

Welcome to the Computer Science Tripos

Full information about your courses is on the Computer Lab website at <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/> where you can find the timetables, individual course details and tick and project deadlines.

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Some key dates

Michaelmas term	
IA Pre-arrival course	This should be completed by the start of term.
Notify Department of IA student option decision	Final-Tuesday 2 October 2018
IA (75) first Database lecture	Thursday 04/10/2018 – 11.00, LT1
IA Registration (all students inc. NST taking Paper 1)	Thursday 04/10/2018 – 2pm, LT1
IA-Scientific Computing practicals	All CST students attend briefing lecture, 22 Nov 16-17.00 in LT1.
IA-Christmas vacation-	IA CST students should complete ML tick 5 and submit this before the start of Lent term
Part II Project proposal deadline	Friday 20 October 2018
Lent term	
IB Group project presentations	Wednesday 6 March 2-5pm, Intel Lab and LT1 everyone is welcome to attend!
Part IA and Part IB tick deadlines	See course websites for interim deadlines and HoD notices
EASTER TERM	
Part II dissertation submission	Friday 17 May 12 noon. A PDF by electronic submission on Moodle
All years- Tripos written exams	3- 6 June 2019
Publication of the IB and Part II classlists	Friday 21 June 2019
Publication of IA classlist	Tuesday 2nd July 2019

1. Workload and expectations. This is an approximate guide of your expected hours of study in each year. Your college director of study will help you plan and use your time effectively.

Term time	Vacations	Exams
<p>Each of years 1 to 3 of the Computer Science Tripos is organised in four strands and the amount of work in each strand ranges from 8 to 12 hours per week, meaning that, in the most intense periods of study, you would be expected to be working 48 hours a week.</p> <p>Typically, per strand, this might be 3 hours of lectures, 2 hours private preparation for lectures, 1 supervision, 3 hours of private preparation for supervision, and 3 hours of practical work, including preparation for the practical.</p>	2.5 hours per weekday	84 hours of exam revision, 4 hours of exam supervisions, 12 hours of examinations.

You can read the full document at

<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/course/ExpectedStudyHours.pdf>

2. <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/exams/headofdeptnotices.pdf> gives details about the practical ticks. Further information can be found on individual course websites. Some practicals are run as drop-in sessions whilst others require attendance. Do read the course guidance carefully.
3. The main exams take place around the first week in June. You can find exam timetables and other information at <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/exams/> including the structure of the exam papers and formal notices about deadlines for practical work. There is some useful information and tips on how to be successful in your exams at <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/exams/ExaminationProcedures.pdf>
4. Part IA and IB students are expected to attend **all** lectures. In Part II you specialise and select your courses (see guidance below). Only students who have been given permission may record lectures so please do not make recordings unless the lecturer has given you permission.
5. The Computer Lab Staff and Student Consultative Forum (SSCOF) meets twice termly. Do contact your rep with any suggestions or problems. The Lab is always ready to listen. You can find your rep's contact details at <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/local/committees/staff-student/> There are also student reps on the CL Faculty Board.

Part IA

6. Whichever option you have chosen, you should have completed the pre-arrival course, preferably before the start of term. Paper 1 and 2 lectures take place in the centre of town and Paper 3 in the William Gates Building. All practicals take place in the Intel Lab.

All CST IA students take the Scientific Computing course. There is a briefing lecture on 22 November from 16 – 17.00 in LT1. This is followed by an online course and a ticking session in Lent term.

Part IB

7. Programming in C has one lecture followed by practical sessions in the Intel Lab. There will then be 2 C++ lectures. These will be examined in Paper 4. Unix tools which is also now an online course apart from the first lecture and, after the first lecture, will be self-study in the Intel Lab. Students taking the 50% option offer Papers 3, 4 5 and 6. Students taking the 75% option who sat Paper 3 in IA offer Papers 4, 5 6 and 7.

Part II

8. Students taking the 50% option offer Papers 7, 8 and 9. There is a question on Digital Signal processing on Paper 7 for part II students only. You answer five questions from each paper. There are no restrictions on which questions you answer. The layout of the papers is announced just before the Michaelmas term starts, but it is generally mostly the same as in previous years, varying only to accommodate new, withdrawn or suspended courses. You can see the exam structures at <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/exams/exam-structure.pdf>

It is up to you to make sure you read sufficient courses to be able to answer five questions on each of the papers. Generally, you should aim to be able to answer **at least** six questions on each paper. You are certainly not expected to go to all the Part II lectures and be able to answer all of the questions on every paper --- that would be more or less impossible.

Here is a suggestion for how to plan your courses:

In September, just before the start of the year, look through the course list and strike out any course you know you won't do (i.e. remove the definite 'no's - there are always some). Then attend the first lecture of every Part II course to get the feel for it and make a decision on whether to continue after checking that dropping the course doesn't leave you short on any paper. Work on the basis of being able to answer 6 questions, with a 7th as a backup where you are confident of scoring half marks (but probably no more).

Your Director of Studies will advise you on course selection so do ask for guidance.

9. Students taking Part II 75% offer two units of assessment. These should have been selected prior to the start of Michaelmas term and may not be changed once term starts. Assessment for each individual course is displayed on the course webpages.

10. Your Part II project accounts for a quarter of the marks for Part II. Read the Pink Book carefully and make sure you stick to deadlines as the penalty for failing to do so is very severe. Paper copies are no longer a requirement and you should submit a pdf on Moodle. Full instructions will be on the website. <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/projects/>

For any questions or help, contact:

teaching-admin@cl.cam.ac.uk