

# The Open University

## The BSc (Hons) Information Technology and Computing degree (B13)

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### 1 Introduction

Over the next few years, changes will be made to the Information Technology and Computing degree. The reasons for these changes are as follows.

- *To update the course profile of the degree*  
Over the next few years several current courses will be replaced by similar but more up to date courses; a few will be withdrawn but not replaced.
- *To reflect changes in Computing courses*  
New Computing courses will be introduced over the next few years for the new BSc (Hons) Computing degree; those that are most appropriate for the Information Technology and Computing degree will replace the Computing courses currently in the degree.
- *To simplify the degree structure slightly*  
The degree structure will be simplified by no longer allowing courses to count into two different lists of options (as does MT262, and as did T223).

It is, however, very important for you to note that as long as the University presents any course currently in the degree you will be able to count it in exactly the same way as at present. You will also be able to count it for up to 8 years after the University stops presenting it.

Section 2 tells you about the planned changes. Note, however, that many of the changes are still being planned; it may not be possible to bring out courses exactly as indicated here. You should refer to the Open University web site regularly for current information.

Section 3 suggests pathways through the degree, based on the assumption that you will study 60 points per year starting in 2005 or later. Two pathways assume that you have decided to study for the Information Technology and Computing degree from the outset. One of the others applies if you wish to keep your options open for a few years between the Information Technology and Computing degree and the Computing degree (B29). The fourth pathway applies if you wish to keep your options open for a few years between the Information Technology and Computing degree and the Information and Communication Technologies degree (B38).

Also refer to Table 1 in Section 2, which shows you the courses that count towards the degree, including planned last years of presentation for current courses and planned first years of presentation for new courses.

The appendix gives pathways for students who started in 2004, but if you started your study in 2004 and anticipate taking a study break or studying at a slower or faster rate than 60 points per year then you are advised to look at the pathways in Section 3 as well. You should also refer to Table 1.

## 2 Changes to the degree 2006–2008

### 2.1 Important change for 2006

#### Level 2 compulsory course

M206 *Computing: an object-oriented approach* has been replaced by two 30-point courses, one of which is compulsory for the Information Technology and Computing degree. This is M255 (*Object-oriented programming with Java*; first presentation 2006). M255 will be presented twice a year, in February and October. **Note that you cannot count M255 towards the degree as well as M206.**

### 2.2 Other changes for 2006 onwards

There are other changes planned for 2006 onwards, but you should appreciate that the further in the future the more tentative the plans. (See also Table 1.)

- A new level-3 Computing course, M364 *Fundamentals of interaction design* (30 points from February 2006) is an additional option in the Computing list of courses.
- M254 *Java everywhere* (20 points) is a temporary course designed for students who have studied M206. It will be presented in February and September 2006 and then withdrawn. It is planned to replace it by M257 *Putting Java to work* (20 points) in 2007. M257 is designed for students who have studied M255, and M255 is a prerequisite for it. **Please note that M254 is an excluded combination with M255 so you cannot count both of them to your degree.**
- M358 *Relational databases* is planned to be presented for the last time in 2006 and to be replaced by a similar 30-point course (M359 *Relational database: theory and practice*) from February 2007 onwards. This replacement course will replace M358 as an option in the Computing list of courses.
- A new level-2 Computing course M256 *Software development with Java* (30 points) is planned for February 2007. It will be an additional option in the Computing list of courses, but **note that you cannot count M256 towards the degree as well as M206.**
- A new level-3 Computing course M366 *Natural and artificial intelligence* (30 points) is planned for February 2007. It will be an additional option in the Computing list of courses.
- There are no plans to offer M360 *Developing internet applications* after 2007.
- M301 *Software systems and their development* is likely to be presented for the last time in 2007. Although two new 30-point courses will replace it in 2008, these new courses **will not count** towards the Information Technology and Computing degree.
- MT262 *Putting computer systems to work* is likely to be presented for the last time in 2008. There is no information yet about a replacement.
- T396 *Artificial intelligence for technology* will be presented for the last time in 2006 and T305 *Digital communications* will almost certainly be presented for the last time in 2007. They are being replaced by three 30-point courses, one of which will be presented for the first time in February 2007 and the other two in 2008. These courses will replace T396 and T305 in the Information Technology list of courses. Please refer to the course descriptions when available, as some of the subject areas of these courses are very different from those of T396 and T305. The course to be introduced in 2007 is T324 (working title *Keeping ahead in ICT*) and one of the two courses to be introduced in 2008 is T320 (working title *Business technologies: foundations and practice*).
- Changes will be made to the project suite of courses (TM42x) to reflect changes at level 3 within the degree.

Table 1 on page 3 summarises these changes.

**Table 1 Summary of planned changes to the B13 degree**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007 plans</b>	<b>2008 plans</b>
<b>Level 1 (min 30 pts)</b>	M150 <sup>1</sup> and/or T175 <sup>1</sup>	M150 <sup>1</sup> and/or T175 <sup>1</sup>	M150 <sup>1</sup> and/or T175 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Compulsory Level 2 (30 pts)</b>	M255 <sup>1</sup>	M255 <sup>1</sup>	M255 <sup>1</sup>
<b>IT list of options (120 pts, at least 30 at Level 3)</b>	T209 T224 MT262 T305 T396	T209 T224 MT262 T305 T324	T209 T224 MT262 T305R <sup>3</sup> T320 T324
<b>Computing list of options (60 pts, at least 30 at Level 3, if M206 included; 90 pts, at least 30 at level 3, if M255 included)</b>	M254+10pts <sup>2</sup> MT262 M301 M358 M360 M364	M256 M257+10pts <sup>2</sup> MT262 M301 M359 M360 M364 M366	M256 M257+10pts <sup>2</sup> MT262 M359 M364 M366
<b>Project (30 pts)</b>	one of TM42x	one of TM42x	one of TM42x

<sup>1</sup> Presented in both February and October.

<sup>2</sup> Chosen from M253 or any 10-point course with 'T' in its code except TU170, T180, T181

<sup>3</sup> Will be a 30-point course; 'R' indicates 'replacement, but does not necessarily imply that the replacement will be in a similar subject area

*Note:* If you will complete your degree by the end of 2006 you may count any of M101, MST121, MU120, S102, S103, T102 at level 1 instead of T171, T175, M150.

### 3 Possible pathways through the degree for students starting their study in 2005 or later

The four pathways in this section are not the only possible pathways through the degree, and you are free to plan your degree somewhat differently to suit your individual circumstances. It is *very important*, that (1) you read the descriptions of individual courses carefully, as several specify other courses which you are expected to have studied first, and (2) you check that a particular course should be available when you plan to take it. The following pathways take account of these factors, and you should make sure that your plans, if different, do so as well.

***Option 1: At Level 3, you want to study 60 points from the Computing strand and 30 from the Information Technology strand; your project will be based on the Computing strand***

Year 1	M150 <i>Data, computing and information</i> (30 points) + either T175 <i>Networked living: exploring information and communication technologies</i> (30 points)* or 30 points of free choice (T175 strongly recommended)
Year 2	M255 <i>Object-oriented programming with Java</i> (30 points) + 30 points at Level 2 from the Information Technology strand
Year 3	30 points at level 2 from the Computing strand + 30 points of free choice
Year 4	T209 <i>Information and communication technologies: people and interactions</i> (60 points)
Year 5	60 points at Level 3 from the Computing strand
Year 6	A course from the TM42x suite + 30 points at Level 3 from the Information Technology strand

\*If you started in February 2005, this could be replaced by T171 *You, your computer and the Net*.

***Option 2: At Level 3, you want to take 60 points from the Information Technology strand and 30 from the Computing strand; your project will be based on the Information Technology strand***

Year 1	T175 <i>Networked living: exploring information and communication technologies</i> (30 points)* + either M150 <i>Data, computing and information</i> (30 points) or 30 points of free choice (M150 strongly recommended)
Year 2	T209 <i>Information and communication technologies: people and interactions</i> (60 points)
Year 3	M255 <i>Object-oriented programming with Java</i> (30 points) + 30 points of free choice
Year 4	60 points at Level 2 from the Computing strand
Year 5	60 points at Level 3 from the Information Technology strand
Year 6	A course from the TM42x suite + 30 points at Level 3 from the Computing strand

\*If you started in February 2005, this could be replaced by T171 *You, your computer and the Net*.

**Option 3: You have not yet decided whether to work towards the BSc (Hons) Information Technology and Computing degree or the BSc (Hons) Computing degree, and wish to leave your options open for a few years**

Note that postponing your decision about which degree to take for three years means that you will have to use your free choice to study MU120/MST121 and M263.

Year 1	M150 <i>Data, computing and information</i> (30 points) + either MU120 <i>Open mathematics</i> (30 points) or MST121 <i>Using mathematics</i> (30 points)*
Year 2	M255 <i>Object-oriented programming with Java</i> (30 points) + M263 <i>Building blocks of software</i> (30 points)
Year 3	M257 <i>Putting Java to work</i> (20 points) + one of the specified 10-point courses + 30 points at Level 3 from the Computing strand
<i>At this point, decide which degree to follow. If you decide to follow the Information Technology and Computing degree, proceed as follows.</i>	
Year 4	T209 <i>Information and communication technologies: people and interactions</i> (60 points)
<i>At this point, decide whether you wish your Level 3 courses to be 60 points from the Computing strand + 30 from the Information Technology strand (follow Years 5C and 6C) or 60 points from the Information Technology strand + 30 from the Computing strand (follow Years 5IT and 6IT).</i>	
Year 5C	30 points at Level 3 from Computing strand + 30 points at Level 2 from the Information Technology strand
Year 6C	A course from the TM42x suite + 30 points at Level 3 from the Information Technology strand
Year 5IT	60 points at Level 3 from the Information Technology strand
Year 6IT	A course from the TM42x suite + 30 points at Level 2 from the Computing strand

\*Unless you already have a mathematical background equivalent to these courses, in which case you could substitute T175 or its predecessor T171 (both 30 points) for MU120/MST121.

**Option 4: You have not yet decided whether to work towards the BSc (Hons) Information Technology and Computing degree or the BSc (Hons) Information and Communication Technologies degree, and wish to leave your options open for a few years**

Note that postponing your decision about which degree to take for three years means that you will have to use your free choice to study MU120/MST121 and both M150 and T175.

Year 1	M150 <i>Data, computing and information</i> (30 points) + T175 <i>Networked living: exploring information and communication Technologies</i> (30 points)*
Year 2	M255 <i>Object-oriented programming with Java</i> (30 points) + either MU120 <i>Open mathematics</i> (30 points) or MST121 <i>Using mathematics</i> (30 points)
Year 3	T209 <i>Information and communication technologies: people and interactions</i> (60 points)
<i>At this point, decide which degree to follow. If you decide to follow the Information Technology and Computing degree, further decide whether you wish your Level 3 courses to be 60 points from the Computing strand + 30 from the Information Technology strand (follow Years 4C, 5C and 6C) or 60 points from the Information Technology strand + 30 from the Computing strand (follow Years 4IT, 5IT and 6IT)..</i>	
Year 4C	T224 <i>Computers and processors</i> (30 points) + M257 <i>Putting Java to work</i> (20 points) + one of the specified 10-point courses
Year 5C	60 points at Level 3 from Computing strand
Year 6C	A course from the TM42x suite + 30 points at Level 3 from the Information Technology strand
Year 4IT	60 points at level 2 from the Computing strand
Year 5IT	60 points at Level 3 from the Information Technology strand
Year 6IT	A course from the TM42x suite + 30 points at Level 3 from the Computing strand

\*If you started in February 2005, this could be replaced by T171 *You, your computer and the Net*.

## Appendix Possible pathways through the degree for students who started their study in 2004

The two pathways in this section are designed for students who started their study in February 2004. They are not the only possible pathways through the degree, and you are free to plan your degree somewhat differently to suit your individual circumstances. It is *very important*, however, that (1) you read the descriptions of individual courses carefully, as several specify other courses which you are expected to have studied first, and (2) you check that a particular course should be available when you plan to take it. The following pathways take account of these factors, and you should make sure that your plans, if different, do so as well.

If you started your study in October 2004, you should follow the profile shown in Section 3 for students starting in February 2005. You will need to switch to February presentation dates in 2006. If you plan to include M254/M257 in your degree, you may, depending on which 10-point course you have chosen, be able to start this 10-point course in October/November 2005.

***Option 1: At Level 3, you want to study 60 points from the Computing strand and 30 from the Information Technology strand; your project will be based on the Computing strand***

2004	M150 <i>Data, computing and information</i> (30 points) + either T171 <i>You, your computer and the Net</i> (30 points) or 30 points of free choice (T171 strongly recommended)
2005	M206 <i>Computing: an object-oriented approach</i> (60 points)
2006	T209 <i>Information and communication technologies: people and interactions</i> (60 points)
2007	A further 30 points at Level 2 from the Information Technology strand + 30 points of free choice
2008	60 points at Level 3 from the Computing strand
2009	A course from the TM42x suite + 30 points at Level 3 from the Information Technology strand

***Option 2: At Level 3, you want to take 60 points from the Information Technology strand and 30 from the Computing strand; your project will be based on the Information Technology strand***

2004	T171 <i>You, your computer and the Net</i> (30 points) + either M150 <i>Data, computing and information</i> (30 points) or 30 points of free choice (M150 strongly recommended)
2005	T209 <i>Information and communication technologies: people and interactions</i> (60 points)
2006	M255 <i>Object-oriented programming with Java</i> (30 points) + 30 points of free choice
2007	60 points at Level 2 from the Computing strand
2008	60 points at Level 3 from the Information Technology strand
2009	A course from the TM42x suite + 30 points at Level 3 from the Computing strand