



## Programme Specification (UG)

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|---|--|
| Awarding body / institution:                | Queen Mary University of London  |
| Teaching institution:                       | Queen Mary University of London  |
| Name of award and field of study:           | Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) Computer Systems Engineering  |
| Name of interim award(s):                   | Cert HE, Dip HE, BSc(Eng)  |
| Duration of study / period of registration: | 3 years  |
| QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):         | UBEF-QMELEC1 / HI62  |
| QAA Benchmark Group:                        | Engineering  |
| FHEQ Level of Award :                       | Level 6  |
| Programme accredited by:                    | Chartered Institute for IT (BCS). Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) - Extended to the full 5 year period to 2025 intake. |
| Date Programme Specification approved:      |  |
| Responsible School / Institute:             | School of Electronic Engineering & Computer Science  |

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

### Programme outline

This programme integrates electronic engineering and computer science to provide skills across many hardware and software aspects of computing, from the design of individual microprocessors, circuit design, to distributed-computer systems. The course prepares the student for a wide range of careers related to the electronics and computing industry, the Internet operations industry and the manufacturing industry.

This programme is accredited by the Institution of Engineering and Technology on behalf of the Engineering Council for the purposes of fully meeting the academic requirement for registration as an Incorporated Engineer and partly meeting the academic requirement for registration as a Chartered Engineer.

### Aims of the programme

This programme is one of a group of accredited degrees with the same broad aims and objectives; the difference being that they each emphasise different technical skills and knowledge within the broad spectrum that is now Electronic Engineering. Skill-based aims and objectives are, therefore, common across the family, but the instantiation of these objectives may make use of

different technical aspects within the family.

The Computer Systems Engineering programmes strike a balance between computer science and electronic engineering. Fundamental computer science topics are covered; however, core modules in electronic engineering are also included in the programme. The aim is to provide students with a more practical awareness of engineering concepts, allowing them to apply scientific knowledge in a commercial / industrial context focused on computer control, interfacing and automation, where appreciation of practical requirements and constraints can better inform the design and implementation processes.

### What will you be expected to achieve?

At the end of his/her degree, each student should be able to demonstrate the following abilities:

- The ability to recall factual knowledge and the ability to apply it in familiar and unfamiliar situations;
- The ability to apply scientific, mathematical and software 'tools' to a familiar or unfamiliar situation;
- The ability to use Information Technology as a key tool pervading all aspects of Electronic Engineering;
- The ability to understand practical issues concerning real systems (whether hardware or software);
- The ability to recognise insufficient existing knowledge and the ability to search for the necessary scientific, mathematical and software 'tools' relevant to that particular issue;
- The ability to work as part of a team;
- The ability to manage time effectively;
- The ability to appreciate the financial background against which decisions are made in industry;
- The ability to show a certain level of reflection on the role of engineering in society;

and the following skills:

- The perceptive skills needed to understand information presented in the form of technical circuit-diagrams, flow-charts and high-level languages;
- The practical skills needed to implement a piece of hardware or software and to use laboratory test equipment;
- The analytical skills needed to verify the correct behaviour of a hardware or software system or component and to be able to identify faults;
- The design skills needed to synthesise a design (in hardware and/or software) from a specification (including the choice of the best option from a range of alternatives), to implement the design and to evaluate the design against the original specification;
- The written and oral communication skills needed to present information, in particular written information, effectively;
- The critical reasoning skills needed to appraise a particular topic.

Context-based aims and objectives

- To emphasise computer systems and software
- To focus on the increasingly important areas of microprocessor and microcontroller based systems, digital systems design, and integrated circuit design (with CMOS technology), including the use of field-programmable logic
- To introduce the hardware description language VHDL for digital design, simulation and subsequent synthesis.

### **Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19**

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

| Academic Content: |   |
|-------------------|---|
| A 1               | [US1] Knowledge and understanding of scientific principles and methodology necessary to underpin their education in their engineering discipline, to enable appreciation of its scientific and engineering context, and to support their understanding of historical, current and future developments and technologies. |
| A 2               | [US2] Knowledge and understanding of mathematical principles necessary to underpin their education in engineering discipline and to enable them to apply mathematical methods, tools and notations proficiently in the analysis and solution of engineering problems.   |
| A 3               | [EA1] Understanding of engineering principles and the ability to apply them to analyse key engineering processes.   |
| A 4               | [EA3] Ability to apply quantitative methods and computer software relevant to the engineering discipline, in order to solve engineering problems.   |
| A 5               | [EA4] Understanding of a systems approach to engineering problems and to work with uncertainty.   |
| A 6               | [P7] Awareness of quality issues  |

| Disciplinary Skills - able to: |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| B 1                            | [US3] Ability to apply and integrate knowledge and understand of other engineering disciplines to support study of their own engineering discipline.                 |
| B 2                            | [EA2] Ability to identify, classify and describe the performance of systems and components through the use of analytical methods and modelling techniques.           |
| B 3                            | [D1] Investigate and define a problem and identify constraints including environmental and sustainability limitations, health and safety and risk assessment issues. |
| B 4                            | [D4] Use creativity to establish innovative solutions.   |
| B 5                            | [D5] Ensure fitness for purpose for all aspects of the problem including production, operation, maintenance and disposal.  |
| B 6                            | [P8] Ability to work with technical uncertainty.   |
| B 7                            | ... produce a coherent technical presentation in written or oral form;   |
| B 8                            | ... present a coherent argument;   |
| B 9                            | ... acquire and apply knowledge in a rigorous way to new and unfamiliar situations;  |
| B 10                           | ... use quantitative data in analysis and synthesis in engineering problems.   |

| Attributes: |   |
|-------------|---|
| C 1         | [S1] Knowledge and understanding of commercial and economic context of engineering processes.       |
| C 2         | [S5] Understanding of the need for a high level of professional and ethical conduct in engineering. |

## How will you learn?

Each non-project-based module involves lectures, problem solving coursework and practical sessions. Lectures are used to introduce principles and methods and also to illustrate how they can be applied in practice. Coursework allows students to develop their skills in problem solving and to gain practical experience. Practical sessions provide students with guidance and help while solving a problem. These lessons take the form of exercise classes and programming laboratories that allow the students to learn-by-doing in order to complement the lectures.

Individual projects are undertaken throughout the year under the supervision of an academic member of staff with whom there are weekly consultancy meetings. These are used for students to report on their progress, discuss research and design issues and plan their future work. This develops and reinforces students' ability to communicate technical ideas clearly and effectively. The Projects Coordinator also runs a thread of taught sessions to support the project module.

## How will you be assessed?

The assessment of the taught course units takes place through a written examination and coursework.

The final year project is examined on the basis of a written report, a formal oral presentation, and a demonstration of the piece of software or hardware developed by the student. In addition to the final year project, other modules introduce project and group working skills.

## How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

### Year 1 Modules

#### Semester 1

ECS401U Procedural Programming (15 credits)  
ECS408U Electronic Engineering Mathematics I (15 credits)  
ECS412U Digital Circuit Design (15 credits)  
ECS431U Engineering Skills and Practice (15 credits)

#### Semester 2

ECS403U Communications and Networks  
ECS409U Analogue Electronic Systems (15 credits)  
ECS411U Signals and Information (15 credits)  
ECS414U Object Oriented Programming (15 credits) (prerequisite for ECS639U)

### Year 2 Modules

#### Semester 3

ECS502U Microprocessor Systems Design (15 credits)  
ECS505U Software Engineering (15 credits)  
ECS528U Communications Systems (15 credits)  
ECS529U Algorithms and Data Structures (15 credits)

#### Semester 4

ECS506U Software Engineering Project (15 credits)  
ECS518U Operating Systems (15 credits)  
ECS527U Digital Systems Design (15 credits) (prerequisite for ECS617U)

Plus one module from:

ECS515U Signals and Systems Theory (15 credits)  
ECS522U Graphical User Interfaces (15 credits)

ECS620U Summer Internship (15 credits) to be offered between penultimate and final year \*

### Final Year Modules

**Programme Title:** H162 Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) Computer Systems Engineering (2024-25)

Semester 5  
 ECS635U Project (30 credits)  
 ECS642U Embedded Systems (15 credits)  
 Plus two (modules from:  
 ECS601U Control Systems (15 credits)  
 ECS602U Digital Signal Processing (15 credits)  
 ECS607U Data Mining (15 credits)  
 ECS639U Web Programming (15 credits) (requires ECS414U)  
 ECS640U Big Data Processing (15 credits)  
 ECS657U Multi-platform Games Development (15 credits)  
 Semester 6  
 ECS635U Project (cont. 30 credits)  
 ECS617U Integrated Circuit Design (15 credits) (requires ECS527U)  
 Plus two modules from:  
 ECS605U Image Processing (15 credits)  
 ECS622U Product Development (15 credits)  
 ECS637U Digital Media and Social Networks (15 credits)  
 ECS647U Bayesian Decision and Risk Analysis (15 credits)  
 ECS654U Advanced Control Systems (15 credits)  
 ECS655U Security Engineering (15 credits)  
 ECS656U Distributed Systems (15 credits)  
 ECS659U Neural Networks and Deep Learning (15 credits)

**Academic Year of Study** FT - Year 1

| Module Title                         | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Procedural Programming               | ECS401U     | 15      | 4     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Electronic Engineering Mathematics I | ECS408U     | 15      | 4     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Digital Circuit Design               | ECS412U     | 15      | 4     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Engineering Skills and Practice      | ECS431U     | 15      | 4     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Communications and Networks          | ECS403U     | 15      | 4     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Analogue Electronic Systems          | ECS409U     | 15      | 4     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Signals and Information              | ECS411U     | 15      | 4     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Object Oriented Programming          | ECS414U     | 15      | 4     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2 |

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Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

| Module Title                               | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester   |
|--|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Microprocessor Systems Design              | ECS502U     | 15      | 5     | Compulsory              | 2                      | Semester 1 |
| Software Engineering                       | ECS505U     | 15      | 5     | Compulsory              | 2                      | Semester 1 |
| Communications Systems                     | ECS528U     | 15      | 5     | Compulsory              | 2                      | Semester 1 |
| Algorithms and Data Structures             | ECS529U     | 15      | 5     | Compulsory              | 2                      | Semester 1 |
| Software Engineering Project               | ECS506U     | 15      | 5     | Compulsory              | 2                      | Semester 2 |
| Operating Systems                          | ECS518U     | 15      | 5     | Compulsory              | 2                      | Semester 2 |
| Digital Systems Design                     | ECS527U     | 15      | 5     | Compulsory              | 2                      | Semester 2 |
| Signals and Systems Theory                 | ECS515U     | 15      | 5     | Elective                | 2                      | Semester 2 |
| Graphical User Interfaces                  | ECS522U     | 15      | 5     | Elective                | 2                      | Semester 2 |
| Summer Internship (see note in structure)* | ECS620U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 3 |

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

| Module Title              | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester        |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Project                   | ECS635U     | 30      | 6     | Core                    | 3                      | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Embedded Systems          | ECS642U     | 15      | 6     | Compulsory              | 3                      | Semester 1      |
| Control Systems           | ECS601U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 1      |
| Digital Signal Processing | ECS602U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 1      |

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| Module Title                        | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Data Mining                         | ECS607U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 1 |
| Web Programming                     | ECS639U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 1 |
| Big Data Processing                 | ECS640U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 1 |
| Multi-platform Games Development    | ECS657U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 1 |
| Integrated Circuit Design           | ECS617U     | 15      | 6     | Compulsory              | 3                      | Semester 2 |
| Image Processing                    | ECS605U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 2 |
| Product Development                 | ECS622U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 2 |
| Digital Media and Social Networks   | ECS637U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 2 |
| Bayesian Decision and Risk Analysis | ECS647U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 2 |
| Advanced Control Systems            | ECS654U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 2 |
| Security Engineering                | ECS655U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 2 |
| Distributed Systems                 | ECS656U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 2 |
| Neural Networks and Deep Learning   | ECS659U     | 15      | 6     | Elective                | 3                      | Semester 2 |

**What are the entry requirements?**

Further information about the entry requirements for this programme can be found at:

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/coursefinder/courses/2023/computer-systems-engineering/>

**How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?**

EECS has an Education Committee structure which enables programmes to be both managed and enhanced.

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The Structure allows for subject level teaching groups and programme coordinators to regularly evaluate the content and delivery of each programme. Feedback from module evaluations and SSLC meetings are fed into these groups and this provides an opportunity for student feedback to be incorporated into the programmes.

Additionally, programme coordinators work with the Director of Education to ensure each programme is current and can be delivered effectively.

The Student-Staff Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each cohort, together with appropriate representation from School staff. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Student-Staff Liaison Committees meet four times a year, twice in each teaching semester.

Each semester, students are invited to complete a web-based module questionnaire for each of their taught modules, and the results are fed back through the SSLC meetings. The results are also made available on the student intranet, as are the minutes of the SSLC meetings. Any actions necessary are taken forward by the relevant Senior Tutor, who chairs the SSLC, and general issues are discussed and actioned through the School's Student Experience Learning Teaching And Assessment (SETLA) Committee .

The School's Education Committee advises the Director of Education on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, including through student membership and consideration of student surveys and module questionnaires.

The School participates in the College's Annual Programme Review process, which supports strategic planning and operational issues for all undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes. The APR includes consideration of the School's Taught Programmes Action Plan, which records progress on learning and teaching related actions on a rolling basis. Students' views are considered in the APR process through analysis of the NSS and module questionnaires, among other data.

### What academic support is available?

All students are assigned an academic adviser during induction week. The adviser's role is to guide advisees in their academic development including module selection and to provide first-line pastoral support.

In addition, the School has a Senior Tutor for undergraduate students who provides second-line guidance and pastoral support as well as advising staff on related matters.

The School also has a Student Support Officer who is the first point of contact regarding all matters.

Every member of Teaching Staff holds 2 open office hours per week during term time.

### How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.



Where recommended by DDS or the School Student Support Officer, reasonable adjustment is made across the programme for students with special needs.

### Programme-specific rules and facts

Further information on the Academic Regulations can be found at <http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/media/arcs/policy>

In addition to this the programme does have special regulations (further details are available in the Academic Regulations):

1. There is a requirement for students to achieve a minimum mark of 30.0 in every module, and to pass the project outright (in addition to the standard award rules) in order to achieve the intended, accredited, award.
2. The exit award and the field of study of the exit award will be dictated by the specific modules passed and failed by a student.

### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The School has a wide range of industrial contacts secured through research projects and consultancy, our Industrial Experience programme and our Industrial Advisory Panel.

The Industrial Advisory Panel works to ensure that our programmes are state-of-the-art and match the changing requirements of this fast-moving industry. The Panel includes representatives from a variety of Computer Science oriented companies ranging from SMEs to major blue-chips. These include: Microsoft Research, IBM, The National Physical Laboratory, National Instruments, PA Consulting, Rohde and Schwarz, O2, Cisco Systems, ARM, Selex and BAE Systems.

Recent graduates have found employment as IT consultants, specialist engineers, web developers, systems analysts, software designers and network engineers in a wide variety of industries and sectors. A number of students also go on to undertake PhDs in electronic engineering and computer science. Merrill Lynch, Microsoft, Nokia, Barclays Capital, Logica,, Credit Suisse, KPMG, Transport for London, Sky and Selex ES are among the organizations that have recently employed graduates of EECS programmes.

Transferable skills are developed through a variety of means, including embedding of QM Graduate Attributes in taught modules and the project, together with the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities, e.g. the School's E++ Society, the School's Annual Programming Competition and external competitions with support from the School.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Dr Chris Phillips

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Dr Chris Phillips

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:**

3 December 2023

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:**