Computer Science

Full details about the course are available from

http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/

and from

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/computer-science

Brief details of the course

Computer Science is offered as a three-year course leading to a BA(Hons) degree, with the option of continuing for a fourth year to attain the MSci.

For the first year you take four papers, including three compulsory Computer Science papers - covering topics such as foundations of computer science (taught in OCaml), Java and object-oriented programming, operating systems, and digital electronics, graphics, interaction design - and one Mathematics paper. In the second year you take four papers, spanning the core discipline through topics. The third year is specialisation where you choose from a large selection of topics which allows you to concentrate on an area of interest to you.

Teaching Arrangements

The Director Of Studies is Dr Richard Watts, founder of Kynesim – http://www.kynesim.co.uk/ - a local computer consultancy firm. His research interests include compilers, HCI, operating systems and programming language design.

Subject requirements

Mathematics A-level is essential, and Further Mathematics is highly desirable. A further science subject is also useful. Computer Science A-level is not required.

For those taking other post-16 qualifications we expect a combination of subjects comparable to those given for A-levels.

Qualities we are looking for

We are looking for individuals who have a clear grasp of mathematics and can apply it to the sort of tasks that are found in Computer Science. It is very unlikely you will reach this level unless you have taken both Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A-level or equivalent.

Some previous experience of computing would be an advantage, but none is required. The possession of analytical skills and the ability to evaluate critically material that you read are both vital.

Admissions Assessment

Arrangements for the Computer Science admissions assessment have not yet been confirmed for 2020 entry. Information will be added here as soon as it is available so please check back for updates.

Interviews

You can expect to have one or two technical interviews of up to about 30 minutes, together with a shorter general interview.

In the technical interviews you will be expected to tackle questions which relate to the sort of mathematics that is the basis of computing, and to show a critical appreciation of technology.

If you have applied for the 50% or with Mathematics options, the second technical interview will typically discuss applied mathematics topics relating to the remaining subjects you will be studying..

Candidates will also have a general interview with an Admissions Tutor. This is designed to learn about the candidate's interests and activities outside Computer Science, his/her motivation in choosing to study Computer Science at Cambridge, and the candidate's maturity of approach towards academic work.

View on gap years

Whilst there are no objections to delayed entry it is important to remember that mathematical skills can quickly dwindle if not used. You should therefore select activities that will help to maintain your competence and also gain experience in your chosen subject.

Finding out more and Open Days

The Computer Laboratory will be participating in the Cambridge Open Days on 4 and 5 July 2019. See the insert in our prospectus about this and other open days at Selwyn. Full details are also available on our website.

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