REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
(MSc[CompSc])

(See also General Regulations)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Science in Computer Science (MSc[CompSc]) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a course of study in the Faculty of Engineering. The MSc(CompSc) course is offered in part-time and full-time mode.

MCS 1  Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Science in Computer Science, a candidate

(a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
(b) shall hold
   (i) a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science; or
   (ii) any relevant qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
(c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MCS 2  Qualifying examination

(a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's formal academic ability or his ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
(b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he has satisfied the examiners in the examination.

MCS 3  Award of degree

(a) To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Computer Science a candidate
   (i) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
   (ii) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
(b) A candidate who has not satisfied the examiners for the award of the Degree of Master of Science in Computer Science but has completed 8 modules may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Science (Computer Science) [PDipSc(CS)], subject to approval of the Faculty Board.

MCS 4  Length of curriculum

For the part-time mode of study, the curriculum shall normally take two academic years of study, and the maximum period of study is three years. For the full-time mode of study, the curriculum shall
normally take one academic year of study, and the maximum period of study is two years.

MCS 5 Completion of curriculum

(a) To complete the curriculum a candidate shall, within the prescribed maximum period of study stipulated in Regulation MCS 4 above:
   (i) follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
   (ii) satisfy the examiners in all forms of assessment as may be required in either
        (1) twelve modules which may include a project report or dissertation of four modules; or
        (2) at least nine modules successfully completed at this University (which may include a project report or dissertation of four modules) and not more than three modules successfully completed at this or another university before admission to the Master of Science in Computer Science and approved by the Faculty Board.

(b) A candidate who fails to fulfil the requirements within the period of study specified in Regulation MCS 4 above shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provisions of General Regulation G 12, except that a candidate, who is unable because of illness or circumstances beyond his control to complete the requirements within the prescribed period of study, may apply for permission to extend his period of studies. Any such application shall be made within two weeks of the first day of the examination paper in question.

MCS 6 Course selection

(a) Selection of study patterns shall be made in consultation with and be subject to the approval of the Head of the Department of Computer Science.

(b) Subject to the approval of the Head of the Department of Computer Science, a student may be permitted to select at most two modules from the syllabuses for the degrees of MSc(ECom&IComp) and MSc(Eng).

(c) Subject to the approval of the Faculty Higher Degrees Committee on the recommendation of the Head of the Department of Computer Science, a candidate may be permitted to select additional module(s).

MCS 7 Project report or dissertation

(a) A candidate who is permitted to select a project report or dissertation of 4 modules is required to submit it by a date specified by the Board of Examiners.

(b) The candidate shall submit a statement that the project report or dissertation represents his own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by his co-worker, which shows his share of the work) undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree.

MCS 8 Examinations

(a) The written examination for each module shall be held after the completion of the prescribed course of study for that module, and not later than January, May or August immediately following the completion of the course of study for that module.
(b) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in a module or modules may be permitted to present himself either for re-examination in the module or modules of failure or for examination in the same number of new modules when the examination is next held, but a candidate who has twice failed to satisfy the examiners in the module or modules for the same module shall not be permitted to present himself for examination in the same module or modules for a third time. To proceed to the following year of the curriculum, a candidate must satisfy the examiners in a minimum of two modules in each academic year. A candidate who passes in less than two modules in an academic year may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulations G 12.

(c) A candidate who has presented an unsatisfactory project report or dissertation may be required to submit a revised project report or dissertation on the same subject within a specified period.

(d) A candidate who has presented an unsatisfactory project report or dissertation for a second time shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.

(e) A candidate who has failed to submit a satisfactory project report or dissertation within the prescribed maximum period of study, including any extension, shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.

MCS 9 Examination results

At the conclusion of the examination and after presentation of the project reports or dissertations, a pass list shall be published. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit or merit at the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction or credit, as appropriate, and this mark shall be recorded on the candidate's degree diploma.