 27 April 2020
Spring exam period ends:	Friday 22 May 2020
Summer (Project) Semester starts:	Monday 15 June 2020
Summer (Project) Semester ends:	Friday 4 September 2020
August/resit Diet exam period starts:	Monday 3 August 2020
August/resit Diet exam period ends:	Friday 21 August 2020
Graduation period starts:	Monday 30 November 2020
Graduation period ends:	Friday 4 December 2020

(3) When must I arrive to start my MSc programme?

We acknowledge that some students may, for unexpected reasons, need to arrive late - but it is not in any student's interests to miss any classes. The latest time we will accept students is one week after the start of semester: you will need to present yourself in person to the School of Computing Science Teaching Office (room F121, 18 Lilybank Gardens) before 5pm on Monday 30 September. If there is any doubt that you will be able to make this deadline, then you should consider deferring your enrolment until next year.

(4) Where can I find information about accommodation/ finance/ scholarships etc?

If you have questions about fees, finance, scholarships, accommodation, enrolment, visas, English language courses or any other non-academic issues, the links at <https://www.gla.ac.uk/international/> will direct you the information and contact details you require.

(5) What courses will I study?

Please see our webpages: they list the courses that make up the programmes. Although we do not anticipate any changes at this stage, please note that unexpected circumstances may force last minute alterations.

(6) Can I work part-time during my full-time study at the University of Glasgow?"

Yes, but remember that part-time work will take time away from your studies, and it is very important that you maintain a balance between part-time work and your academic work. If you are a UK or EU student, there are no restrictions on the number of part-time hours you can work; if you are from outside the EU, you can work for a maximum of 20 hours per week (see <https://www.gla.ac.uk/international/support/livinginuk/working/>) for more information.