Multi-service networks: structures T822

Presentation pattern *May to October*

Programme information

There are four routes to postgraduate awards in computing:

- 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).

Students taking the CCI diploma or Management of Software Projects diploma may include some postgraduate technology courses or courses from the OU Business School.

All courses are designed for practising professionals and managers in the fields of computing, manufacturing and engineering, in related services, and in educational organisations. Students are expected to have some experience of software development before they start any of these courses. 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 courses make use of SQL, Smalltalk and Java. Practical experience is an important part of the courses.

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

Associate lecturers

Your role on the taught courses 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 courses, 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 the online forums and attend the optional residential revision school before the examination. You may have an opportunity to contribute to the course 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 course 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 courses increasingly involves electronic communication and you need access to the internet. You will be required to use online forums to communicate with the Postgraduate Technology and Computing (PTC) office in Nottingham, which manages all associate lecturer appointments on the courses. All the computing courses now offer students the option of electronically submitting assignments, which requires you to mark the assignments with an electronic marking tool. For this, you need a copy of Microsoft Word 97 or later.

Course description

Digital communication networks increasingly support multiple services, such as voice, text and image. Designed primarily for professionals delivering digital information and wanting to update their knowledge of digital telecommunication, this course serves as an introduction to

the structure and characteristics of digital communication networks and the requirements of supporting multiple services. Students will focus on the main factors that influence performance, exploring the role played by protocols and transmission media in sustaining quality and defining the fundamental limitations of transmission. Using simulation exercises, they will also investigate the effects of randomly varying traffic levels.

Person specification

The person specification for this course 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 teaching telecommunications at undergraduate level.

It would be an advantage to have:

- industrial experience of digital telecommunication systems
- some familiarity with spreadsheets and running computer-based teaching packages.

Additional information

- To mark eTMAs with the electronic marking tool, you need a copy of Microsoft Word 97 or later. The minimum computer specification for the course is insufficient for marking assignments electronically. You will need at least 64 MB RAM and a 56 kbps modem. A large monitor (17 inch, 256 colour) would be preferable, and you may need significantly more free disk space than is recommended for students. You should also have access to Microsoft Excel.

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:	1b
Level of ICT requirements:	2
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	15
Salary band:	2
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	3.5