

Presentation pattern May to October

Programme information

The Postgraduate ICT and Computing Programme consists of a number of 15- and 30-point taught courses, and a research project and dissertation, which can be combined to gain a number of specialist diplomas and MScs, including a Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Advanced Networking, of which this course forms a part.

The route to an MSc consists of two parts. The first is successful completion of the taught courses 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.

The taught courses are designed for practising professionals and managers in the fields of network engineering, computing and manufacturing, in related service industries and the public sector, and in educational organisations. Students are expected to have some experience of network technology before they start the courses. Experience could be as support technicians, network engineers, as project managers or design specialists, as well as previous education/certification from a recognised Cisco CCNA course.

Other Diplomas and MScs available in the programme are in Software Development, Management of Software Projects, and Computing for Commerce and Industry (CCI).

Associate lecturers

Your role on the taught courses in the diploma is to comment on and mark assignments, manage their academy class and give telephone and electronic tuition to individual students. 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 residential school before the examination. You may have an opportunity to contribute to the course material, for instance in the creation of assignments.

Tuition on the postgraduate computing courses involves extensive electronic communication and you will need broadband 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

Cisco Systems are worldwide market leaders, supplying networking equipment for the internet, large, medium and small organisations as well as the home user. They also have a long established international networking academy programme aimed at educating networking professionals. Cisco qualifications are highly regarded in the networking industry, offering certification holders and their employers a commercial and technical advantage.

In this course students will study the latest version of the CCNP curriculum, using an online virtual learning environment provided by Cisco through their academy programme. Once they have completed this course they should be well prepared to take the CCNP ROUTE certification examination.

The course has a compulsory day school that will be held at an accredited Cisco CCNP academy. The day school will enable students to develop their practical and technical skills using real networking equipment, to enhance and underpin the learning gained from the online materials. Associate lecturers are not required to teach at the day school.

This course covers OSPF, EIGRP, Address Management, IPv6, BGP, Route Optimisation, redistribution between routing protocols and IP Multicasting.

Full details of the Cisco academy programme are available on the academy web site <http://cisco.netacad.net/public/academy/About.html>

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:

- be qualified as an instructor to teach CCNP ROUTE

It would be an advantage to:

- have substantial commercial experience of working at CCNP level
- have experience of teaching at CCNP level
- have experience of teaching in higher education
- be qualified as an instructor to teach CCNP SWITCH and TSHOOT.

Additional information

To mark eTMAs with the electronic marking tool, you need a copy of Microsoft Word 97 or later. You will need at least a 56kbps dial-up or broadband 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:	30
Number of assignments submitted by the student:	3
Method of submission for assignments:	2
Level of ICT requirements:	2
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	20
Salary band:	4
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	4.5