Courses

Single Honours
BSc Computer Science
three years G400
MEng Computer Science
four years G403
MEng Computer Science with Study in Continental Europe
four years G401
MEng Computer Science with Study Abroad four years*
MEng Computer Science with Innovation four years G404

Joint Honours
BEng Computer Science and Electronics
three years GH45
BSc Mathematics and Computer Science
three years GG14
MEng Computer Science and Electronics
four years GH46
MEng Computer Science and Electronics with Study Abroad
four years GH4P
MEng Mathematics and Computer Science
four years GG1K

*Entry by transfer from G403 at the end of year one.

Why study computer science at Bristol?

Computer science is a dynamic and continually expanding subject. It underpins the digital technologies that impact our society and the manner in which we live our lives. Bristol is one of the leading universities for the study of computer science, and our courses are designed to give you the skills and the knowledge to do so, combining the fundamentals of the subject with an exploration of its diverse applications.

You might be attracted to computer science for its creativity and be interested in designing and making things, from programmes to products. Maybe you enjoy the intellectual challenge – solving problems and finding ways to understand complex phenomena, both natural and artificial. You may also be inspired by the direct relevance of computing to the real world, as well as its importance in many areas of society.

We provide a balance between theory and practice, enabling the in-depth study of techniques at the same time as using them in real applications. Alongside studying cutting-edge topics from world-leading researchers, such as high-performance computing, robotics, cryptography and artificial intelligence, you will develop technical skills in software development, system design and animation, and transferable skills such as teamwork, communication and enterprise. This balance provides an ideal platform for our graduates’ future careers and is highly regarded by employers.

Our continuing investment in facilities forms part of the exceptional student experience at Bristol. The Engineering Growth Project is a £14 million plus investment to support teaching and learning to equip the whole Faculty of Engineering well into the 21st century. In autumn 2017, this major expansion of our facilities will house state-of-the-art equipment, large flexible teaching, design, study and workshop space to enable interactive teaching and learning for our students.

‘These new facilities will be transformative for students, academic colleagues, research students and staff. They will increase our capability to teach, collaborate and develop for the coming years.’
Professor Andrew Nix
Dean of the Faculty of Engineering

100 per cent of BSc Computer Science students agree the course is intellectually stimulating.
National Student Survey 2016
Our computer science courses provide a broad study of computing, covering all the key aspects of software and hardware and a wide range of application areas. The courses are designed to give you a thorough understanding of computers and computer systems and how to use them.

In year one you will study the theoretical principles of what computers can do and how to design algorithms to run on them. Software engineering units cover the fundamentals of programming. You then implement those techniques in supervised practical classes and individual assignments to solve problems using a variety of programming languages. This will quickly build up your analytic and programming abilities, enabling you to adapt easily to new programming languages and paradigms, a skill we know is highly valued by leading hi-tech companies. There are also opportunities to broaden your studies by taking open units across the University.

Throughout the rest of the course you will gain experience of working on real problems, with opportunities to specialise in areas of computing that are of particular interest to you. Whatever career you choose, the skills of design, planning, problem solving, meeting deadlines and teamwork that you will develop throughout your degree are certain to be central to your work.

We offer three- and four-year courses. The focus of the third and fourth year of our four-year MEng degree is different to the final year of a three-year BSc and so you should read the course descriptions carefully. If you are undecided, the first two years of the courses are the same, making it easy to transfer between them.

Our Joint Honours mathematics and computer science courses combine the fundamentals of computing and mathematics with specialisation in an area of computer applications. They are likely to be of interest to those wanting to study computing while continuing their studies in mathematics.

Our aim is to provide you with a dynamic and flexible learning environment based on material that is interesting and challenging as well as being relevant to your future career. We have a very open learning culture in which students and staff work closely together at all levels. In your first year you are assigned a personal tutor who will advise and help you throughout your course. We also run a mentoring system in which second-year students support incoming first years.

All of our courses have a balance between theory and practice. They will provide opportunities for you to understand the demands of industry, with emphasis placed on teamwork, project management and the importance of business planning and enterprise. In lectures and tutorials you’ll cover fundamental principles, while practical classes and coursework allow you to gain experience of how to use these principles in practice. To do this we use a wide variety of teaching and assessment methods, including lectures, tutorials, laboratory classes, online resources, exams and practical assignments.

You will also benefit from a dedicated Industrial Liaison Office, which develops industrial links, internship and mentoring schemes, and industry-specific lectures.

‘The University of Bristol is a great place to study, whether in terms of academic or social life. The lecturers are approachable and plenty of support is offered when needed.’

Alvina (BSc Computer Science)
A degree in computer science from Bristol will open up a wide range of career opportunities. Our graduates are highly sought after for their unique range of skills and find rewarding and exciting careers. This course will enable you to combine in-depth knowledge of computer systems, programming and applications with a solid grounding in logical reasoning, design, problem-solving and communication.

The concentration of high-technology and creative industries in the Bristol region provides us with insight from industrial insiders, opportunities for student projects, scholarships, prizes, vacation work and, for many students, their first job after graduating. Our links with industry form an integral part of our department and the learning environment that we provide for our students. Graduates have found employment in companies including Amazon, Google, Microsoft, IBM, Hewlett Packard, Facebook, Nvidia, GCHQ, Bloomberg and Electronic Arts.

**Industrial Liaison Office**
The Industrial Liaison Office (ILO) manage the Faculty of Engineering’s links with a diverse set of world-class engineering and technology companies and work to ensure that our students engage with industry from the very start of their studies.

As an engineering student at Bristol, you will benefit from an outstanding range of activities designed to enhance your employability. These include our Inside Track lecture series, where industry insiders offer first-hand insight into the engineering industry. Our Industrial Mentoring and internships schemes provide opportunities to gain valuable experience and make important connections, and our regular newsletter highlights further opportunities and industry events. See our website for more information: bristol.ac.uk/engineering/ilo.

**Making your application**

**Typical offer for BSc Computer Science***
Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-compsci for other qualifications.

A-levels A*AA (contextual AAB†) including A* in Mathematics (contextual A† in Mathematics).

IB Diploma 38 points overall (contextual 34†) with 18 at Higher Level (contextual 17†), including 6 at Higher Level in Mathematics.

**English language profile E††**

GCSEs Mathematics and English at grade C or above.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

Deferred entry Welcomed.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2017); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

It is important that you demonstrate a genuine interest in your chosen computer science course, so please visit our website and read through the detailed information on the courses and units that we offer. When selecting applicants we look for ability and potential rather than specific knowledge about computers.

Advanced Extension Award (AEA) and Further Mathematics are not required but would be helpful for your studies, particularly for the Joint Honours mathematics and computer science courses. We don’t require A-level Computing/ICT. For MEng Computer Science with Study in Continental Europe, you will need a language qualification at GCSE standard or above.

We welcome applications linked to the Year in Industry scheme run by the Royal Academy of Engineering: www.etrust.org.uk.

Further information
Find out more about the Department of Computer Science: bristol.ac.uk/computer-science.

For details of the MEng courses in computer science and electronics please visit our mini-website: bristol.ac.uk/engineering/interdisciplinary/cse.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability rankings 2016/17 and are the third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).
Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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