
Web systems integration M887

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 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. 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 during the module of their project, advising on the preparation of assignments, which you will mark, and the dissertation. You are also required to be one of two markers for the dissertation.

Module description

Systems integration is a new development paradigm that is revolutionising the way we produce software. This module describes in detail a number of technologies that are vital for the development of internet-based applications, in the context of systems integration. These include: technologies such as application servers, Java Server Pages and web services; languages such as Perl, Python and XML. The module requires students to develop software so programming skills in Java, such as those gained from OU modules *Java everywhere* (M254) or *Putting Java to work* (M257), are essential.

This module is to be presented online within the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). There will be no printed texts; all the materials needed to study the module will be available online from the module website together with the module software which will be downloadable. The VLE enables us to introduce new tools to aid the student learning experience.

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 object-oriented software development within integration
- an understanding of object-oriented programming in Java
- a substantial knowledge of some technologies for systems integration, such as XML, XSLT, messaging, web services, Perl, Python, integration servers, JSP, Enterprise Java Beans, application servers, Java messaging service (JMS), and Servlets.

It would be an advantage to have:

- a relevant higher degree
- experience of teaching software engineering in an academic, industrial or commercial environment
- experience of teaching an online module or knowledge about online teaching technologies.

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:	3
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	20
Salary band:	3
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	4.5