
The computing project M450

Presentation pattern February to October

Programme information

This module is a compulsory component in several single and joint honours degrees in the Undergraduate Computing programme, and is essential for BCS accreditation. The module gives students the skills necessary for specifying and completing an individual project. Students' work builds on the material introduced in any of the Programme's suite of Level 3 modules.

About 40 per cent of the work develops and assesses skills for project scoping and specification, self-monitoring of progress and presentation. The remaining 60 per cent concerns the technical detail of the project and is project specific. Module materials will be made available online. Students are expected to retain the material associated with the modules on which they build for their project.

Students will develop a project topic, specification and plan, carry it out, and then write it up. A tutor will advise and guide students, but they will be expected to produce their work independently, without close supervision. The emphasis is on students being reflective practitioners, developing not only the technical aspects of their project but also reviewing and thinking about what they have learnt from doing the work, to further improve their skills. Tutor-marked assignments provide milestones and feedback to help them monitor their progress. Guidance notes, study calendar and other supporting material will be made available on the web.

Tutors will be expected to have technical expertise associated with at least one Level 3 module on which the students build – currently that is at least one of M301, M362, M363, M358, M359, M364 or M366. New Level 3 modules may be introduced.

Associate lecturers

Students are expected to use software and materials from relevant Level 3 modules. Associate lecturers are expected to participate in peer online forums, student-group online forums and email.

The associate lecturer's role is to provide face-to-face and online support for up to eight students and to mark students' assignments. Associate lecturers mark three assignments for each of their students and mark their own students' project reports (6000–8000 words). In addition, associate lecturers second mark the project reports of another associate lecturer's students. We encourage applicants from associate lecturers who are tutoring or have tutored the related Level 3 module.

One important facet of the AL role is to judge whether a project fulfils the British Computing Society's criteria for projects and to advise students accordingly.

Module description

The Computing Project is a compulsory Level 3 module in many of our qualifications in the computing and ICT areas. In this module, students will gain practical experience of independent learning and reflective practice. They will apply advanced principles and techniques to solve problems in the context of a project topic that they have defined. Students will write up their experience and findings in a substantial report. Students will be responsible for the management of their project with the help of an individual supervisor. They must have completed at least one of the Level 3 computing modules before starting this module.

Person specification

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the [generic person specification](#) for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- teaching experience of a computing Level 3 module or relevant experience in the field (in which case, you will be required to familiarise yourself with an area of our Level 3 curriculum)
- willingness to maintain a good knowledge of current issues in at least one of the areas of computing that we teach at Level 3
- ability to support students in developing generic key skills and reflective practice relating to project work
- ability to use Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC) and to use computers and the internet for teaching and learning, and (including email and online forums), and a willingness to keep that knowledge up to date.

It would be an advantage to have:

- experience of supervising project work in an educational or industrial environment
- experience in adult distance learning and academic counselling
- an understanding of the project requirements for the British Computing Society (BCS) or the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE)
- good CMC skills.

Additional information

- We will expect tutors to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the British Computing Society concerning individual projects

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:	30
Number of assignments submitted by the student:	3
Method of submission for assignments:	1a
Level of ICT requirements:	3
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	6
Salary band:	3
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	3

There may be opportunities for ALs to undertake associated assessment work for which there will be additional payment and about which you will be contacted separately if applicable.