UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE

Programme Specification

This Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Sources of information on the programme can be found in Section 17

1. Awarding Institution / Body	University of Central Lancashire
2. Teaching Institution and Location of Delivery	Burnley College, Carlisle College, Runshaw College, Hugh Baird College
3. University School/Centre	Physical Sciences and Computing
4. External Accreditation	
5. Title of Final Award	Fd Sc Computing
6. Modes of Attendance offered	FT & PT
7a) UCAS Code	G402 B – Burnley College CS23 – Runshaw College - Carlisle College - Hugh Baird College
7b) JACS Code	I100
8. Relevant Subject Benchmarking Group(s)	Computing
9. Other external influences	BCS, the Institute for IT
10. Date of production/revision of this form	April 2017

11. Aims of the Programme

The Foundation Degree in Computing will equip students with the knowledge and skills relevant to computing careers.

- To develop the skills and understanding of theory necessary for employment in a Computing environment
- To examine the development of technical solutions to users' problems
- To encourage and support students to become independent learners, able to adapt to developments in technology and its use.
- To develop critical evaluation, communication and self-management skills
- To develop the skills and confidence to solve problems independently and as part of a team
- To provide an opportunity for students to develop transferable skills and enhance subject-specific expertise by undertaking a work placement

12. Learning Outcomes, Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods

A. Knowledge and Understanding

A1. Explain and compare techniques to solve practical problems relating to computer system development and information management
A2. Select appropriate analysis, design and implementation tools
A3. Explain and apply project management tools and techniques
A4. Explain a range of information and communication technologies.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Acquisition of knowledge is achieved mainly through lectures and directed independent learning through case studies and lab exercises. In the second year the students have a choice of modules, which enables students to extend their studies in an area of particular interest. Understanding is reinforced through practical/seminar work. Drop-in help sessions are provided to support particular areas.

Assessment methods

Informal and formative feedback is provided in tutorial, seminar and practical classes through class discussion and individual advice. Assessment methods are specified in each module descriptor. All learning outcomes in a module are assessed and indicative assessment strategy for each module specifies the learning outcomes being assessed. The nature of coursework varies from module to module.

B. Subject-specific skills

B1. Elicit and analyse user requirements
B2. Design and implement IT systems to meet user requirements
B3. Design user interfaces suitable for a given set of users
B4 Use models, technologies and tools to analyse, design and implement IT systems

Teaching and Learning Methods

Computing is a highly practical subject. Subject practical skills are developed in a co-ordinated and progressive manner throughout both years of the programme. At level 4 the focus is on the acquisition of basic skills through laboratory exercises, while at level 5 more advanced techniques are developed enabling students to develop their own solutions. Some practical work demonstrates advanced techniques, while extended practical work enables students to exercise creativity and develop their own solutions. Lectures, sometimes involving on-line demonstration, are supported by tutorials, seminars, practical exercises and directed work. Drop-in help sessions are provided to support particular areas.

Assessment methods

A variety of methods are used to assess practical skills. These include laboratory exercises, presentations, formal reports, examination, implementation of software with supporting documentation that demonstrates a professional approach and evaluates methods and products.

C. Thinking Skills

C1. Investigate situations thoroughly and impartially
C2. Find and synthesise information from a variety of sources
C3. Apply theory to practice
C4. Discuss different ideas, methods and systems
C5. Solve technical and human problems relating to the development and use of ICT

Teaching and Learning Methods

Intellectual skills are developed through practical work, tutorial/seminar work and coursework assignments. Discussion among students and with staff during tutorials and supervisory meetings is a key method for the development of thinking skills. Problem-solving is developed in practical classes, seminars and tutorials. Throughout the course, students practise problem-solving individually and in groups. Practical and project work is designed to help students achieve the learning outcomes in this category

Assessment methods
Intellectual skills are partly assessed through time-constrained assessments, where appropriate, but assessment of coursework and practical project work is the main vehicle for assessment of the higher order skills. A variety of assessment methods are used, including formal reports, essays, and presentations.
D. Other skills relevant to employability and personal development
D1. Communicate effectively with clients, users and developers D2. Learn and work independently and as part of a team D3. Apply numerical and problem solving skills appropriate to computing professionals D4. Plan, perform, manage and report on a relevant project D5. Work in a legal, ethical and professional manner D6 Identify and set personal goals relevant to long-term educational and career planning
Teaching and Learning Methods
Essential communication and transferable skills are included in the Practitioner Skills module at level 4. These skills are further developed specifically in the work placement module, which provides experience in a computing environment, but also in context throughout the programme via tutorial/seminar work and coursework assignments.
Assessment methods
These skills are assessed through written coursework in many modules at level 4 but particularly the practitioner skills module. At higher levels, assessment of communication and problem-solving skills is integrated into coursework and the work placement project, where students write an evaluative report of their experience.

13. Programme Structures*				14. Awards and Credits
Level	**Module Code***	**Module Title**	**Credit rating**	
Level 5		**Compulsory Modules**		**Foundation Degree in Computing** Requires 240 credits including a minimum of 100 at Level 5
	CO2456	Agile Development	20	
	CO2764	Human Computer Interaction	20	
	CO2765	Database Systems	20	
	CO2766	Internet Application Development	20	
	CO2858	Work Placement Project	20	
		Choose 1 from:		
	CO2566	Network Management	20	
	CO2567	Computer Security	20	
	CO2457	Advanced Programming	20	
	CO2656	Information Systems Management	20	
Level 4	CO1851	Practitioner skills	20	**Foundation Certificate in Computing** Requires 120 credits at level 4
	CO1459	Programming	20	
	CO1656	Systems Analysis & Database Design	20	
	CO1561	Introduction to Networking	20	
	CO1757	Interactive Applications	20	
	CO1562	Computer Systems and Security	20	

***Burnley, Carlisle, Hugh Baird and Runshaw Colleges are approved to run all these modules**

15. Personal Development Planning

Students are introduced to Personal Development Planning (PDP) during induction at the start of the first year. Following an introductory lecture, students conduct PDP activities with their personal tutors. Students' assessments of their own skills are developed in the Practitioner Skills module. Students are encouraged to audit their skills; set goals and produce a Progress Plan. Students also develop a CV. At the start of the second year, students are re-introduced to PDP through induction. PDP activities are conducted through meetings with tutors. PDP is also developed and assessed as part of the year 2 Placement Project.

Academic Advisers are a key point of contact for students and ensure they take advantage of the available opportunities. They help students record the experiences and skills they gain while at college. They help students to identify problems and decide appropriate actions, guiding students to sources of help and advice where required. Problems identified by academic staff are followed up quickly.

Throughout the course, students will be expected to maintain a Progress File, which documents their development. It also helps students to define and focus their educational and professional goals by enabling them to reflect on their progress, and make informed decisions about their progression. It helps them to identify where to place extra emphasis in their studies by highlighting the aspects of the course that they need to concentrate upon to successfully complete their studies. Personal tutors will help students to get the most out of this process, though it is largely driven by the student. It helps students to decide whether to undertake for further studies at the end of the course, or enter employment

16. Admissions criteria*

**Correct as at date of approval. For latest information, please consult the University's website.*

The minimum entry requirement for Fd Sc is 64 points at A2 or AVCE plus GCSE Maths and English at Grade C or above.

Students whose first language is not English must achieve an IELTS 6.0 (with no component score less than 5.)

Applications from individuals with non-standard qualifications, relevant work or life experience and who can demonstrate the ability to cope with and benefit from Fd Sc level studies are welcome. Where appropriate, they will be interviewed. Applicants who have not studied recently may be

required to undertake an Access programme.
17. Key sources of information about the programme
• **Burnley College Web Site (www.burnley.ac.uk/),**
• **Carlisle College Web Site (www.carlisle.ac.uk)**
• **Hugh Baird College Web Site (http://www.hughbaird.ac.uk/index.php/courses/ict)**
• **UCLan Web Site (www.uclan.ac.uk/computing)**

18. Curriculum Skills Map

Please tick in the relevant boxes where individual Programme Learning Outcomes are being assessed

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Core (C), Compulsory (COMP) or Option (O)	Programme Learning Outcomes																		
				Knowledge and understanding				Subject-specific Skills				Thinking Skills					Other skills relevant to employability and personal development					
				A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
Level 4	CO1459	Programming	COMP	X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X			X			
	CO1561	Introduction to Networking	COMP	X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X			X			
	CO1562	Computer Systems and Security	COMP	X			X		X		X			X	X	X			X			
	CO1656	Systems Analysis & Database Design	COMP	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X			X			
	CO1757	Interactive Applications	COMP	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			X			
	CO1854	Practitioner skills	COMP	X		X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 5	CO2456	Agile Development	COMP	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X			
	CO2764	Human Computer Interaction	COMP	X			X		X	X	X			X	X	X			X			
	CO2765	Database Systems	COMP	X	X		X	X	X		X			X	X	X			X			
	CO2766	Internet Application Development	COMP	X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X			X	X		
	CO2860	Work Placement Project	COMP	X		X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	CO2566	Network Management	O	X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X			X			
	CO2567	Computer Security	O	X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X			X			
	CO2457	Advanced Programming	O	X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X			X			
	CO2656	Information Systems Management	O	X	X		X		X		X			X	X	X			X			

19. LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR EXIT AWARDS:

For **each exit award available**, list learning outcomes relating to the knowledge and understanding, subject specific skills, thinking, other skills relevant to employability and personal development that a typical student might be expected to gain as a result of successfully completing each level of a course of study.

Learning outcomes for the award of: Foundation Certificate Computing

A1. Explain and apply techniques and methods to develop simple IT systems
B1. Solve problems relating to secure, networked IT systems
B2. Design and implement simple software
C1. Locate and use relevant information
D1. Communicate with clients, users and developers, using simple techniques
D2. Work independently and as part of a team