MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE

This is a credit-based qualification.

These regulations should not be read in isolation. It is important that you read them in conjunction with the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses).

MSc–Sci 1  DEGREE NAME

MSc–Sci 1.1 The University offers the Master of Science in Science, referred to as the MSc in Science. Holders of the qualification are permitted to use the letters MSc (Science) (Open) after their names.

MSc–Sci 1.2 The degree is offered with merit or with distinction.

MSc–Sci 1.2.1 If you qualify for the degree at the end of 2008 or later and have obtained at least a merit grade in at least 120 of the 180 credits required for the degree, you will be eligible for the degree with merit.

MSc–Sci 1.2.2 If you qualify for the degree before the end of 2010 and have obtained a distinction grade in at least 90 of the 180 credits required for the degree, or a distinction grade in at least 60 credits and a merit grade in at least a further 60 credits, you will be eligible for the degree with distinction.

MSc–Sci 1.2.3 If you qualify for the degree at the end of 2010 or later and have obtained a distinction grade in at least 120 of the 180 credits required for the degree, you will be eligible for the degree with distinction.

MSc–Sci 2  REGISTRATION

MSc–Sci 2.1 To register as a student, you must adhere to registration regulations in the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses) and show evidence of suitable preparation for postgraduate study. The minimum entry requirement is an honours degree conferred by a UK university or other recognised degree-awarding body in a science or science-related subject.

MSc–Sci 2.2 If you do not satisfy regulation MSc–Sci 2.1 but can satisfy the Senate that your qualifications or other evidence of competence are an adequate preparation for the programme of study, your application may, in certain circumstances, be considered.

MSc–Sci 2.3 To be awarded the degree, you must declare it as an intended qualification and ensure that your credit is linked to it.

MSc–Sci 3  CREDIT REQUIREMENT

MSc–Sci 3.1 To be awarded the degree up to and including the end of 2013, you must obtain 180 credits by successfully completing modules taken from the MSc in Science profile (unless regulation MSc–Sci 3.2 applies) and must satisfy the other requirements of the regulations.
MSc–Sci 3.2  To be awarded the degree after the end of 2013, you must obtain a minimum of 180 credits by successfully completing:

(a)  at least 90 and up to 120 credits from a specified list of core option modules
(b)  60 credits from the compulsory dissertation module
(c)  any balance required can come from a further list of specified 30- and 60-credit option modules.

MSc–Sci 3.3  Certain specified OU undergraduate-level modules may be permitted to count towards the MSc in Science. If you have already passed one of these, you will be notified of procedures for counting such modules towards the MSc in Science.

MSc–Sci 3.4  The Senate may permit you to qualify for the degree if you satisfy the other requirements of the regulations, and you have 180 credits, of which not less than 90 are from MSc in Science modules and not more than 90 are transferred credit.

MSc–Sci 3.5  The credit for this qualification must include from Open University modules a minimum amount of credit that meets the University’s unique study regulations, that minimum amount is 60 credits.

MSc–Sci 4  CREDIT TRANSFER

MSc–Sci 4.1  The credit transfer scheme for the MSc in Science is governed by the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses) and regulation MSc–Sci 3.4.

MSc–Sci 4.2  Any award of transferred credit must take the form of general credit exemption and/or module exemption against the core option modules. No credit transfer is permitted against the dissertation module.

MSc–Sci 4.3  The maximum award of transferred credit allowed towards the MSc degree is 90 credits: half the credit requirement of the degree.

MSc–Sci 5  PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DEGREE

MSc–Sci 5.1  In order to actively continue your studies, you must satisfy the assessment requirements and make satisfactory progress as specified for the qualification. If you fail to satisfy the assessment requirements for the qualification for which you are registered or to make satisfactory progress, you will cease to be registered for the qualification and will have no more right to continue your studies than a new applicant.

MSc–Sci 5.2  The MSc in Science has a modular programme and you are permitted to study the taught modules in any order (see MSc–Sci 5.7 concerning the project).

MSc–Sci 5.3  You are expected to complete the programme within seven years. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Faculty Teaching Committee.

MSc–Sci 5.4  You will be permitted to register only twice for any particular module if you do not achieve a pass in it (i.e. if you fail, withdraw, or are awarded a resit).

MSc–Sci 5.5  You will be allowed to retake or withdraw from a module only twice (e.g. one resit and one withdrawal, or two resits).
MSc–Sci 5.6  Permission to retake a module or to continue to be registered after withdrawing from a module or after failing to register for any module in a particular year must be obtained from the Faculty Teaching Committee.

MSc–Sci 5.7  You may normally take the MSc in Science project module only after successfully completing at least one of the taught modules in the programme.

MSc–Sci 5.8  Credit from particular modules may cease to be countable towards the MSc in Science at a specified point in time after their final presentation.