

Royal Holloway, University of London
Programme specification for an undergraduate award
BSc Computer Science (Four Year Programme with Foundation Year) (G4oF)

Section 1 – Introduction to your programme

This programme specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your programme and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree programme in **BSc Computer Science** with an integrated Foundation Year is delivered in four stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow courses to the value of 120 credits.

Upon progressing to the first year of your degree programme you will take a combination of mandatory and elective courses to introduce you to the theory and practice of Computer Science, including software development techniques and the technologies underlying specific application areas such as gaming and robotics.

The Foundation Year prepares you for university study by offering a rigorous introduction to university level study methods and skills transitioning from FHEQ level 3 to FHEQ level 4. It provides progressive structures in which you are able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding of approaches to scientific study and your chosen degree subject, together with embedded practice and study skills, leading towards increasingly discipline specific activities in the practical laboratories or individual project modules which facilitate greater levels of specialisation and individual choice. All modules are mandatory for the foundation year, but subject to good academic performance will allow transfer to other Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Science foundation years. The modules are to provide a strong foundation in mathematics, computing and practical skills to succeed in later years of the degree programme. The mathematics and physics taught modules are primarily assessed by examinations which will allow to practice key skills and exam techniques. The laboratory and project modules are assessed by lab-reports and project reports respectively.

The structure encourages you to develop your own interests through informed choice among specialist options. In the final stage of the programme, you undertake a project, which accounts for 25% of your studies in the final stage. There is a free choice of other final stage courses reflecting both core material, such as compiler theory, and currently important research areas such as machine learning, information security, software language engineering, intelligent agents, computational finance and bioinformatics.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, programmes and the availability of individual course units, especially optional course units are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree programme – Also referred to as ‘degree course’ or simply ‘course’, these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.
Course unit – Also referred to as ‘module’, this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree programme. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of course units to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree programmes a certain number of optional course units must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Programme details			
Date of specification update	February 2020	Location of study	Egham Campus
Programme award and title	BSc Computer Science	Level of study	Undergraduate
Programme code	3449	UCAS code	G40F
Year of entry	2020/21		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Computer Science (School of Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences)	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the programme	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	Duration of the programme	Four years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	<p>British Computer Society (BCS), and European Quality Assurance Network for Informatics Education (EQANIE).</p> <p>To comply with British Computer Society and EQANIE accreditation requirements students must successfully complete the degree programme and pass the final year project.</p> <p>The department will seek accreditation from the British Computer Society (BCS), which is already in place for its other single-honours programmes.</p>		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	study@royalholloway.ac.uk

Section 3 – Degree programme structure										
3.1 Mandatory course unit information										
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each stage of study										
Stage	Course code	Course title	Contact hours*	Self-study hours	Written exams**	Practical assessment**	Coursework**	Credits	FHEQ level	Course status (see below)
0	FY1001	Global Perspectives and Academic Practice I	50	100	0	0	100%	15	3	MC
0	FY1002	Global Perspectives and Academic Practice II	50	100	0	0	100%	15	3	MC
0	FY1005	Foundation Maths 1	55	95	70%	0	30%	15	3	MNC
0	FY1006	Foundation Maths 2	55	95	70%	0	30%	15	3	MNC
0	FY1009	Foundation Programming	44	106	0	60%	40%	15	3	MC
0	FY1010	Foundation Physical Sciences	44	106	60%	0	40%	15	3	MC
0	CS1998	Foundation Practical Skills	30	120	0	0	100%	15	3	MC
0	CS1999	Foundation Individual Scientific Project	20	130	0	0	100%	15	3	MC
1	CS1811	Object Oriented Programming I	31	119	90%	0	10%	15	4	MNC
1	CS1812+	Object Oriented Programming II	31	119	90%	0	10%	15	4	MNC
1	CS1822++	Programming Laboratory	66	234	0	0	100%	30	4	MNC
1	CS1840	Internet Services	40	110	90%	0	10%	15	4	MC
1	CS1860	Mathematical Structures	38	112	90%	0	10%	15	4	MC
1	CS1870	Machine Fundamentals	38	112	100%	0	0	15	4	MC
1	CS1890	Software Design	34	116	40%	0	60%	15	4	MC
2	CS2800	Software Engineering	33	117	60%	0	40%	15	5	MNC
2	CS2810	Team Project	40	110	0	0	100%	15	5	MNC
2	CS2850	Operating Systems	44	106	80%	0	20%	15	5	MC
2	CS2855	Databases	44	106	70%	0	30%	15	5	MC

2	CS2860	Algorithms and Complexity	33	117	90%	0	10%	15	5	MC
2	IY2760	Introduction to Information Security	33	117	80%	0	20%	15	5	MC
3	CS3821	Full Unit Project	10	290	0	0	100%	30	6	MC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory courses on your degree programme. These courses are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree programme will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these courses each year. Mandatory courses fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) courses, you must pass the course before you can proceed to the next year of your programme, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) courses, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree programme may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and programme requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

*Contact hours come in various different forms, and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff. On your Foundation Year you will also have regular meetings with your personal tutor and specialised skills classes taught by staff in the Library.

**The way in which each course on your degree programme is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the course, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the course you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular course.

3.2 Optional course units

In addition to mandatory course units, there will be a number of optional course units available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional course units that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and programme requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can access via their [webpage](#).

Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
None	None	CS2900: Multi-dimensional Data Processing (AI)	CS3003: IT Project Management (SE)
		CS2910: Artificial Intelligence (AI)	CS3110: Bioinformatics
		IY2840: Computer and Network Security	CS3220: Digital Audio and Applications
			CS3470: Compilers and Code Generation
			CS3480: Software Language Engineering (SE)
			CS3510: Functional Programming and Applications (SE)
			CS3846: Human-Computer Interaction (SE)
			CS3870: Advanced Algorithms and Complexity
			CS3920: Machine Learning (AI)
			CS3930: Computational Finance (AI)
			CS3940: Intelligent Agents and Multi-agent Systems (AI)
			IY3501: Security Management (IS)
			IY3606: Smart Cards/Token Security and Applications (IS)
			IY3609: Digital Forensics (IS)
			IY3612: Cyber Security (IS)
			IY3660: Applications of Cryptography (IS)
			IY3840: Malicious Software (IS)

3.3 Other course unit requirements

+ You may take CS1813 Software Development instead of CS1812 at the discretion of the department.

++ You may take CS1823 Programming in Practice instead of CS1822 at the discretion of the department.

In the **second year** you will take two further non-project CS2xxx or IY2xxx elective courses.

In the **final year** you will take six further non-project CS3xxx or IY3xxx elective courses.

Note: students for each year are expected to take part in the Advanced topics seminar course (CS3010). This course is not part of the degree programme but attendance will be shown on your transcript.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree programme

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's Academic Regulations. As part of your degree programme you may also be required to complete a course to develop your academic writing skills. This course does not carry credit but pass it is a requirement to progress to the next year of study. In order to progress from the Foundation Year to Year One you must pass 120 credits. Opportunities for resits are detailed in Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#). There is flexibility within the Foundation Year for you to take your Individual Project in one of the other departments in the School of Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences offering a Foundation Year. The degree programme you choose to take after progression is likely to depend on the individual project you select during the Foundation Year.

Section 5 – Educational Aims of the programme

For the Foundation Year:

- to develop the required skills in mathematical concepts and techniques and for you to apply these concepts to problems in Engineering, Computer Science, Maths and Physics, in preparation for level 4 study;
- to equip you with the basic experimental, programming or practical techniques required for scientific degrees;
- to start the process of independent project work in science with support of expert academics;
- to put in context scientific knowledge and developments into a wider context of history, society and globalisation.

Following on to aims for the BSc:

- to produce graduates with the ability to engage in the lifelong learning and with the skills required for a professional career in a computer-based environment or for a research career in Computer Science and related areas;
- to develop computing-related cognitive abilities and skills as described in the QAA Computer Science benchmark statement;
- to develop, in a flexible and progressive structure, students' knowledge and understanding of essential facts and theory, with the ability to use this knowledge to devise, specify, design, implement, test, document and critically evaluate computer-based systems;
- to develop an understanding of professional and ethical issues involved in the deployment of computer technology;
- to produce graduates with a range of personal attributes relevant to the world beyond higher education, including information retrieval and use, numeracy, the ability to devise and present logical arguments to inform and support actions, and organisational skills.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)*)

Foundation Year

- Knowledge of and ability to apply mathematics to scientific and computational problems (K, S);
- Working knowledge of at least one high level programming language (K);
- Understanding of applying fundamental computer science technologies to simple problems (S);
- Start to take responsibility and to develop the individual learning, communication and research skills (S)

BSc

- knowledge and understanding of the essential facts, concepts, principles and theories relating to computing and computer applications (K);
- understanding of the implications of recent research in Computer Science, artificial intelligence and related fields, and how such research results can be incorporated into computer-based systems (K);
- understanding of the professional, moral and ethical aspects of the use of computer-based systems, and ability to recognise any risks or safety aspects in a given context (K);
- knowledge of how computers are programmed and used; advanced programming; software engineering and team work for developing a significant software system; the fundamental technologies used for artificial intelligence; the functioning of the Internet and the World Wide Web; the main concepts of database technology and design; background theory necessary for a deeper understanding of computing and computers (K);
- depending on their course of studies, students may also gain a knowledge of the following key practical application technologies: operating systems; graphics; robotics, bioinformatics, information security, applied artificial intelligence and human-computer interfaces; theoretical foundations of algorithms and programming (K);
- appreciation of the importance of computing and information technology for commerce and industry and an understanding of expected industry changes and the effects they will have (K);

- ability to deploy appropriate theory, practices and tools for the modelling, specification, design, implementation and evaluation of computer-based systems (including stand-alone computer systems, information systems, embedded systems, distributed systems and web-based systems) to meet given requirements under practical constraints (S);
- employ the research skills needed to investigate a defined topic under supervision, through an extended individual project (S);
- interpersonal skills, including the ability to work as a member of a development team, recognising/respecting the viewpoints of others, recognising the different roles within a team and the different ways of organising teams (S);*
- problem identification, analysis and solution using critical assessment and reasoned argument (S);*
- taking responsibility for own learning and developing habits of reflection on that learning (S);*
- skills in written communication, project documentation, verbal presentation; numeracy and computation (S);*
- use of information technology (including spreadsheets, databases, word processing, email and WWW) (S); *
- information handling and retrieval (including the use of libraries and computer technology) (S);*
- ability to work autonomously, and to demonstrate time management and organisational skills (S);*
- ability to apply knowledge and skills in computing to large-scale practical applications (S);

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, small-group tutorials, practical and problem classes, supervised computing laboratory work, group work, completion of coursework and private study, guided independent study and research in the stage three individual project.

Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal, unseen written examination, coursework assignments, project reports, oral presentations, and the final stage project report. Transferable skills are also inherently assessed through the assignments, reports and oral presentations. Feedback is provided on students' performance in coursework, both assessed and non-assessed, and during tutorial and practical sessions. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#)

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree programme.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree programme at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	3-6
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Your programme is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent programmes of study.

QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
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Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of programmes in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.

Section 10 – Further information

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on course units, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Course Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Your programme will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your programme may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes. In line with the College’s [Admissions Policy](#), if your department make any significant changes to any year of your programme of study between the time at which an offer is made to you on the Foundation Year and the point at which you complete your registration we will write to you advising you of the changes and the rationale.

Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the programme as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory course units, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

Section 12 - Associated award(s)

BSc Computer Science with a Year in Industry (G402)