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# MSc Data Science (MSc DS) Welcome Talk

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Dr Iraklis Klampanos

**WORLD  
CHANGERS  
WELCOME**







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**MSc in Data Science is an advanced MSc degree**

MSc DS and MSc CS are collectively referred to as  
**↳ MSc CS+**

**It is intended for students *with an existing undergraduate degree in Computer Science*.**

**(If you do not have this, please email me urgently)**

**(These slides will be put on the MSc Handbook Moodle page so no need to take notes ...)**





# The School of Computing Science (SoCS)

- ~95 academic staff based in the **Sir Alwyn Williams Building (SAWB)**
- A research active school
- Expertise in:
  - Formal Analysis, Theory and Algorithms (FATA)
  - Computer Systems Design (GLASS)
  - Human-Computer Interaction (GIST)
  - Machine Learning, Data Science and Engineering, Information Retrieval (IDA)
  - Education and Practice (EAP)





# MSc DS Course Director

Dr Iraklis A. Klampanos

[iraklis.klampanos@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:iraklis.klampanos@glasgow.ac.uk)

Room 403, 1 Lilybank Gardens, G12 8RZ  
(will probably change soon)

The director deals with academic queries







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# First, always consult ***The MSc Handbook***

Your Glasgow University Identifier (**GUID**) will give you access to the University of Glasgow (UofG) Moodle ([moodle.gla.ac.uk](https://moodle.gla.ac.uk))

You will be able to access a page called

## **MSc (IT+) & MSc (CS+) Handbook - 2025/26**

- This page holds **important information** about your MSc programme
- The Forum function should be used for **asking questions**
  - Your queries are likely to be shared with other students
  - Better than individual emails to staff
- Contains info about getting Teaching Support help from **SoCS Helpdesk**







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# SoCS Help Desk: Teaching Support Request

**Always** use the [SoCS Help Desk](#) for **questions** regarding:

- Courses
- Enrolment
- Exams
- Exam Submissions
- Student Complaints
- Student Support & Well-being

**All** School of Computing Science issues and course enquiries should be logged here!

**Link to the SoCS Help Desk given on the Moodle MSc Handbook Page.**





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# Programme enrolment

Please follow the instructions in the Enrolment FAQ on the [MSc Handbook](#) Moodle page.

Semester 1 (Autumn): 60 credits, four courses

Semester 2 (Spring): 60 credits, six courses

Semester 3 (Summer): 60 credits, one project

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# MSc in Data Science

## **Autumn Semester 1 (September-December):**

- Programming and Systems Development (ProgSD)
- Introduction to Data Science and Systems (IDSS)
- Research and Professional Skills (RPS)
- Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence (MLAIDS)

## **Spring Semester 2 (January-May): *at least four***

- Web Science for MSc
- Information Retrieval
- Deep Learning for MSc
- Big Data
- Text as Data for MSc

## **Spring Semester 2 (January-May): *at least one***

- Cybersecurity Fundamentals for MSc
- Human Centred Security
- Cryptography and Secure Development
- Cyber System Forensics
- Secure Programming in Rust

## **Spring Semester 2 (January-May): *at most one***

- Secured Software Engineering for MSc
- Internet Technology
- Human Computer Interaction - Design and Evaluation
- Information Visualisation
- Mobile HCI for MSc

## **Summer Semester 3 (June-September):**

Individual Masters Project **which will be a research project in an area of data science.**



# MSc Dissertation Projects (Summer)

The dissertation project of MSc DS requires a **data science project**

## MSc Data Science

1. Information Retrieval, Recommender Systems & Natural Language Processing
2. Data Systems & Data Applications
3. Machine Learning & Mathematical Modelling
4. Bioinformatics & Computational Biology
5. Vision, Medical Imaging, and Robotics





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## Changing programmes

Please see the information in the Enrolment FAQ on the Handbook page.

**MSc DS is a specialist course designed for students that have already done a full Computer Science undergraduate degree.**

MSc Information Technology (IT) and MSc Software Development (SD) are **conversion courses** which are **only suitable** for people that have done undergraduate degrees **that are not** computer science.



# Progression through the degree

Autumn courses are examined in December 2025

Spring courses are examined in April/May 2026

Exams will be administered on-campus using lab computers

- Each exam will be accompanied with staff-created crib sheets (1-4 sides of A4) to provide specific factual references (e.g., syntax sheets or formulae sheets)

Your performance in these courses will determine whether you are allowed to progress to the Summer Project (see Handbook for criteria).

If you are blocked from progressing to the Summer Project, there are resit exams for courses where you get less than **C3**, to be held in August 2026.

These resits may enable you to progress to the project in Autumn 2026 (September-December period).





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## Course grades and credits

The **grade** for a course is the weighted average of exam and coursework marks (e.g. B2, A3, C2)

Each course is awarded a number of *credits*.  
**You are awarded the credits by attempting 75% of the assessments.**

You get credit regardless of how well you do.

**Failure to be awarded sufficient credits (180) means you cannot be awarded an MSc degree.**

### The Glasgow 22-point Scale

A5, A4, A3, A2, A1	18, 19, 20, 21, 22
B3, B2, B1	15, 16, 17
C3, C2, C1	12, 13, 14
D3, D2, D1	9, 10, 11
E3, E2, E1	6, 7, 8
F3, F2, F1	3, 4, 5
G2, G1	1, 2
H	0





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# The Dissertation Project

You will be allocated a supervisor and a project before the end of Semester 2 (Spring) examination period.

Your research project topic will be determined by your supervisor (potentially in discussion with you) to maximise the extent of your learning during the project process and the likelihood of you completing the project successfully.





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## On-campus Study spaces

- The **UofG Life App** will tell you about study spaces:
  - Main Library
  - James McCune Smith Student Hub
  - McMillan Reading Room
- You have 24/7 lab and building access to Boyd Orr.

**Computing Science** students may also have exclusive access to study spaces at the Level 4 Study Zone in Queen Margaret Union (QMU).

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# What technology do you need?

- A computer (PC or Mac) with a network connection
- More specific software instructions will be provided in courses.
- Zoom (login with your GUID) for zoom events.
- MS Teams (login with your GUID)
- **BACKUP YOUR WORK ONTO Glasgow OneDrive or similar.**
- You may also like to use the UofG virtual desktop (accessible through a browser) at: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/anywhere/>
- If you have problems, contact the IT Help Desk at <https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/it/helpdesk/>





# Moodle

- <https://moodle.gla.ac.uk/>
- You will be automatically enrolled on a Moodle page for every course you are enrolled in on MyCampus (MyC)
- You will also be enrolled in some other pages (**MSc Handbook**, etc.)
- Some courses will also have Teams sites set up for them.
- Please ensure that the Moodle page relates to the **2025/26 year!**



# Communications

- From us to you:
  - Email - check your UofG email **Every Day**
  - Moodle – course-specific information for each course you are enrolled in
  - Moodle – more general MSc information in the Handbook page
  - Teams – for some courses.
- From you to us:
  - Academic matters:
    - **Your Programme Director (who is also your Advisor of Studies)**
  - Administrative matters:
    - Enquiries to the Teaching Office using the SoCS Helpdesk (see the **Moodle Handbook page** for accessing this).**

***ALWAYS use your UofG email account to contact us.***



# Communications Etiquette

- **Please only use one channel at a time**  
and do not send separate messages to multiple people – this causes duplicated work and may slow down a response
- **Please be patient**  
The standard expected time for a reply is three working days
- **Who to contact?**
  - enrolment the SoCS Helpdesk or your adviser of studies
  - exams the SoCS Helpdesk
  - course issues during the semester contact the lecturer first
  - academic queries contact your adviser of studies (programme director)
  - student support queries (see later slides) the Student Support Officer
  - anything else the SoCS Helpdesk and they will pass it to the right person





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# Academic writing

- All PGT students are required to take part in the Academic Writing Skills programme.
- Run by Student Learning and Development (SLD)
- You will be invited to take part by email sometime during the year.
- More information can be found at <https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/sld/>





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# Plagiarism and Collusion

**Presenting someone else's work as your own is cheating.**

We take it seriously and are good at detecting it.  
If you are caught you can be expelled from the University.  
The handbook gives examples of what is and is not acceptable.

**If in doubt, ask!**

See the Handbook page for more information





## Extenuating Circumstances

- *Extenuating Circumstances* refers to any circumstances which may affect your ability to complete any part of your course such as attend an exam or hand in assignment.
- Our new Extenuating Circumstances policy which is launching this year has been designed to better support you during a time of need.
- You can apply for Extenuating Circumstances [here](#) or find out more information on the [Wellbeing Home](#).
- For extensions of up to 5 working days for Computing Science courses students should also request these via the Extenuating Circumstances system.





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## Getting Help ...

Speak to your fellow students!

Contact:

- The student support officer
- Your programme director
- Student Learning Development
- If necessary, the Student Counselling Service

If you are ill or have other problems that affect your work, let us know via MyCampus (i.e. Extenuating Circumstances) and by talking with your Programme Director.





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## Careers

Glasgow runs a dedicated careers service with lots of career's information and events at:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/careers/>

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# Student Representatives

- Each degree programme needs class representatives
- A short election will be held in the first couple of weeks.  
**Contact the programme director ASAP if interested.**
- Class reps must attend:
  - A short training course
  - Staff-student liaison meetings (2 per semester)
- It appears on your transcript and is a positive experience

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# Teaching Timetable

- You should find your lectures and labs timetabled on MyCampus and **UofG Life App**.
- Your timetable is specific for you – someone else may have different timetabled sessions – please attend the lectures and labs on *your* timetable since groups will be based on these.
- *Programming and Systems Development* (COMPSCI4084, ProgSD) starts next week
- *Introduction to Data Science and Systems* (COMPSCI5089, IDDS) and *Machine Learning & AI for DS* (COMPSCI5100) start the following week
  - But first enrol on ProgSD



**\*\*\*\* HOMEWORK ! \*\*\***

## Programming and System Development (ProgSD) Next Week

1. Log into the ProgSD Moodle Page.
2. Do the “Previous knowledge survey 2025-2026”

This is to assess your current knowledge – it does not contribute to any marks

By tomorrow evening, Friday 19 September





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**Welcome to UofG ...**

**Questions?**

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A WORLD  
TOP 100  
UNIVERSITY

# Welcome from your Student Support Officer

How your SSO can help and support  
you.

WORLD  
CHANGING  
GLASGOW

THE TIMES  
THE SUNDAY TIMES  
GOOD  
UNIVERSITY  
GUIDE  
2024  
SCOTTISH  
UNIVERSITY  
OF THE YEAR



# Careers and Employability: What you need to know

## Postgraduate Science and Engineering Students

- Boost your employability and register with the [CoSE My Future Skills Award](#)
- Meet employers and learn about opportunities at [Future Fest](#) (24<sup>th</sup> September) and the [Engineering and Tech Fair](#) (28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October)
- Find an industry mentor with the [Amplify Mentoring Programme](#)
- Keep up to date with events and opportunities with the [Careers and Employability Information Point](#) and CoSE Socials
- Get career ready with the [‘Your Future: Careers and Employability’](#) online course
- Connect with [Careers, Employability and Opportunity](#) to find jobs, to view and register for careers events and workshops



**Are you final year undergraduate or a taught postgraduate student in the College of Science and Engineering?**

**Do you want to build your skills and shape your future?**

**Do you want to stand out to employers?**

**If the answer is yes, then the My Future Skills Award is for you!**

The Award is an optional opportunity to develop and recognise the skills and experience you gain through extra-curricular activities.

The Award is now OPEN. Find out more and start your journey through the Award at



**MY  
FUTURE  
SKILLS  
AWARD**



**[glasgow.ac.uk/colleges/scienceengineering/students/employability/futureskillsaward/](https://glasgow.ac.uk/colleges/scienceengineering/students/employability/futureskillsaward/)**





## Work with us!

Create social content, share your experience, help future students, **get paid** and enhance your CV

SCAN TO COMPLETE THE FORM



### UofG Unibuddy Digital Ambassadors

- Chat to future students online
- **Voluntary work, HEAR transcript entry – training provided**
- Share your experience, answer questions
- Publish student life blogs

#### Is this you?

- ✓ Enjoy helping people
- ✓ Enthusiastic
- ✓ Community-focused

[gla.ac/3YFCbRE](https://gla.ac/3YFCbRE)



### STEM Student Content Contributors (paid)

- STEM student digital content creators
- **Paid work, flexible hours**
- Create student life content
- Experience working with College Marketing Team

#### Is this you?

- ✓ Creative
- ✓ Comfortable on camera
- ✓ Active on social media
- ✓ Video/graphic editing skills

@UofGSTEM @UofGEngineering (IG TT) @UofGGES @UofGCompSci (IG)

### STEM Student Event Ambassadors (paid)

- Represent your subject at Future Student Events
- **Paid work, occasional hours**
- In-person and online open days
- Outreach activities/campus tours

#### Is this you?

- ✓ Enjoy speaking to people
- ✓ Confident presenter
- ✓ Enthusiastic