PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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 Computer and Data Science (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	N/A
Valid for academic year	**2024-25**
Date of last revision to document	04/07/2023

Admissions requirements

BSc Business Computing:

UCAS tariff: 96-128 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	Compulsory	1
3	BUCI075H3	Teamwork	15	Compulsory	1
3	BUMN166H3	Mathematics for Business	15	Compulsory	2
3	BUCI089H3	Introduction to Information Technology	15	Compulsory	2
3	BUCI085H3	Programming Logic	15	Compulsory	2
3	BUCI084H3	IT Tools and Techniques	15	Compulsory	3
3	BUCI076H3	Computing Foundation Year Project	15	Compulsory	3
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 I	15	Compulsory	2
4	BUCI007H4	Introduction to Programming	15	Compulsory	2
4	BUCI008H4	Introduction to Computer Systems	15	Compulsory	2
4	BUMN051H4	Business Information Systems	15	Compulsory	3
4	SSCS004H4	Introduction to Web Authoring	15	Compulsory	3
4	BUCI087H4	Software and Programming I	15	Compulsory	3
Year 2					
5	BUCI088H5	Software and Programming II	15	Compulsory	1
5	BUCI030H5	Data Structures and Algorithms	15	Compulsory	1
5	BUCI066H5	Software Engineering I	15	Compulsory	1
5	BUCI055H5	Computer Organisation and System Software	15	Compulsory	2
5	COIY019H5	Systems Analysis and Design II	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	TBC

Year 3					
6	BUCI056H6	Software and Programming III	15	Compulsory	1
6	COIY045H6	Information Security	15	Compulsory	1
6	COIY028H6	Database Management	15	Compulsory	2
6	BUCI034H6	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	15	Compulsory	3
6	BUEM117S6	Data Science for Economics and Finance	30	Compulsory	TBC
6	BUCI027S6	BSc Business Computing Project	30	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 I	15	Compulsory	2
4	BUCI007H4	Introduction to Programming	15	Compulsory	2
4	BUMN051H4	Business Information Systems	15	Compulsory	3
4	BUCI087H4	Software and Programming I	15	Compulsory	3
Year 2					
5	BUCI088H5	Software and Programming II	15	Compulsory	1
5	BUCI066H5	Software Engineering I	15	Compulsory	1
5	COIY019H5	Systems Analysis and Design II	15	Compulsory	2
4	BUCI008H4	Introduction to Computer Systems	15	Compulsory	2
4	SSCS004H4	Introduction to Web Authoring	15	Compulsory	3
5	BUMN191H5	Business Analytics and Decision making	15	Compulsory	TBC
Year 3					
6	BUCI056H6	Software and Programming III	15	Compulsory	1
5	BUCI030H5	Data Structures and Algorithms	15	Compulsory	1
5	BUCI055H5	Computer Organisation and System Software	15	Compulsory	2
5	BUCI036H5	Computer Networking	15	Compulsory	2
6	BUEM117S6	Data Science for Economics and Finance	30	Compulsory	TBC
Year 4					
6	BUCI027S6	BSc Business Computing Project	30	Compulsory	1-3
6	COIY045H6	Information Security	15	Compulsory	1
6	COIY028H6	Database Management	15	Compulsory	2
5	BUMN165H5	Managing Digital Transformation	15	Compulsory	2
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 activitieswith 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.

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. The ability to write and present substantial reports arguing a case.

Practical

14. Demonstrate he ability to make informed decisions.
15. Develop models within which problems can be solved, for example database models. Plan, implement and test solutions.
16. Code an algorithm into a programming language; design, test and evaluate programs.
17. Demonstrate the ability to write a substantial report.
18. Demonstrate the skills to search for information.
19. Argue a case.

Personal and Social

20. Work under pressure.
21. Communicate using appropriate interpersonal skills.
22. Work in teams.
23. Take responsibility for own learning and time management.

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.