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Postgraduate study in Computer Science

Graduate courses are taught by research-active staff, and are typically more flexible and project-based, allowing you to study open problems and to assess the possibility of proceeding to a thesis-based qualification in these areas. These courses can take you to the leading edge of the discipline.

A graduate degree signifies to an employer that you are a high achiever – self-motivated, well-organised and genuinely interested in the subject area. Besides giving you an employment edge, the degree also sets you up for a possible research-based career either in New Zealand or overseas.

Departmental approval is required for all postgraduate programmes in Computer Science. Prospective postgraduate students must discuss their enrolment with the relevant departmental advisor.

The graduate qualifications in Computer Science are:

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Master of Science (MSc)
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) (BSc(Hons))
- Postgraduate Diploma in Science (PGDipSci)
- Graduate Diploma in Science (GradDipSci)
**Graduate Diploma in Science in Computer Science (GradDipSci)**

The Graduate Diploma in Science in Computer Science is a qualification consisting of courses that are equivalent to a Bachelor’s level degree. It is offered so that students with degrees in other subjects or with extensive computing experience can complete a formal qualification in Computer Science. High achieving students can apply for the Postgraduate Diploma at completion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>120 points - 8 x 15 point courses. This programme is made up of Stage II and III undergraduate courses. All points must be above Stage I and 75 points must be above Stage II.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>The equivalent of 2 full-time semesters - usually 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission</td>
<td>It is important that candidates discuss their Diploma programmes with the Computer Science Diploma Coordinator before attempting to enrol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:diplomas@cs.auckland.ac.nz">diplomas@cs.auckland.ac.nz</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Computer Science (PGDipSci)**

The Postgraduate Diploma in Science is designed for students who have a BSc with a strong major in Computer Science (or equivalent).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>120 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>1 year full-time or up to 4 years part-time from initial enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission</td>
<td>Students must have at least a B average in 4 COMPSCI courses (60 points) at Stage III level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses available</td>
<td>COMPSCI 601, 602, 691, 702, 703, 704, 711, 720, 725, 732, 734, 742, 750, 760, 767, 773, 775, 780. Up to 2 courses from other subjects may be chosen, with the consent of the Computer Science Diploma Coordinator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important</td>
<td>A maximum enrolment of 160 points is permitted, which means that students can fail only two courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:diplomas@cs.auckland.ac.nz">diplomas@cs.auckland.ac.nz</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Bachelor of Science (Honours) (BSc(Hons))

The Bachelor of Science (Honours) is a challenging degree targeted at top-achieving students. It is widely recognised as being of a high international standard. Applicants should have completed the BSc in Computer Science to a high standard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>120 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>1 year full-time or 2 years part-time from initial enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission</td>
<td>At least a B average in 90 points (6 courses) above Stage II, including at least 45 points (3 courses) in Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses available</td>
<td>COMPSCI 702, 703, 704, 711, 720, 725, 732, 734, 742, 750, 760, 767, 773, 775, 789. All Honours students must complete the 30 point dissertation COMPSCI 789.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important</td>
<td>A maximum enrolment of 160 points is permitted, which means that a student can fail only two courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/for/futurepostgraduates/studyoptions/planningabschons/">www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/for/futurepostgraduates/studyoptions/planningabschons/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:honourscoordinator@cs.auckland.ac.nz">honourscoordinator@cs.auckland.ac.nz</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Master of Science in Computer Science (MSc)

The Masters programme is a one-year programme by thesis only. An MSc thesis is intended as an introduction to research techniques in some area of interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>120 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>1 year full-time or 2 years part-time from initial enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission</td>
<td>Applicants for the MSc programme should have completed a BSc(Hons), a BTech, or a PGDipSci in Computer Science from The University of Auckland (or equivalent) with an average grade of at least B- in 90 points. At least 75 points must be in 700 level courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>Thesis only (Full-time COMPSCI 796 - Part-time COMPSCI 799)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important</td>
<td>Students must find a supervisor for their thesis and seek departmental approval before applying for the programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/for/futurepostgraduates/studyoptions/planningamsc/">www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/for/futurepostgraduates/studyoptions/planningamsc/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mscccoordinator@cs.auckland.ac.nz">mscccoordinator@cs.auckland.ac.nz</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science (PhD)

Doctoral programmes are the highest-level qualifications that can be awarded by The University of Auckland. For this reason, the application process is rigorous, and potential applicants must write preliminary research proposals in consultation with their potential supervisor(s) during the application process to provide evidence of their capability and dedication.

## Application
Applying for a doctoral programme requires that you complete and submit an on-line Expression of Interest (EOI) to The University of Auckland, including sufficient information to allow academic staff to evaluate your academic background and match your research interests with an appropriate supervisor.

## Duration
It is expected that this programme will usually be completed within three to four years of full-time candidature. Part-time candidature may also be permitted.

## Admission
Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy are required to have:

A. (i) completed the requirements for the award of a masters degree with First Class or Second Class (Division I) Honours at The University of Auckland
or
(ii) completed the requirements for the award of a bachelors degree with First Class or Second Class (Division I) Honours at The University of Auckland
and
demonstrated an ability to pursue doctoral-level research
or
B. equivalent to A. as decided by the Board of Graduate Studies

## Content
A PhD thesis that is a substantial contribution to research and an oral examination.

## Financial support
Each year a significant number of students enrolled in PhDs are awarded University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships. These are allocated on the basis of merit and provide funding for up to three years, with a six month extension available on application. Some PhD students are employed by the Department as teaching assistants, tutors or assistant lecturers.

## Web
www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/for/futurepostgraduates/studyoptions/planningaphd/

## Contact
phdcoordinator@cs.auckland.ac.nz

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*Mehwish Riaz is a PhD student in the Department of Computer Science.*
**Support for postgraduate study**

Our department offers occasional PhD scholarships as funds permit. Individual staff members may also have scholarship support available via research grants and contracts. Permanent residents and NZ citizens have more options open to them for scholarship assistance. All fellowships and scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. For further information please contact the department’s PhD Coordinator at phdcoordinator@cs.auckland.ac.nz.

MSc students have limited funding opportunities but may be offered support through employment as a teaching assistant or marker.

The Faculty of Science also offers Summer Scholarships to Computer Science undergraduates in their third year and postgraduates (excluding PhD students). This is a financial incentive for students to complete a project of supervised research over the summer break.

**Contact:** scholarships@auckland.ac.nz


**Research courses**

The Department encourages students to develop their skills to undertake their own research into Computer Science and offers a number of courses that enable this. Students should approach a staff member to supervise them in their research.

Staff maintain lists of project and thesis topics on their web sites and they are always willing to listen to students’ ideas for projects and theses. If you have an excellent academic record and some special interests, discuss your ideas with the relevant staff member. Later in this handbook you can find a listing of academic staff and their general research interests.

See [www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/about/ourresearch/postgraduateresearchtopics](http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/about/ourresearch/postgraduateresearchtopics) for the list of topics available.

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Muhammad Sulayman is studying for his PhD in Computer Science.

Self-directed research courses are

- COMPSCI 380 - Undergraduate Project in Computer Science (15 points)
  - available to strong Stage III BSc and GradDipSci students
- COMPSCI 690 - Graduate Diploma Dissertation (30 points)
  - available to strong GradDipSci students
- COMPSCI 691 - Postgraduate Diploma Dissertation (30 points)
  - available to PGDipSci students
- COMPSCI 780 - Postgraduate Project in Computer Science (15 points)
  - available to PGDipSci students
- COMPSCI 789 - BSc(Hons) Dissertation (30 points)
  - compulsory for BSc(Hons) students
- COMPSCI 796 - MSc Thesis in Computer Science (120 points)
  - compulsory for full-time masters students
- COMPSCI 799 - MSc Thesis in Computer Science (120 points)
  - compulsory for part-time masters students
Postgraduate enrolment - where to from here?

Enquire
Visit www.auckland.ac.nz or contact our student advisers for any information you need.
Phone: 0800 61 62 63 | Email: studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz
Student Information Centre: Room 112, ClockTower, 22 Princes St, Auckland

Apply for a place in a programme(s)
Do you have internet access, or can you come on to campus to our help labs?

Yes
• Log on to www.auckland.ac.nz
• Click on Apply Now
• Complete the online Application for a place in your programme(s) of choice.
• New students will receive an acknowledgement email including Net ID and password details for accessing Student Services Online (the online enrolment system)
• Applications will require details of the courses you intend to study towards your postgraduate qualification. If these details are required by the programme you are applying for, you will be asked to complete those details.

Offer
Your programme(s) will be assessed by the relevant department and the Faculty of Science and if accepted, an offer email will be sent to you.
To see the status of your application(s), log on to www.auckland.ac.nz and click on Apply Now. Select "Apply for admission to the University", and log in to Student Services Online.

Accept
• Accept or decline your offer of a place in a programme online. Remember – you still need to enrol in your courses!

Enrol in your choice of courses
Enrol in courses via Student Services Online using your login and password.
For help with choosing courses you can:
• refer to www.science.auckland.ac.nz or to publications relating to your programme, or to The University of Auckland Calendar. For programme publications call 0800 61 62 63. The Calendar is for sale in bookshops or can be accessed from www.auckland.ac.nz Click on “Current Students” then “University Calendar” in the Quick Links box
• go online to check the timetable for your chosen courses
• for more information visit the Faculty of Science Student Centre, Ground Floor, Building 301, 23 Symonds Street
  Phone: 64 9 373 7599 ext 87020 | Email: scifac@auckland.ac.nz
• or call 0800 61 62 63.

Pay your tuition fees.

You are now a University of Auckland student. Congratulations!