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

(See also General Regulations)

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

MCS 1 Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the curriculum leading to the degree of Master of Science in Computer Science, a candidate shall
(a) comply with the General Regulations;
(b) hold (1) a Bachelor's degree of this University in a relevant field; or
   (2) any other relevant qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
(c) 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 academic ability or his/her ability to follow the curriculum prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a dissertation.

(b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he/she 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 shall
   (1) comply with the General Regulations; and
   (2) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

(b) A candidate who has completed eight modules but has not satisfied the examiners for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Computer Science 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 extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of study. For the full-time mode of study, the curriculum shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of study. In both cases, a minimum of 300 hours
of prescribed work are required.

MCS 5  Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum a candidate shall, within the prescribed maximum period of study stipulated in Regulation MCS 4 above:

(a)  follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed practical / laboratory work; and

(b)  satisfy the examiners in all forms of assessment as may be required in either

(1) twelve modules which may include a dissertation of four modules; or

(2) at least nine modules successfully completed at this University (which may include a 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.

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)  A candidate shall select modules according to the guidelines stipulated in the syllabus for the degree of MSc[CompSc].

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

MCS 7  Dissertation

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

(b)  All candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his/her own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree.

MCS 8  Assessment and discontinuation

(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 is unable to complete the requirements within the prescribed maximum period of study specified in Regulation MCS4 because of illness or circumstances beyond his/her control, may apply for permission to extend his/her period of studies. Any such application shall be made within two weeks of the day of examination for the paper in question.

(c)  A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in a module or modules may be permitted to present him/herself 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. 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
(d) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in his/her dissertation may be required to submit or resubmit a dissertation on the same subject within a period specified by the Board of Examiners.

(e) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners at a second attempt in his/her dissertation within the specified period shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

(f) A candidate who has failed to fulfill the requirements within the prescribed maximum period of study specified in Regulation MCS4, including any extension, shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

MCS 9  Assessment results

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