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 degree, with the option of continuing for a fourth year to achieve the MSci.

There are three variants available for the first year of the course

- a combination of Computer Science (75%) and Mathematics (25%) from the Natural Sciences Tripos.
- a combination of Computer Science (50%), Mathematics (25%) from the Natural Sciences Tripos and either a Natural Science subject (25%) or a psychology paper from the Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Tripos.
- a combination of Computer Science (50%) with half of the first-year papers from the Mathematics course (50%).

After the first year the course is entirely Computer Science at increasing levels of specialisation.

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, and if you are planning on offering a Natural Science subject in your first year, a further science is essential. 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.

Those applying to read Computer Science with Mathematics are required to have A-Level Further Mathematics or IB Higher Level Physics. You will also be expected to achieve high grades in two STEP Mathematics papers.

www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/admissions/step/

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.

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

When you come for interview you will be asked to take the Computer Science Admissions Test (CSAT). Further details on this test can be found here www.cl.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/admissions-test/

Interviews

You can expect to have one or two 30 minute technical interviews together with a shorter general interview.

In one technical interview 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, a second technical interview will discuss topics relating to the remaining subjects you will be studying; these will typically be in applied mathematics.

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 6 and 7 July 2017. See the insert in our prospectus about this and other open days at Selwyn. Full details are also available on our website.