

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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|---|---|
| Name, title and level of final qualification(s) | BSc Business Computing (Level 6) |
| Name and title of any exit qualification(s) | Diploma Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education Certificate of Continuing Education |
| Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year? | Yes |
| Awarding Body | University of London |
| Teaching Institution(s) | Birkbeck, University of London |
| Home School/other teaching departments | School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences (home) Birkbeck Business School |
| Location of delivery | Central London |
| Language of delivery and assessment | English |
| Mode of study, length of study and normal start month | Full-time (3 years) Part-time (4 years) Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years) September |
| Professional, statutory or regulatory body | Not applicable |
| QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England | Computing |
| UCAS code | N106; N107 (with FY) |
| Birkbeck Course Code | UUBSBSCM_C (full-time, 3 years) UBSBSCOM_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFBSCM_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) |
| HECoS Code | 100366 |
| Start date of programme | Autumn 2024 |
| Date of programme approval | Autumn 2023 |
| Date of last programme amendment approval | November 2024 |
| Valid for academic year | 2025-26 |
| Date of last revision to document | 21.11.2025 |

Admissions requirements

BSc Business Computing:

UCAS tariff: 112 points. The UCAS tariff score is applicable to students who have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.

GCSES: Applicants are expected to have GCSE grade C or 4, or equivalent, in English and mathematics.

BSc Business Computing with Foundation Year:

UCAS tariff: 48 points. The UCAS tariff score is applicable to students who have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.

GCSES: Applicants are expected to have GCSE grade C or 4, or equivalent, in English and mathematics.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Applicants without traditional entry qualification who wish to enter year 1 are required to sit an admissions test that is composed of two elements: (i) a mathematics test and (ii) a test of English comprehension. A pass in the mathematics test ensures that the applicant has the required quantitative skill base to progress through the programme. A pass in the English comprehension test indicates that the applicant is competent to begin the programme.

Course aims

BSc Business Computing:

The BSc Computing aims to develop knowledge, technical skills and self-directed learning skills in computing, especially in areas affected by rapidly changing information technology. Final year students carry out a complex real-world computing project.

Modern computing and information systems skills often become obsolete as new technology is developed. Therefore, the programme strikes a balance between learning current skills, which are important in the marketplace, and emphasising the underlying theories, which last longer and which provide a sound basis for developing new skills, techniques and technologies, and even new theories. The social and organisational impacts of information technology are also included.

Students with a Foundation Degree in IT or an equivalent qualification such as an HND in Computing may register for year 3 of the four-year part-time programme and if successful, graduate with a BSc in Computing after two further years of part-time study.

BSc Business Computing with Foundation Year:

The BSc Computing with Foundation Year is designed for applicants who do not meet the entry requirements for direct entry to an undergraduate degree, who do not feel they are quite ready for an undergraduate degree, or who are returning to study after a significant break and need extra help and support with their studies.

The foundation year element of the Programme provides the core knowledge and skills required for the successful study of Computing at undergraduate level. It includes modules covering

introductory, subject-specific areas such as IT, Computing and Programming. It also includes more transferable skills modules, covering approaches to study, academic writing and working in teams. Successful completion of the foundation year enables students to progress to the BSc element of the Programme.

The BSc element of the Programme aims to develop the knowledge, technical skills, and self-directed learning skills required by employers in the fast-evolving world of Computing and Information Technology. The primary focus is on developing strong programming and software engineering skills. Emphasis is also placed on exploring the socio, ethical and legal aspects of Computing. At the end of the BSc element of the Programme, students carry out a complex, real-world project.

Course structure

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credit | Comp Core/ Option | Likely teaching term(s) |
|---|-------------|--|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Full-time – 3 years, or 4 years with Foundation Year | | | | | |
| Foundation Year | | | | | |
| 3 | CASE002S3 | Fundamentals of Study | 30 | Core | 1 |
| 3 | BUCI075H3 | Teamwork | 15 | Core | 1 |
| 3 | SC10001S3 | Foundation Year Mathematics | 30 | Core | 2 |
| 3 | BUCI085H3 | Programming Logic | 15 | Core | 2 |
| 3 | SC10002H3 | Foundation Year Programming | 15 | Core | 3 |
| 3 | BUCI076H3 | Computing Foundation Year Project | 15 | Core | 3 |
| Year 1 | | | | | |
| 4 | COIY040H4 | Mathematics for Computing | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 4 | BUCI006H4 | Problem Solving for Programming | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 4 | SC10003H4 | Professional Issues in Computing | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 4 | COIY016H4 | Systems Analysis and Design | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 4 | BUCI007H4 | Introduction to Programming | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 4 | BUCI008H4 | Introduction to Computer Systems | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 4 | COIY068H4 | Introduction to Database Technology | 15 | Compulsory | 3 |
| 4 | SC1007H4 | Object Oriented Programming | 15 | Compulsory | 3 |
| Year 2 | | | | | |
| 5 | SC10005H5 | Software and Programming I | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 5 | SC10004H5 | Database Management | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 5 | BUCI030H5 | Data Structures and Algorithms | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 5 | BUCI066H5 | Software Engineering | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 5 | BUCI036H5 | Computer Networking | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 5 | BUMN165H5 | Managing Digital Transformation | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 5 | BUMN191H5 | Business Analytics and Decision Making | 15 | Compulsory | 3 |
| 5 | BUCI088H5 | Software and Programming II | 15 | Compulsory | 3 |

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|----------------------------|-----------|--|----|------------|-----|
| Year 3 | | | | | |
| 6 | BUCI056H6 | Software and Programming III | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 6 | BUCI034H6 | Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning | 15 | Compulsory | 3 |
| 6 | BUEM117S6 | Data Science for Economics and Finance | 30 | Compulsory | 3 |
| 6 | SC10029D6 | BSc Business Computing Project | 60 | Compulsory | 1-3 |
| Part-time – 4 years | | | | | |
| Year 1 | | | | | |
| 4 | COIY040H4 | Mathematics for Computing | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 4 | BUCI006H4 | Problem Solving for Programming | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 4 | COIY016H4 | Systems Analysis and Design | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 4 | BUCI007H4 | Introduction to Programming | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 4 | COIY068H4 | Introduction to Database Technology | 15 | Compulsory | 3 |
| 4 | SC10007H4 | Object Oriented Programming | 15 | Compulsory | 3 |
| Year 2 | | | | | |
| 5 | SC10005H5 | Software and Programming I | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 4 | SC10003H4 | Professional Issues in Computing | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 4 | BUCI008H4 | Introduction to Computer Systems | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 5 | BUCI036H5 | Computer Networking | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 5 | SSCS025H5 | Software and Programming II | 15 | Compulsory | 3 |
| 5 | BUMN191H5 | Business Analytics and Decision making | 15 | Compulsory | 3 |
| Year 3 | | | | | |
| 5 | BUCI030H5 | Data Structures and Algorithms | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 5 | SC10004H5 | Database Management | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 5 | BUMN165H5 | Managing Digital Transformation | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 5 | BUCI066H5 | Software Engineering | 15 | Compulsory | 2 |
| 6 | BUEM117S6 | Data Science for Economics and Finance | 30 | Compulsory | 3 |
| Year 4 | | | | | |
| 6 | SC10029D6 | BSc Business Computing Project | 60 | Compulsory | 1-3 |
| 6 | BUCI056H6 | Software and Programming III | 15 | Compulsory | 1 |
| 6 | BUCI034H6 | Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning | 15 | Compulsory | 3 |

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Foundation Year:

Instruction will be predominantly via lectures. Lectures will be augmented with group and individual tutorial work and practical lab work. Instructional material will also be made available online. Assessment will be through a mix of exam, coursework (test, essay, practical task, presentation) and project work.

BSc Degree:

Lecturing:

Lecturing is a major method for knowledge transfer. However, most modules mix other activities with lectures on any particular evening. Mature students can be highly interactive and staff are encouraged to obtain student feedback about areas that may need deeper attention.

Group Tutorials

Several modules mix lectures with work in small groups, in which higher levels of student interaction are possible. This works particularly well with complicated topics.

The School and the College provide access to a range of information technology systems and services including but not limited to computer labs, a virtual learning environment, cloud and host-based applications, and database and computational services, students are expected to have access to a laptop for personal use running Windows, Mac OS or Linux. The specification of this laptop should be adequate to support software development for example as highlighted by the minimum system requirements for running the IntelliJ Integrated Development Environment. Students may be required to use their laptop during learning events.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. We use a variety of assessment methods. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

Written Exercises (Essays)

Feedback from written essays encourages students to develop appropriate formal and precise writing habits. It leads students to express themselves in a structured manner in writing.

Laboratory Based Exercises

Computing laboratory exercises are used to give the students hands-on experience in developing information systems artifacts such as systems analysis and design models and computer programs. Some of these exercises are assessed.

Group Exercises

Group exercises are used in certain modules to improve students' social interactions and their ability to work in teams.

Presentations

Presentations are a powerful learning experience. Students giving presentations develop their powers of information discovery, equip themselves with a deep understanding of the topics to be presented and transfer some of their knowledge to their peers who at the same time acquire skills in verbal academic discourse.

Final Year Project

Projects require the students to take an integrative approach to a major piece of work. They are required to set a boundary for the work, formulate their aims and objectives, gather information, analyse information, reflect on their work and produce a substantial report.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

Foundation year specific:

1. Demonstrate subject specific skills and knowledge required to study Computing at undergraduate level.
2. Demonstrate the generic skills and knowledge required to study computing at undergraduate level.

BSc Programme as a whole:

Subject Specific

1. Demonstrate computer literacy
2. Develop the ability to discuss various forms and levels of information
3. Use structured techniques for information systems analysis and design
4. Demonstrate the ability to use number systems, computer architectures, data structures, algorithms, software engineering fundamentals
5. Demonstrate competence in web programming
6. Derive knowledge of the technology underlying web-based commercial activity
7. Derive knowledge of the current social and organisational issues surrounding the deployment of information technology.
8. Demonstrate understanding of database concepts and in particular relational database technology. An understanding of the systems and context of IS projects.
9. Apply knowledge of computer networking
10. Apply knowledge of information security

Intellectual

11. Critically evaluate arguments and evidence.
12. Construct and present theoretical and empirical arguments.
13. Develop and present substantial reports arguing a case.

Practical

14. Demonstrate the ability to make informed decisions.
15. Develop models within which problems can be solved, for example database models. Plan, implement and test solutions.
16. Design and develop software implementing algorithms using a programming language.
17. Demonstrate the ability to write a substantial report.
18. Demonstrate the skills to search for information.
19. Utilise coherent arguments in support of a specific software solution.

Personal and Social

20. Analyse, appraise and present work under pressure
21. Communicate using appropriate interpersonal skills
22. Collaborate with others as a member of a teams
23. Plan and manage your personal time and learning development.

Careers and further study

You will find Business Computing graduates in the following kinds of roles: programmer, software engineer, database administrator, systems administrator, testing and software quality engineer.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services](#). This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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