

## Module Descriptor

### School of Computer Science and Statistics

Module Code CS3016

Module Name Introduction to Functional Programming

Module Short Title N/a

ECTS 5

Semester Taught Semester 1

*Lecture hours: 22*

*Lab hours: 5*

Contact Hours  
*Tutorial hours: 6*  
*Total hours: 33*

Module Personnel Dr Andrew Butterfield

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

Learning Outcomes

- Develop programs in a high level functional language
- Analyse and structure program designs in terms of functional concepts
- Understand the concept of higher-order programming inherent in functional languages
- Improve software modularity and reusability by applying higher-order principles to refactor code
- Apply a number of functional programming techniques and tools to develop effective functional systems

Functional programming languages present a powerful, abstract, and important direction in programming languages. The high level of abstraction and the expressive syntax makes program decomposition and composition unusually easy, while the close connections to the underlying semantics make formal reasoning tractable. Systems such as Google's "Map/Reduce" framework demonstrate the influence of this approach, and the importance to a computer scientist of understanding it.

Learning Aims On this course students will learn to apply the techniques of functional programming in a practical context. The focus is on software design and programming in the functional style, and students will "learn by doing", through regular weekly programming assignments and case studies.

The course draws on the programming and mathematics background the students have acquired in the first two years of the degree and extends it by teaching new approaches to program design and implementation.

Module Content Course content covers both techniques and technologies. Topics will include:

- First-order functions
- Type systems for functional languages; data types; recursive types
- Lazy evaluation, infinite data structures
- Referential transparency
- Higher order functions

- I/O and State handling
- Functional debugging
- Efficiency considerations

#### Recommended Reading List

2015.sp; Richard Bird, Thinking Functionally with Haskell (Cambridge University Press, 2015)  
 2016.Graham Hutton, Programming in Haskell, 2nd Ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2016)  
 2017.sp; Miran Lipovaca, Learn You a Haskell for Great Good! (No Starch Press, 2011), available online <http://learnyouahaskell.com>  
 2018.sp; Bryan O'Sullivan, Don Stewart, and John Goerzen, Real World Haskell (Paperback, O'Reilly Press, November 2008), available online <http://book.realworldhaskell.org/>

Simon Thompson, Haskell: The Craft of Functional Programming, Second Edition (Addison-Wesley, 507 pages, paperback, 1999)

#### Module Prerequisites

Some familiarity with programming would be helpful, esp. the use of program abstraction constructs such as function and procedure definitions.

*% Written and Multiple Choice Exam: **75***

*% Coursework: **25***

#### Assessment Details

*Description of assessment & assessment regulations.*

*An overall mark of 40% is required to pass the module. The exam and coursework components do not have to reach 40% individually.*

*Assessment in the supplemental examinations is by 100% exam.*

#### Module Website

Academic Year of Data 2018/19