Programme specification

1. Overview/ factual information

Programme/award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Applied Computing
Teaching Institution	Leeds City College
Awarding Institution	The Open University (OU)
Date of latest OU validation	July 2016
Next revalidation	July 2021
Credit points for the award	120 credits for BSc (Hons)
UCAS Code	G491
Programme start date	September 2017
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	Computing (2007)
Other external and internal reference points used to inform programme outcomes	E-Skills NOS for IT and Telecoms Professionals
Professional/statutory recognition	None
Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)	Full time and Part Time
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	n/a
Date of production/revision of this specification	June 2017

2.1 Educational aims and objectives

♦ To provide curricula, informed by computing external reference points, which develop a range of technical, professional, vocational, employability transferable and key skills appropriate to a BSc (Hons).

♦ Offer a robust BSc (Hons) programme that is relevant to current computing technologies which will facilitate access and progression for a wide range of students from a diverse background.

♦ Produce graduates who have the ability to critically reflect and learn from their workplace experience in the computing industry and relate this experience to relevant theory and practical projects.

- ♦ To enhance the employability and career prospects of graduates within the broad computing technologies sector with the opportunity to develop specialist skills and knowledge in the broad area of computing technologies
- ♦ To produce capable and well-rounded graduates who have an analytical and reflective understanding of computing in the context of the workplace today and in relation to the wider social, ethical and cultural environment.

2.2 Relationship to other programmes and awards

(Where the award is part of a hierarchy of awards/programmes, this section describes the articulation between them, opportunities for progression upon completion of the programme, and arrangements for bridging modules or induction)

N/A

3. Programme outcomes

Intended learning outcomes are listed below.

3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
A1 Plan, undertake and evaluate a negotiated, self-managed major computing/ academic project	• Modules will be delivered using lectures to deliver theoretical aspects and to underpin knowledge.
A2 Critically appraise complex and conflicting theories, concepts and principles relevant to a broad based IT discipline.	• Practical sessions will be used to supplement the theory and allow students to develop a range of employability skills.
A3 Critically evaluate primary and/or secondary data and, where appropriate, information systems in order to enable unpredictable and complex computing problems to be addressed;	• Guest speakers will be used for students to gain access to a different range of experiences
A4 Analyse and evaluate the impact of ethical and legal issues relevant to the generation of knowledge within the IT industry.	• Group work will allow students to develop projects that include research, problem solving, peer reflection and other teamwork skills.
	• Tutor and peer led reflective feedback form the basis of student development strategies
	• Tutorials will take the form of regular group and individual support for student guidance
	• Students will also be directed to the relevant primary literature, books and internet resources, which they will be expected to study in order to supplement the module.
	Assessment Methods
	Practical demonstrations
	Presentations
	Report
	Viva
	Dissertation/practical project
	Literature Review

3B. Cognitive skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
B1 Appraise, evaluate and synthesise, data/evidence from appropriate sources to make independent judgements with relevance to the computing sector.	As above
B2 Question conventional approaches across the computing fields using balanced logical and supported arguments	
B3 Demonstrate intellectual flexibility and openness to new ideas within the computing industry	
B4 Define complex computing problems and the application of appropriate knowledge, tools/methods to their solution.	

3C. Practical and professional skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
C1 Operate ethically in complex and unpredictable computing contexts, requiring selection and application from a wide range of standard or innovative techniques within the computing sector.	As above
C2 Act autonomously with limited supervision or direction within agreed guidelines.	
C3 Synthesise a software solution to professional standards	

3D. Key/transferable skills	
Learning outcomes:	**Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods**
D1 Plan, manage and evaluate the acquisition of new knowledge and skills as part of a lifelong learning strategy	As above
D2 Demonstrate both employment potential and ability to manage future professional development	
D3 Communicate clearly, fluently and effectively in a range of styles appropriate to the context	
D4 Select, apply and evaluate appropriate numerical and statistical methods for complex and open-ended tasks	
D5 Select and evaluate software applications for different tasks within the context of the discipline	

4. Programme Structure Level 6

Modules	Compulsory/Optional	Credit points	Compensatable
Project	Core	40	No
Research Skills	Core	20	Yes
Internet Technologies	Core	20	Yes
Mobile Applications Development	Core	20	Yes
Project Management	Optional	20	Yes
Database Administration and Management	Optional	20	Yes

To obtain a BSc Applied Computing (without honours) students must gain 60 credits by completing Internet Technologies, Mobile Application Development and Project Management or Database Administration and Management modules.

Programme Structure

Overview of structure of the modules across the Academic Year.

Optional Module criteria – Students when choosing options must include:

First Semester: Internet Technologies and/or Project Management

Second Semester: Mobile Applications Development and/or Database Administration and Management

Students must undertake three of the optional modules.

This is to ensure that all programme outcomes are assessed

Level 6 – Full Time Structure		
Project Core 40 Credits All year	Research Skills 1st Semester Core 20 Credits	Project Management or Database Administration and Management 1st Semester Optional 20 credits
	Internet Technologies * 1st Semester Core 20 Credits	
	Mobile Applications Development* Core 2nd Semester 20 Credits	

Level 6 – Part Time Structure (18 months)		
First Semester	Internet Technologies 1st Semester Core 20 Credits	Project Management or Database Administration and Management 1st Semester Optional 20 credits
	Research Skills 1st Semester Core 20 Credits	

Second Semester	Mobile Applications Development Core 2nd term 20 Credits		
Third Semester	Dissertation Project Core 40 Credits		

5. Distinctive features of the programme structure

- **Where applicable, this section provides details on distinctive featurs such as:**

- **where in the structure above a professional/placement year fits in and how it may affect progression**

- **any restrictions regarding the availability of elective modules**

where in the programme structure students must make a choice of pathway/route

- Employers provide positive contributions to the content of the modules thereby ensuring knowledge and skills developed meet industry requirements.

- The course emphasis is totally on producing graduates with both the academic knowledge and the skills required by employers.

- All students are strongly encouraged to undertake practical placements alongside their course to apply their knowledge and skills.

- Students value the opportunity to experience guest lectures from employers and contributions from past students who act as mentors for projects.

- An emphasis on the balance between practical and employability skills and a strong grounding in student led research.

- The course is delivered one evening and one day enabling access to Higher Education for students who work full time. Part time students will study one evening for one year for eighteen months.

- Students have the opportunity to gain professional qualifications which are recognised world-wide within the IT industry. Amongst these are: Oracle, Prince2, W3C, CISCO and Project Management.

- Strong supportive student centred environment. Students are supported not only in class and tutorial time but the team offer an open door policy where students can contact personally or via email at all times

- The Project is vocationally based, with students creating a portfolio of work which can be showcased to future employers.

6. Support for students and their learning

The award adopts the approach to student learning support as identified in the Scheme programme specification.

- Tailored induction support begins before students arrive with the admissions team, and is reinforced at the detailed induction programme

- A robust communications system functions to give students access to lecturers this includes face to face open door policy, e-mail, the VLE and notice boards

- All necessary information about the programme is provided by means of the student handbook, module handbooks and the VLE.

- Each student is allocated a tutor for regular tutorials and personal development planning. This is implemented in the first term and continued throughout the year of study

- There is a range of learning resources in the Library, supported by specialist staff who provide bespoke study skills sessions for students.

- There is an extensive range of services for students, including support for those with special needs.

- Students are actively encouraged to form study groups to provide peer support

- Students can access e-learning materials to support their modules via the internet and podcasts of lectures on the VLE

7. Criteria for admission

A typical offer is likely to be 55% average at Foundation Degree or a Merit profile in a relevant HND, together with a minimum of 2 GCSEs in English and Maths at Grade C or higher.

International qualifications will be assessed against these criteria. Speakers of other languages need to have an IELTS score of at least 6.0 or a recognised level 2 English qualification.

Additional admission requirements – underpinning knowledge is required for any student who wishes to undertake the optional module of Database Administration of data analysis and SQL development.

In the absence of formal learning qualifications applications are welcomed from persons who can demonstrate substantial relevant work experience, including work in a voluntary capacity. There is an interview process involved which may include a written report to assess academic writing ability. The course structure actively supports claims for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL), Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) though this is likely to be rare and Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning such as Professional Qualifications.

8. Language of study
English

9. Information about assessment regulations
Dissertation – Non compensatable

10. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning.
In addition to the Annual Programme Monitoring process the following mechanisms are in operation: • Peer Review • Annual Planning • Peer Observation • Student module reviews • Tutor module reviews • Enrolment and induction reviews • Course Committee meetings • Pathway Committee meetings • Student Pathway meetings

Annexe 1 - Map of Outcomes to Modules

Level 6 – BSc Applied Computing

Module Name	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
Project	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X				X	X	
Research Skills		X	X			X			X			X		X		
Internet Technologies	X			X	X			X			X					X
Mobile Application Development	X			X			X		X	X			X			X
Database Administration and Management			X		X		X	X	X			X	X		X	
Project Management			X		X		X	X				X	X		X	

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Annex 2 – Map of Teaching and Learning Methods

Level 6

Examples – put in your own specific forms	Lectures	Seminars	Tutorials	Practical	Demonstrations	Case studies	Group activities	Guest speakers
Project	X		X	X				
Research Skills	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Internet Technologies	X	X	X				X	X
Mobile Application Development	X	X	X				X	X
Database Administration and Management	X			X	X		X	
Project Management	X	x		X	X	x	X	

Annex 3 – Map of Assessment Methods

Level 6 BSc (Hons) Applied Computing

	Presentation	Literature Review	Practical / Demonstration	Viva	Dissertation/ Practical project	Report
Project				x	x	
Research Skills	x	x				
Internet Technologies			x			x
Mobile App Development			x			x
Database Administration and Management			x			x
Project Management	x					x