Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2026/27

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Computer Science BSc (Hons) Computer Science with International Year (see Annex for details) BSc (Hons) Computer Science with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Full Chartered Institute for IT (BCS) accreditation for all programmes has been granted.
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	**UK students:** Fee for 2026/27 is £9,790* **International students:** Fee for 2026/27 is £18,200** The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee

Please note this document applies to Level 4 (Year 1) students only in 2026/27. Level 5 (Year 2) students should refer to the document labelled 2025/26 and Level 6 (Year 3) students should refer instead to the document labelled 2024/25.

How this information might change: *Please read the important information at http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.*

** These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/*

** *These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/*

2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on this subject. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

3. Overview of the Programme

In this *BSc Computer Science programme*, you will learn to apply computing techniques and problem-solving skills to a wide range of real-world interdisciplinary problems in a rapidly changing technological landscape and high-demand sector. Computer systems are now vital to business, government, science and society, and you will learn the professional understanding, practical skills, and theoretical foundations to harness software and hardware technologies to solve real-world problems and develop the systems of the future.

You will develop your foundational computational problem-solving skills, programming ability, and fundamental mathematics background in the first year, without assumption of prior programming experience or advanced mathematical knowledge. In later years, you will build upon foundational topics in current and emerging areas of Computer Science, including data science, artificial intelligence, graphics and animation development, cyber security, and software engineering. These later years offer you additional flexibility through the choice of optional modules and allow you to showcase your creative and leadership skills through various assessment types, and in particular, the individual third year of the Research and Development Project in Computer Science. There is also an emphasis on the development of your professional, academic, transferable and teamwork skills, through regular sessions taught by academic and subject experts, including industrial guest lectures and sessions related to careers, placements, employability, and academic skills. These transferable and academic skills are especially present in the Development and the Professional World, Software Engineering, and Research and Development Project module, but they are also a part of many other core and optional modules that you will study.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Develop your intellectual, practical and additional transferable skills, to enable you to gain a sound academic grounding in the discipline of Computer Science and an understanding of the professional issues relevant to your future working life.
- Include areas of teaching at the leading edge of the discipline, as informed by subject research, discipline and industry trends and market requirements.
- Prepare you for further study or research, and for employment in industry, commerce or public service.

The range of opportunities for graduates with computing skills continues to expand. Many of our graduates move into employment that is directly computing-related, for example as systems analysts, software engineers and consultants. A number of graduates go on to study for higher degrees in a wide range of subject areas, at Keele and elsewhere.

5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

LO1.1 Computational thinking including its relevance to everyday life.

LO1.2 The scientific method and its applications to problem solving in this area.

LO1.3 Essential facts, concepts, principles and theories relating to Computing and computer applications as appropriate to the programme of study.

LO1.4 Modelling: use such knowledge and understanding in the modelling and design of computer-based systems for the purposes of comprehension, communication, prediction and the understanding of trade-offs.

LO1.5 Requirements, practical constraints and computer-based systems (and this includes computer systems, information security, embedded, and distributed systems) in their context: recognise and analyse criteria and specifications appropriate to specific problems, and plan strategies for their solutions.

LO1.6 Critical evaluation and testing: analyse the extent to which a computer-based system meets the criteria defined for its current use and future development.

LO1.7 Methods and tool: deploy appropriate theory, practices and tools for the specification, design, implementation and evaluation of computer-based systems.

LO1.8 Professional considerations: recognise the professional, economic, social, environmental, moral and ethical issues involved in the sustainable exploitation of computer technology and be guided by the adoption of appropriate professional, ethical and legal practices.

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

LO2.1 Specify, design and construct reliable, secure and usable computer-based systems.

LO2.2 Evaluate systems in terms of quality attributes and possible trade-offs presented within the given problem.

LO2.3 Plan and manage projects to deliver computing systems within constraints of requirements, timescale and budget.

LO2.4 Recognise any risks and safety aspects that may be involved in the deployment of computing systems within a given context.

LO2.5 Deploy effectively the tools used for the construction and documentation of computer applications, with particular emphasis on understanding the whole process involved in the effective deployment of computers to solve practical problems.

LO2.6 Critically evaluate and analyse complex problems, including those with incomplete information, and devise appropriate solutions, within the constraints of a budget.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will have the opportunity to develop:

LO3.1 A wide range of generic skills to ensure they become effective in the workplace, to the benefit of themselves, their employer and the wider economy.

LO3.2 Intellectual skills: critical thing; making a case; numeracy and literacy; information literacy. The ability to construct well-argued and grammatically correct documents. The ability to locate and retrieve relevant ideas, and ensure these are correctly and accurately referenced and attributed.

LO3.3 Self-management: self-awareness and reflection; goal setting and action planning; independence and adaptability; acting on initiative; innovation and creativity. The ability to work unsupervised, plan effectively and meet deadlines, and respond readily to changing situations and priorities.

LO3.4 Interaction: reflection and communication; the ability to succinctly present rational and reasoned arguments that address a given problem or opportunity, to a range of audiences (orally, electronically or in writing).

LO3.5 Team working and management: the ability to recognise and make best use of the skills and knowledge of individuals to collaborate. To be able to identify problems and desired outcomes and negotiate to mutually acceptable conclusions. To understand the role of a leader in setting direction and taking responsibility for actions and decisions.

LO3.6 Contextual awareness: the ability to understand and meet the needs of individuals, business and the community, and to understand how workplaces and organisations are governed.

LO3.7 Sustainability: recognising factors in environmental and societal contexts relating to the opportunities and challenges created by computing systems across a range of human activities.

Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social, environmental and ethical responsibility.** You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

6. How is the programme taught?

Drawing from Keele's Learning Principles (https://www.keele.ac.uk/policyzone/data/learningprinciples/), learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- **Traditional lectures** providing students with detailed notes, often supported by copies of lecture slides in electronic form
- **Online resources, activities and communities 'around' our live teaching sessions**
- **Practical sessions** in computer laboratories often supported by copies of laboratory instruction sheets
- **Web-based learning** using the University's virtual learning environment (KLE)
- **Tutorials** and directed reading on specific topics under the supervision of a member of academic staff
- **Group project** sessions in which students develop a design for a software item to a level sufficient to allow implementation to follow
- **Alternative and authentic assessments**
- **Engaging activities and support to students in diverse, inclusive ways**

Apart from these formal activities, we operate an open-door policy so you can ask for a meeting with any of our tutors throughout the year to discuss particular areas of difficulty or concern. You will also have access to specialist advice and support through our Academic Mentors, Disability Inclusion Tutors, Student Experience and Support Officers, and a range of central services including Counselling and Mental Health, Careers and Employability, and Student Finance.

7. Teaching Staff

The Computer Science academic staff currently comprises Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers and Teaching Fellows, of whom a number are Associate Fellows, Fellows and Senior Fellows of the Higher Education Academy. More information about the Computer Science staff is available at http://www.keele.ac.uk/scm/staff/

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from programme to programme, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Details of each semester can be found using the following link: https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/keydates/.

Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are two types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules.

Global Challenge Pathways

This programme includes the option for you to take a Global Challenge Pathway. These modules offer you an exciting opportunity to work with students and staff from different disciplines to explore topical global issues

such as power and conflict, health inequalities, climate change, generative AI, social justice, global citizenship, and enterprise from different perspectives.

Global Challenge Pathways can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/

Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Levels 4 and 5. At Level 6 they are included within the Global Challenge Pathways.

If you choose the Language Specialist pathway, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice as a faculty funded 'additional' module. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the Language Specialist Global Challenge Pathway the following academic year.

For more information about Language Centre option modules available to you please visit the following webpages.

For Level 4 and 5 students please visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/languagecentreoptions/

For Level 6 students please visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/global-challenge-pathways/

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For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	120	0	0
Level 5	90	30	30
Level 6	60	60	60

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Agile Minds: Development and the Professional World	CSC-10083	30	Semester 1
Computational Foundations	CSC-10087	15	Semester 1
Problem Solving and Computer Programming	CSC-10084	30	Semester 1-2
Introduction to Cybercrime: Systems, Society, and Security	CSC-10085	15	Semester 2
Fundamentals of Computer Systems	CSC-10086	30	Semester 2

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Web Technologies and Databases	CSC-20109	30	Semester 1
Human-Centred Software Engineering	CSC-20097	30	Semester 1-2
Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	CSC-20101	30	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Selected Topics in Computer Science	CSC-20099	15	Semester 1
Cloud and Distributed Computing	CSC-20105	30	Semester 1-2
Flexible Work Placement (Level 5)	NAT-20011	15	Semester 1-2
Computer Graphics and Animation	CSC-20079	15	Semester 2

Level 5 Module Rules

Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6).

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Research and Development Project in Computer Science	CSC-30091	30	Semester 1-2
Advanced Web Development and Databases	CSC-30105	30	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Software Engineering Practice	CSC-30099	30	Semester 1
Advanced Artificial Intelligence and Data Ethics	CSC-30103	30	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)	NAT-30008	15	Semester 1-2
Professional Experience in Education	NAT-30012	15	Semester 1-2
Research and Communication Skills for Computer Scientists	CSC-30095	15	Semester 2
Cybersecurity and Applications	CSC-30101	30	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6). You also cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) and Professional Experience in Education.

Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs)

Students have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module at 5, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. Students who started a Global Challenge Pathway at Level 5 can continue with the same pathway at Level 6.

Global Challenge Pathways offer students the chance to fulfil an exciting, engaging route of interdisciplinary

study. Choosing a pathway, students will be presented with a global issue or 'challenge' which directly relates to societal issues, needs and debates. They will be invited to take part in academic and external facing projects which address these issues, within an interdisciplinary community of students and staff. Students completing a Global Challenge Pathway will receive recognition on their degree certificate.

Digital Futures	The Digital Futures pathway offers you the opportunity to take an active role in current debates, cutting-edge research, and projects with external partners, addressing both the exciting potential and the challenges of disruptive digital transformation across all spheres of life. Part of a diverse and interdisciplinary pathway community, you will engage in exciting, impactful collaborative project work in innovative formats on areas that matter most to you. Engaged in real-world scenarios as digital citizens, you will expand, deepen, and mobilise knowledge and skills to drive inclusive, empowering, and sustainable change at local and global levels. **Level 5 Module: Digital World - People, Spaces, and Data (GCP-20005)** **Level 6 Module: Digital Citizenship and Sustainable Futures (GCP-30005)**
Climate Change & Sustainability	Through the Climate Change & Sustainability pathway you will develop the skills, understanding and drive to become agents of change to tackle climate change and wider sustainability challenges. You will hear from international partners to learn about climate change and sustainability in different international contexts; lead your own projects to drive real change in your communities; and be part of educating and supporting others to help achieve a more sustainable future. **Level 5 Module: Climate Change and Sustainability: Action and Activism (GCP-20009)** **Level 6 Module: Skills for Sustainability (GCP-30009)**
Social Justice	The Social Justice pathway is based upon a transformative methodology which centres the student's role as 'agents of change' to reflect upon decolonising and feminist, perspectives on social justice, to forge critical outputs to transform the Sustainable Development Goals. You will develop research and engagement skills with local, national, and international partners from Universities, NGOs, International Human Rights frameworks. You will engage with key societal challenges focused upon the Sustainable Development Goals, to develop an intersectional response from identity-based perspectives on race, gender, sexualities and disabilities. The pathway will allow you to monitor and critically evaluate policies and human rights treaties, and produce and disseminate digitally fluent, international and sustainable project findings. **Level 5 Module: Strategic Interventions for Social Justice (GCP-20003)** **Level 6 Module: Transforming Social Justice; Global Perspectives (GCP-30003)**
Enterprise & the Future of Work	In order to meet the challenges set out in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals we need to understand the power of enterprise and prepare for the future contexts of work, creativity and disruption. By providing you with the skills, knowledge and understanding of global challenges this pathway will prepare you to be part of future-facing solutions. This module will support you in developing creative, original thinking, allowing you to collaborate on projects that persuade and effect change, setting you up to thrive in future environments of work and innovation. **Level 5 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work: Collaborate to Innovate (GCP-20007)** **Level 6 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work: Designing Change (GCP-30007)**

Global Health Challenges	By taking the global health challenge pathway you will develop solutions to improve the health and quality of life for particular people and communities, engaging with these groups to co-design interventions. This pathway will provide you with skills that go beyond a focus on health and will allow you to develop your ability to work in a team and lead change in society. The knowledge, skills and work experience will complement your core degree and enhance your career opportunities and graduate aspirations. **Level 5 Module: Using Evidence to Improve Global Health (GCP-20001)** **Level 6 Module: Working to Improve Global Health (GCP-30001)**
Languages & Intercultural Awareness	Communication within and across cultures is inseparable from language, and development of intercultural awareness can enable you to actively contribute to the shaping of an international future. The Language and Intercultural Awareness pathway allows you to engage in genuine interdisciplinary and international exchange and to understand and explore the link between language, culture and communication. Each of the strands we offer provides you with skills and direct experience for active engagement in working to face global challenges. **The Language Specialist**: Become a specialist in one of our languages and graduate with a degree title that includes '... with competency in (Language)' or '... with advanced competency in (Language)'. **The Language Taster:** Explore a new language every year. **The Certificate in TESOL** (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages): Enhance your undergraduate degree by studying the Trinity College Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). As an internationally recognised qualification, you can teach around the world, enabling you to travel whilst helping people develop their English Language Skills. You will also develop many transferable skills which will enhance your future employability. **The Intercultural Explorer:** Through an interdisciplinary understanding of intercultural communication - as both an academic discipline and as a tool to promote and engage in global activity, you will explore the concept of culture. Module content and assessments allow you to examine in-depth the role of both culture and language in, for example, the UN sustainability goals. **Modules available:** **The Language Specialist:** Any Semester 1 Language Module (the level at which you enter will be determined by your previous language learning experiences). **The Language Taster:** Any Semester 1 Language Module (the level at which you enter will be determined by your previous language learning experiences) **The Certificate in TESOL:** ENL-10053 TESOL 1 ENL-20007 TESOL 2 ENL-30009 TESOL 3 **The Intercultural Explorer:** ENL-10057 The stories we live by ENL-20009 Who do you think you are?

Information on Global Challenge Pathways can be found here:
https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Computational thinking including its relevance to everyday life.	All modules
An understanding of the scientific method and its applications to problem solving in this area.	All modules
Knowledge and understanding: demonstrate knowledge and understanding of essential facts, concepts, principles and theories relating to Computing and computer applications as appropriate to the programme of study.	All modules
Modelling: use such knowledge and understanding in the modelling and design of computer-based systems for the purposes of comprehension, communication, prediction and the understanding of trade-offs.	All modules except Fundamentals of Computer Systems, Flexible Work Placement and Professional Experience in Education
Requirements, practical constraints and computer-based systems (and this includes computer systems, information, security, embedded, and distributed systems) in their context: recognise and analyse criteria and specifications appropriate to specific problems, and plan strategies for their solutions.	All modules except Fundamentals of Computer Systems
Critical evaluation and testing: analyse the extent to which a computer-based system meets the criteria defined for its current use and future development.	Agile Minds: Development and the Professional World - CSC-10083 Human-Centred Software Engineering - CSC-20097 Web Technologies and Databases - CSC-20109 Research and Development Project in Computer Science - CSC-30091 Software Engineering Practice - CSC-30099 Advanced Web Development and Databases - CSC-30105
Methods and tools: deploy appropriate theory, practices and tools for the specification, design, implementation and evaluation of computer-based systems.	All modules except Fundamentals of Computer Systems
Professional considerations: recognise the professional, economic, social, environmental, moral and ethical issues involved in the sustainable exploitation of computer technology and be guided by the adoption of appropriate professional, ethical and legal practices.	All modules except Problem Solving and Computer Programming; Fundamentals of Computer Systems; Web Technologies and Databases; and Computer Graphics and Animation.

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Specify, design and construct reliable, secure and usable computer-based systems.	All modules except Fundamentals of Computer Systems; Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.
Evaluate systems in terms of quality attributes and possible trade-offs presented within the given problem.	Agile Minds: Development and the Professional World - CSC-10083 Human-Centred Software Engineering - CSC-20097 Selected Topics in Computer Science - CSC-20099 Cloud and Distributed Computing - CSC-20105 Web Technologies and Databases - CSC-20109 Research and Development Project in Computer Science - CSC-30091 Research and Communication Skills for Computer Scientists - CSC-30095 Software Engineering Practice - CSC-30099 Cybersecurity and Applications - CSC-30101 Advanced Web Development and Databases - CSC-30105
Plan and manage projects to deliver computing systems within constraints of requirements, timescale and budget.	All modules except Fundamentals of Computer Systems.
Recognise any risks and safety aspects that may be involved in the deployment of computing systems within a given context.	Agile Minds: Development and the Professional World - CSC-10083 Introduction to Cybercrime: Systems, Society, and Security - CSC-10085 Human-Centred Software Engineering - CSC-20097 Selected Topics in Computer Science - CSC-20099 Cloud and Distributed Computing - CSC-20105 Web Technologies and Databases - CSC-20109 Research and Development Project in Computer Science - CSC-30091 Research and Communication Skills for Computer Scientists - CSC-30095 Software Engineering Practice - CSC-30099 Cybersecurity and Applications - CSC-30101
Deploy effectively the tools used for the construction and documentation of computer applications, with particular emphasis on understanding the whole process involved in the effective deployment of computers to solve practical problems.	All modules except Fundamentals of Computer Systems.
Critically evaluate and analyse complex problems, including those with incomplete information, and devise appropriate solutions, within the constraints of a budget.	All modules except Fundamentals of Computer Systems.

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
A wide range of generic skills to ensure they become effective in the workplace, to the benefit of themselves, their employer and the wider economy.	All modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Intellectual skills: critical thinking; making a case; numeracy and literacy; information literacy. The ability to construct well-argued and grammatically correct documents. The ability to locate and retrieve relevant ideas, and ensure these are correctly and accurately referenced and attributed.	All modules except Fundamentals of Computer Systems.
Self-management: self-awareness and reflection; goal setting and action planning; independence and adaptability; acting on initiative; innovation and creativity.	Agile Minds: Development and the Professional World - CSC-10083 Human-Centred Software Engineering - CSC-20097 Selected Topics in Computer Science - CSC-20099 Research and Development Project in Computer Science - CSC-30091 Research and Communication Skills for Computer Scientists - CSC-30095 Software Engineering Practice - CSC-30099
Interaction: reflection and communication: the ability to succinctly present rational and reasoned arguments that address a given problem or opportunity, to a range of audiences (orally, electronically or in writing).	All modules
Team working and management: the ability to recognise and make best use of the skills and knowledge of individuals to collaborate. To be able to identify problems and desired outcomes and negotiate to mutually acceptable conclusions. To understand the role of a leader in setting direction and taking responsibility for actions and decisions.	Agile Minds: Development and the Professional World - CSC-10083 Human-Centred Software Engineering - CSC-20097 Software Engineering Practice - CSC-30099
Contextual awareness: the ability to understand and meet the needs of individuals, business and the community, and to understand how workplaces and organisations are governed.	Agile Minds: Development and the Professional World - CSC-10083 Introduction to Cybercrime: Systems, Society, and Security - CSC-10085 Human-Centred Software Engineering - CSC-20097 Selected Topics in Computer Science - CSC-20099 Cloud and Distributed Computing - CSC-20105 Web Technologies and Databases - CSC-20109 Research and Development Project in Computer Science - CSC-30091 Research and Communication Skills for Computer Scientists - CSC-30095 Software Engineering Practice - CSC-30099 Advanced Web Development and Databases - CSC-30105 Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) - NAT-20011 Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) - NAT-30008
Sustainability: recognising factors in environmental and societal contexts relating to the opportunities and challenges created by computing systems across a range of human activities.	Human-Centred Software Engineering - CSC-20097 Selected Topics in Computer Science - CSC-20099 Research and Development Project in Computer Science - CSC-30091 Research and Communication Skills for Computer Scientists - CSC-30095 Software Engineering Practice - CSC-30099 Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) - NAT-20011 Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) - NAT-30008 Professional Experience in Education - NAT-30012

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

BSc (Hons) Computer Science	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject.
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

Ordinarily, you will graduate with the degree title *BSc (Hons) Computer Science*. However, alternative titles are awarded in the following situations:

International Year option: Students who successfully complete an international year in addition to the above have the following suffix added to their degree title: *with International Year*. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

Work Placement Year option: Students who undertake an industrial placement and successfully complete NAT-30010 *Professional Placement Year* have the following suffix added to their degree title: *with Work Placement Year*. Students who do not complete or fail the work placement year will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **Unseen examinations** in different formats test a student's knowledge and understanding of computer science topics. Such examinations are of two hours in length and contain compulsory and possibly also optional questions.
- **Online examinations** taken during a 28-hour assessment window.
- **Class tests** are taken during the course of a module, usually in a lecture slot. They are intended to assess a student's current understanding and subject knowledge in that module in a structured and focused manner. Some taught compulsory modules may have class tests as part of the assessment profile.
- **Coursework** normally consists of assignments designed to assess student's knowledge and understanding of the module material. Some of these assignments may be computer based; others take the form of individual reports, essays or group projects.
- **Short reports**: for which students are required to write up their own account of small group studies and discussions on particular topics.
- **Tutorial** Participation, whereby students may be asked to make contributions based on the subject material, either orally or as a written solution, sometimes in consultation with their peers.
- **Dissertations** are formal reports of work carried out by students undertaking a project. Projects involve the integration and application of theoretical knowledge and problem-solving skills to an identified programming need and/or research problem within the discipline. Dissertations describe product and process in extended detail.
- **Oral presentations** and reports assess a student's ability to communicate their knowledge and understanding, both visually and orally, to both general and academic audiences.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	**Guided independent Study**	**Placements**
Year 1 (Level 4)	23.8%	76.2%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	23.1%	75.9%	1%
Year 3 (Level 6)	17%	81.6%	1.3%

12. Accreditation

The following programmes are fully accredited by the Chartered Institute for IT (BCS):

- BSc (Hons) Computer Science
- BSc (Hons) Computer Science with International Year
- BSc (Hons) Computer Science with Work Placement Year

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

14. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will provide a sample of Academic English during their registration. Using this sample, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. This will replace any GCP modules. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 5:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 6:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2); ENL-90005 Advanced Business English Communication
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/accreditationofpriorlearning/

15. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

- Module leaders and computing laboratory demonstrators are responsible for providing support for learning on the modules. They also give individual feedback on coursework assignments and more general feedback on examinations. Students do not normally need to make a formal appointment to meet a member of staff. Some staff have dedicated office hours when they guarantee to be in their room and available for enquiries. Other staff have an open door policy, which means students can drop in at any time. Many staff have both.
- Every student is allocated to an Academic Mentor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on students' academic progress in Computer Science.
- Academic Mentors also act as a first point of contact for students on non-academic issues which may affect their learning and can refer students on to a range of specialist health, welfare and financial services co-ordinated by the University's Student Services.
- The Faculty has a team of Student Experience & Support Officers (SESOs). They are there to provide support for students and students can book an appointment with a SESO at any time. Where there is an issue that Academic Mentor cannot help students with, they may recommend that a meeting is arrange to see a SESO for further follow up.
- Programme Director or Director of Education for programme-, discipline- or School-related issues.

Student Services also offer a comprehensive range of specialist services that help you at any time from enrolment to graduation. The following link will provide more information: https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/studentservices/

16. Learning Resources

Computer Science is taught in lecture theatres, teaching rooms and computer laboratories. The learning resources available to students on the Programme include:

- Dedicated networked PC laboratories within the School of Computer Science and Mathematics, which use the Microsoft Windows and GNU/Linux operating systems and provide a wide range of supported software. The School buildings are accessible 24 hours a day (via a purchasable key fob). Students have individual email accounts and file stores on University and School servers. Additional facilities are provided for final year projects.
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) which provides easy online access to a range of learning resources including lecture notes and other resources supplied in modules.
- The extensive collection of books and journals relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library. Much of this material is also accessible online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password.

17. Other Learning Opportunities

Study abroad (semester)

Students on the programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities. Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the semester abroad option.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/); however this does not

guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele. Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the International Year.

Work Placement Year

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with Work Placement Year' degree programme or to transfer onto the 4-year degree programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking their year-long placement. To be eligible for the placement year, students must have a good University attendance record. They must also have passed all Year 1 and Year 2 Semester 1 modules. Students must have met the progression requirements to proceed to their final year of study prior to commencing a placement.

Students wishing to take the work placement year should meet with the Programme Director to obtain their signature to confirm agreement before they will be allowed to commence their placement.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa must check with the Immigration Compliance Team prior to commencing any form of placement.

A summary of the Work Placement Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the Placement Year.

18. Additional Costs

Mandatory costs

You can expect some additional costs as a student on this course, which may support learning activities, specialist equipment, fieldwork, placements, or other course-related requirements. Details of these mandatory costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

If you elect to take one of the following optional modules:

NAT-20011 *Flexible Work Placement (Level 5)*

NAT-30010 *Work Placement Year*

NAT-30012 *Professional Experience in Education,*

NAT-30008 *Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)*

Then you will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from your placement provider, and if necessary, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider, additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available from the placement provider for work placements, but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to

commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

Optional costs

In addition to the mandatory costs, there may be optional costs that students can choose to incur to enhance their learning experience. These are not required to complete the course. Details of these optional costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

Key fob for accessing the building out of hours : £6.50

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

Students may also incur general expenses related to university study, such as for printing, textbooks and other materials. Students who undertake a placement may be responsible for additional costs, such as travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. For further information, please refer to the additional costs information.

19. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/

20. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code

b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Computing (2022) https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-computing-22.pdf

c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations

d. Keele University Placement Learning Code of Practice: https://www.keele.ac.uk/policyzone/viewbyowner/studentandacademicservices/name,117421,en.php

e. Accreditation criteria, British Computer Society, 2022. https://www.bcs.org/media/1209/accreditation-guidelines.pdf

21. Annex - International Year

BSc (Hons) Computer Science with International Year

International Year Programme

Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option.

International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
4. Communicate effectively in an international setting;
5. Reflect on previous learning within an international context.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

22. Annex - Work Placement Year

BSc (Hons) Computer Science with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with the opportunity to carry out a long-term work-based learning experience (minimum 30 weeks equivalent of full-time work) in the computing sector between Years 2 and 3 (Levels 5 and 6) of their degree programme. The module will be underpinned by employability skills training (as part of their preparation during year 2), reflective assessment, employer and tutor evaluation and support from academic tutors.

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

All students undertaking the work placement degree programme will be provided with an academic tutor, based at Keele. Students are expected to arrange their own work placement. A list of potential placements will be provided that students can apply for, with allocation being based on a competitive interview process involving the placement providers. Students are also permitted to provide their own placement option. Support will be offered throughout the placement process. This will involve support ensuring the appropriateness of the placement prior to starting the Placement Year, and email/telephone/face-to-face contact with the academic tutor.

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module, (* or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

* We recommend where possible students undertake a placement of between 9 - 12 months on a full-time basis to maximize academic and personal growth. However, the Work Placement Year mandates a minimum of 24 weeks in duration, ideally on a full-time basis, but no less than 21 hours per week. This enables those undertaking an unpaid placement to work on a part-time basis alongside.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Academic Performance (an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- *(International students only)* Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organization at around 5 weeks after the placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

1. Identify areas for skills development, in relation to a specific career or sector.
2. Demonstrate skills and attribute development through engagement with a placement.¿
3. Reflect on the broader personal and professional development throughout the placement experience.
4. Devise an action plan for future careers development.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (NAT-30010).

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated 'Work Placement Year' module (NAT-30010)
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

23. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: Computer Science

Final Award and Award Titles	BSc (Hons) Computer Science BSc (Hons) Computer Science with International Year BSc (Hons) Computer Science with Work Placement Year
Intermediate Award(s)	Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
Last modified	September 2025
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

Variation 1: Study Abroad (semester abroad)

Students intending to study abroad must pass all modules in their first year and obtain an average of at least 50%. The school can insist that no placement is made if a student's progress is not of a satisfactory standard.

A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

Variation 2: Project modules CSC-30091 condonement

The 30-credit module "CSC-30091 Research and Development Project in Computer Science cannot be condoned. This module is a keystone of the degree, and it is a requirement of the accrediting body that this module not be condoned. This is the only module thus affected. All other modules are subject to the usual University condonement rules (link).

Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional requirement 1: Transfer onto the BSc *Computer Science with Integrated Master's* (MComp) Programme

Regulation C6, paragraph 2.3 states that the rules governing eligibility for transfer onto an Integrated Masters programme shall be governed by the relevant Course Regulations.

Students are permitted to transfer between computer science related programmes at any point up to week 3, Level 5 subject to having met any relevant progression criteria and with the approval of the Programme Director. This includes the following programmes: MComp Computer Science, BSc Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence, BSc Computer Science with Software Engineering, BSc Data Science, BSc Cyber Security, and BSc Computer Science with Digital Forensics.

Additional Requirement 2: International students only

Due to UK Home Office Visa (UKVI) restrictions, students are not able to transfer between programmes as stated in additional requirements 2 and 3 above, without the change meeting UKVI requirements. Therefore, it is recommended to speak with Immigration Compliance and Support (visa@keele.ac.uk) before requesting a programme transfer as this could affect current and future Visa options.

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[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 13 April 2026

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.1	2025/26	AMRO AL-SAID AHMAD	13 April 2026	Version for Level 5 cohort in 2026/27
1	2025/26	AMRO AL-SAID AHMAD	06 May 2025	

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.2	2024/25	AMRO AL-SAID AHMAD	13 April 2026	Version for Level 6 cohort in 2026/27
1.1	2024/25	AMRO AL-SAID AHMAD	02 December 2025	Annual update due to phasing in of new programme structure. This programme spec is only for those students at Level 5 in 2025/26. Changes include adding in new faculty placement and education modules. Change of module name: Digital Forensics Techniques and Applications CSC-30059 is now Digital Forensics: Applications and Examinations FSC-30035. CSC-30019 Games Computing removed, which is being replaced by CSC-30071 Programming for Virtual Worlds (like for like change of compulsory module for Computer Science (Games) students).
1	2024/25	PAUL BELL	04 June 2024	
1.3	2023/24	PAUL BELL	03 April 2025	Change to accreditation text. Change of optional Level 6 module to replace School's Computing in Education module with Faculty module NAT-30012. Change of module name: Digital Forensics Techniques and Applications CSC-30059 is now Digital Forensics: Applications and Examinations FSC-30035. Please note: this programme spec is only for Level 6 students in the 2025/26 academic year.
1.2	2023/24	PAUL BELL	04 June 2024	Updated for Level 5 and 6 students in 2024/25
1.1	2023/24	PAUL BELL	05 October 2023	Added a variation to the regulations to state that the 30-credit module (CSC-30014 - Third Year Double Project - ISP) cannot be condoned. This module is a keystone of the degree and it is a requirement of the accrediting body (BCS) that this module not be condoned.
1	2023/24	PAUL BELL	19 January 2023	
1.1	2022/23	PAUL BELL	22 December 2022	Change to transfer point onto the MComp programme to the start of Semester 2, Level 6
1	2022/23	EDWARD DE QUINCEY	31 January 2022	
1	2021/22	EDWARD DE QUINCEY	08 February 2021	
1.1	2020/21	EDWARD DE QUINCEY	31 January 2022	To add
1	2020/21	THEO KYRIACOU	08 February 2021	
1	2019/20	THEO KYRIACOU	08 February 2021	