

# Frequently Asked Questions

We offer two MSc degree programmes that are intended for students who already have an Honours degree in Computing Science. These are called the **MSc CS+** degrees.

## **MSc Computing Science**

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

## **MSc Data Science**

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

We offer two MSc degree programmes that are intended for students with an Honours degree in a subject other than Computing Science. These are called the **MSc IT+** degrees.

## **MSc Information Technology**

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

## **MSc Software Development**

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

Most of the Frequently Asked Questions below relate to both programmes.

## What are the dates of the programme?

University session dates are set out at <http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/sessiondates/>

- **Orientation week:** Monday 12 September – Friday 16 September
- **Semester 1:** Monday 19 September – Friday 2 December (we expect you to be present for the first week of this semester – it's the 'golden week' to get you set up and start your studies)
- **Semester 1 examination period:** Monday 5 December – Friday 16 December
- **Vacation:** Monday 19 December – Friday 6 January
- **Semester 2:** Monday 9 January – Friday 24 March
- **Vacation:** Monday 27 March – Friday 14 April
- **Semester 2 examination period:** Monday 24 April – Friday 19 May
- **Vacation:** Monday 22 May – Friday 9 June (TBC)
- **Semester 3:** Monday 12 June – Friday 2 September (TBC)

## What is the latest date I can start my MSc programme?

You must have completed all online enrolment procedures, enrolled in all 180 credits required for your degree, and be fully engaged in your studies before the close of business on Monday 3rd October. Note that starting your studies any time after the first day of teaching (**19<sup>th</sup> September**) will put you at a significant disadvantage, since you will miss crucial tuition: the courses start seriously on day one. If you arrive later than this, it will be your responsibility to catch up on the material you have missed.

## Will my classes for the MSc programme be held on-campus in Glasgow?

The expectation is that you will be in Glasgow by 19th September for semester 1 of the academic year. Your studies require participation in practical work, team activities and active learning, which are required to fulfil the Intended Learning Outcomes of the programme. However, we will remain flexible in

the event of future outbreaks or new variants such that limitations (e.g. on larger gatherings) could be put in place.

If you are an international student facing exceptional challenges with visas or travel and are unable to join us on campus for Semester 1, we will make some online provisions available to you to support your studies, such as access to online asynchronous recorded materials and online tutorial/lab groups.

## What is the structure of the programme?

You will study a set of compulsory courses worth 60 credits in Semester 1. These will form the foundations for your 60 credits of specialist and elective courses in Semester 2. In Semester 3, you will undertake an individual project (also worth 60 credits). Most compulsory and elective courses are worth 10 credits each, with some worth more. Please see the information on the [pre-enrollment Moodle](#) on the structure and content for each programme.

The programme is full-time, which equates to about 40 hours a week for lectures, labs and self-directed study. Timetables of lectures and labs will be available through MyCampus after enrolment.

## What courses will I study?

Please see the information on the [pre-enrollment Moodle](#) on the structure and content for each programme. Although we do not anticipate any further changes at this stage, please note that unexpected circumstances may force last minute alterations. The availability of elective courses is dependent on staff availability and timetabling constraints.

## Why are some courses labelled 'H' and others labelled 'M'?

'H' stands for 'Honours level' and 'M' stands for 'Masters level'. You are only allowed to take a maximum of 30 'H' level credits in a Master's Degree. 20 of these H level credits are covered by the 'Programming and Systems Development (H)' course (for CS+) or the 'Programming (H)' course (for IT+).

## How can I prepare for my studies?

Please see the information on the [pre-enrollment Moodle](#) on the preparation information for CS+ and IT+ programmes. For CS+ we expect certain amount of knowledge and have offered some refresher materials. For IT+, we strongly recommend preparing yourself with introductory materials found in the [pre-enrolment Moodle](#) (preparation for IT+ programmes) to get a head start.

## What sort of project will I do?

We offer a range of different projects, supervised by a wide range of world-leading research and academic staff. You will be allocated a supervisor who will work with you in developing a feasible project that will satisfy the academic requirements for project at MSc level.

## Can I propose my own project?

Not usually, although you can discuss your ideas with your allocated supervisor. Your supervisor may be able to negotiate with you to ensure that your proposal is of appropriate scope (in size and academic content) to satisfy the academic requirements for project at MSc level.

## Can I do an internship at a company instead of doing an MSc project in Semester 3?

In short, no. The outcome of the MSc project is an academic dissertation, and so the project must have an academic basis and context, and must represent a coherent academic endeavour at MSc standard. The only exception is if you are doing an internship with the Data Lab, as part of the MSc Data Science.

## 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 studies. Please see <https://www.gla.ac.uk/international/support/livinginuk/working/> for more information. In particular, please note that you are considered to be studying full-time during your project in Semester 3, so if you are here under a Tier 4 visa, you are not permitted to work more than 20 hours per week during this time.

## Will you help me to get a job after the programme?

We cannot give individual support for gaining employment, but we have an active [Careers Service](#) that provides several support sessions and advice, including events focussed on Computing Science students. All our programmes prepare students for a wide range of jobs in the IT industry. Previous graduates have gone directly into roles with titles such as Security Consulting Analyst, Data Scientist, Data Engineer, Machine Learning Engineer, Graduate Software Engineer, Digital Developer and IT Consultant. They have been employed by a range of companies across the world, including J.P. Morgan Chase (Glasgow), Microsoft (Czech Republic), Barclays (UK), Huawei (China and UK), Oracle (UK), Hewlett Packard (Germany), AI Technologies (London), Goldman Sachs (London), Deloitte (China), European Space Agency (The Netherlands). Several of our graduates choose to become self-employed in roles such as Web Developer or Database Programmer.

## Where can I find information about fees and scholarships?

If you have questions about fees, finance, or scholarships, please see detailed information about this at <https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding/>. Academic staff in the School of Computing Science cannot help with queries of this nature.

## Where can I find out about accommodation?

Various options for accommodation in Glasgow are listed at <https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/accommodation/>. Academic staff in the School of Computing Science cannot help with queries of this nature.

## What about enrolment, visas and other non-academic information?

There is a wealth of information about support for your studies and the next steps at <https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/offerholders/>. If you are joining us from overseas, there is more information at <https://www.gla.ac.uk/international/>. Academic staff in the School of Computing Science cannot help with queries of this nature.

## Where can I get advice on my application status, deposits, CAS letters etc?

There are various ways to communicate with us:

- The contact form on <https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/enquire/> (Enquiries are usually handled within 5 working days.)
- or the live chat from 0900 to 1500 (UK time) Monday to Friday (little purple button right hand bottom corner on the above page and all the programme pages)
- via phone +44 (0) 141 330 4515 from 0900 to 1300 (UK time) Monday to Friday

Academic staff in the School of Computing Science cannot help with queries of this nature.

## I have other questions – who do I contact?

If your question is not answered above, please post it on the “General questions about the MSc programmes” Forum on the Pre-enrollment Moodle page

(<https://glasgowonline.gla.ac.uk/mod/forum/view.php?id=7391>). If we cannot answer your question, we will pass it onto someone else in the University who can.