

*Presentation pattern* May to October

*Programme information*

The postgraduate computing programme consists of a number of 15-point taught modules, and a research project and dissertation, which can be combined to gain first a general postgraduate certificate in computing, and then one of the following routes to an MSc:

- a specialist diploma and MSc in Software Development
- a specialist diploma and MSc in Networks and Distributed Systems
- a specialist diploma and MSc in Management of Software Projects
- a broader diploma and MSc in Computing for Commerce and Industry (CCI).

All the routes to an MSc consist of two parts. The first is successful completion of the taught modules that lead to a postgraduate diploma. Successful completion of the research project and a 10,000–15,000-word dissertation, then leads to the award of an MSc.

In all the diplomas except Software Development, students also have the option of including some postgraduate technology modules or modules from the OU Business School.

All modules are designed for practising professionals and managers in the fields of computing, manufacturing and engineering, in related service industries and the public sector, and in educational organisations. Students are expected to have some experience of software development before they start any of these modules. Experience could be as developers, as project managers of developers, or as specifiers of software systems. Students do not require knowledge of any particular programming language, although they need to be comfortable with studying and manipulating symbols and notations. Specific modules make use of SQL and Java. Practical experience is an important part of the modules.

*Associate lecturers*

Your role on the taught modules in the diplomas is to comment on and mark assignments and give telephone and electronic tuition to individual students. There may be opportunities to present tutorials to introduce the modules, or at the revision schools (these are contracted separately). You will be concerned with the general progress of your students; you should try to ensure that they submit all assignments as well as encourage them to participate in online forums and attend the optional residential revision school before the examination. You may have an opportunity to contribute to the module material, for instance in the creation of assignments. For the dissertation module, you are employed as a supervisor and are allocated a single student or a small group. You are expected to support and supervise your student/s during the module of their project, advising on the preparation of the assignments, which you will mark, and the dissertation. You are also required to be one of two markers for the dissertation.

Tuition on the postgraduate computing modules increasingly involves electronic communication and you will be required to use online forums to communicate with the Postgraduate Technology and Computing (PTC) office in Nottingham.

*Module description*

This module provides an up-to-date look at the problem of equipping organisations with the software they require. Part one is about the human, organisational, social, economic, ethical and legal contexts of software. Part two examines software acquisition from off-the-shelf suppliers and open source projects to bespoke developments with their various approaches – from the classical waterfall to agile methods. Part three looks at the management of

resources, change, quality and risk. M882 deals with concepts, principles and real-world cases that will help students who, through their studies, seek a better and deeper understanding of the development and management of software.

#### *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:

- experience of software development or its application, and its organisational context
- an awareness of the human, social, professional, legal and ethical issues associated with software development.

It would be an advantage to have:

- experience of managing software development, software acquisition or its application
- familiarity with software quality management principles, practice and standards
- knowledge of risk assessment, metrics and estimation for software
- a relevant higher degree
- experience of teaching in an academic, industrial or commercial environment
- research experience in software management, software engineering or related areas as evidenced by publication in relevant journals or conference proceedings.

#### *Additional information*

We welcome applications from candidates whose experience derives from either an industrial or an academic background or both.

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

Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:	15
Number of assignments submitted by the student:	3
Method of submission for assignments:	1a
Level of ICT requirements:	2
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	18
Salary band:	3
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	4.5