

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MSc
4	Programme Title	Mobile and Pervasive Computing
5	UCAS/Programme Code	5134
6	Programme Accreditation	
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	
8	FHEQ Level	M
9	Date written/revised	October 2007

10 Programme Aims

The programme aims to:

- Provide an understanding of the concept and theories of Mobile and Pervasive Computing.
- Equip graduates with knowledge and experience of Mobile and Pervasive Computing enabling technologies, including the fundamental techniques required for an engineer, scientist or manager working in this field.
- Develop skills in the application of these techniques in the development of Mobile and Pervasive Computing systems or their constituent parts.
- Promote sound scientific and engineering principles in the graduates' approach to professional work, and an understanding of the ethical and social dimensions of such work.
- Cover understanding and knowledge in both high-level architectural concepts and low level implementation techniques, and both software and hardware systems. Graduates will have experience of the current state of the art of Mobile and Pervasive Computing systems and will have demonstrated the ability to apply the principles and practices of Computing Science and Electronic Engineering in tackling a significant technical problem; the solution typically demonstrates a soundly based vision of the direction of developments of Mobile and Pervasive Computing.
- Provide a good knowledge and practical experience of up to date tools and techniques related to the enabling technologies of Mobile and Pervasive Computing. Graduates will be able to critically evaluate and test Mobile and Pervasive Computing subsystems. They are expected to go on to employment in technical positions with Mobile and Pervasive Computing related supplier industries and large-scale users; some graduates will pursue research careers.
- The programme aims to meet the descriptors, for a qualification at Masters (M) level, published by the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

Knowledge and Understanding
<p>A successful student will have gained and be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p> <p>A1. The basis of Mobile and Pervasive Computing and its enabling technologies. A2. The scientific and engineering principles related to the enabling technologies. A3. Distributed computer systems architecture and organization. A4. Networking and communication systems theory and practice (inc. important issues such as security). A5. Computer programming specific to Mobile and Pervasive Computing A6. Important hardware issues related to Mobile and Pervasive Computing</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods
<p>Lectures are the main way of imparting knowledge and understanding (A1-A6). Practical classes feature prominently, which enhance understanding of hardware and programming (A3-A6). Students are expected to contribute to their own learning experience by independent study. They are provided with references to books which are categorised as <i>essential</i>, <i>recommended</i>, and <i>background</i> reading, as well as scientific papers and other learning materials including appropriate web URLs.</p>
Assessment Strategy
<p>Knowledge and understanding are assessed by means of closed and open book written examinations and coursework, including group and individual project reports (A1-A6).</p>
Intellectual Skills
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>B1. Conduct investigations using the technical and professional literature. B2. Use and evaluate appropriate tools and techniques. B3. Undertake critical evaluation (both theoretical and empirical) of alternative solutions. B4. Formulate problems and identify suitable approaches to solving them. B5. Reason abstractly about the structure and behaviour of Mobile and Pervasive Computing (sub)systems.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods
<p>Most modules involve coursework and/or practicals, much of which involves problem solving skills (B4). This is especially so in the group and individual projects where students need to select, evaluate and apply appropriate tools and techniques (B2). Here and elsewhere students will need to investigate possible alternatives in the technical and professional literature (B1, B3), and to reason about computer systems (B5).</p>
Assessment Strategy
<p>Cognitive skills are assessed by a range of coursework (reports, design documents, etc.) (B1-B5).</p>
Practical Skills
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>C1. The design of Mobile and Pervasive Computing systems and subsystems. C2. The use of hardware and software systems and tools including CAD tools. C3. The use of continuous and discrete mathematical tools. C4. The use and provision of network information services. C5. The use of programming languages.</p>

C6. Analysis of system requirements and the production of system specifications.

Teaching and Learning Methods

C1-C6 feature prominently in all modules. In particular three group projects give students experience of working within teams to engineer complex products (C1-C6). An individual project requires students to develop a large product to a customer's requirements (C1-C6). In all other modules, practicals and coursework are used to develop these skills (C1-C6).

Assessment Strategy

Subject-specific and professional skills are assessed by coursework (C1-C6).

Transferable/Key Skills

A successful student will be proficient in:

- D1. Written communication.
- D2. Problem solving.
- D3. Interpersonal communication.
- D4. Initiative.
- D5. Oral presentation.
- D6. Adaptability.
- D7. Teamwork.
- D8. Planning, organisation, and prompt delivery of results.
- D9. Computer literacy and information literacy

The above covers the generic knowledge and understanding, subject/specific/professional skills, cognitive skills and key (transferable) skills of a 'typical' Masters level graduate, although for each individual student there will be variations depending on the dissertation.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Key skills feature throughout the programme; teamwork in the group projects (D7); oral presentation, interpersonal communication, and planning and organisation in the individual project module, as well as the group projects (D3, D5, D8); written communication in all modules, but especially in the individual project (D1); problem solving, initiative and adaptability are necessarily covered throughout the programme (D2, D4, D6, D9).

The strategy of the degree programme is to give a broad coverage of the subject of Mobile and Pervasive Computing in taught modules, and then to provide specialisation in the individual project.

Assessment Strategy

Key (transferable) skills are assessed by both written and oral presentations (D1-D9). Teamwork in the group projects is assessed both by the module leader at team oral presentations and by group monitors (members of teaching staff) who attends group formal meetings (D5, D7).

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

The Programme is aimed at the award of MSc degree upon successful completion of all taught modules and the Individual Project.

This is a one year Programme, which starts in September and the students normally complete the last assignment by the end of August. The taught part of the programme takes place from September to June. The Programme has 180 credits and all modules are compulsory.

There are five taught credit modules in semester one with 45 total credits and six taught modules in semester two with 55 total credits. Students start the Individual Project, which is 80 credits, in the first semester, 20% of the assessment is done in the second semester and 80% of work is performed in June-August with the submission of the thesis in the end of August.

Key features of the programme

The MPC Degree Programme includes only the full-time mode of studies and is normally completed within one year. This is an advanced programme with a strong emphasis on project work and self-directed learning. None of the material is taught at the undergraduate level. In order to reduce the pre-requisite requirements the students are offered a free four weeks full-time pre-sessional conversion course in computing, which takes place in September.

A unique feature of this Programme is that it combines the subjects normally attributed to electronic design, communications and software engineering. Such a wide coverage reinforced with skills developed in the coursework and the Individual Project creates specialists capable to merge into a commercial design group with reduced in-house training. Relevance of this Degree Programme to the needs of modern industry is extremely high, as according to Frost and Sullivan the market for mobile and embedded systems in 2005 reached \$31B with annual growth of \$1.8B.

The Programme combines leading research and teaching expertise in mobile communications and distributed computing from the School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering and the School of Computer Science, respectively. Both Schools are equipped with teaching and research facilities to deliver a high quality programme in this new multidisciplinary field. Large, state of the art teaching laboratories provide an opportunity for the next generation of technology and computing specialists to be educated using the latest ideas in interactive instruction. The course is delivered by staff from internationally recognised research groups with active projects in the relevant fields.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/2007-2008/programme/5134.php>

13 Criteria for admission

Entry qualifications

Students should normally have at least a 2.2 honours degree in electrical engineering from a British University. A lower qualification may be considered if applicant has a significant period of relevant industrial experience.

Non-standard Entry Requirements

GPA: 2.5/4 (63%) or equivalent. China 65%, India 60%. Will accept a higher Diploma for Libyan students at 65%.

Level of English Language capability

5.5 IELTS or equivalent.

14 Support for Student Learning

Induction

In order to reduce the pre-requisite requirements and to assist students in familiarisation with computing facilities a pre-sessional course in computing is offered free of charge. The course includes four weeks of full-time intensive training in programming with the focus on Java language and Internet programming.

During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principle support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students (see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international/coming_to_newcastle/orientation.phtml)

Study skills support

Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification.

Academic support

The initial point of contact for a student is with a lecturer or module leader, or their tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Staff-Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

Pastoral support

All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees. Details of the personal tutor system can be found at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/tutor.phtml>
In addition the University offers a range of support services, including the Student Advice Centre, the Counselling and Wellbeing team, the Mature Student Support Officer, and a Childcare Support Officer, see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/welfare.phtml>

Support for students with disabilities

The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies. For further details see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/disability-support/>

Learning resources

The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities, see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/acfacilities.phtml>

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language test in the Language Centre. Where appropriate, in-session language training can be provided. The Language Centre houses a range of resources for learning other languages which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchange. See <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/facilities/langcen.phtml>

15 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Module reviews

All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are also considered at the Board of Studies. Student opinion is sought at the Staff-Student Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

Programme reviews

The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

External Examiner reports

External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. External Examiner reports are shared with institutional student representatives, through the Staff-Student Committee.

Student evaluations

All modules, and the degree programme, are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff-Student Committee, and the Board of Studies. The National Student Survey is sent out every year to final-year undergraduate students, and consists of a set of questions seeking the students' views on the quality of the learning and teaching in their HEIs. Further information is at www.thestudentsurvey.com/ With reference to the outcomes of the NSS and institutional student satisfaction surveys actions are taken at all appropriate levels by the institution.

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback

Feedback is channelled via the Staff-Student Committee and the Board of Studies.

Faculty and University Review Mechanisms

The programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review process, see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/agss/qsh/internal_subject_review/index.php

16 Regulation of assessment

Pass mark

The pass mark is 50

Course requirements

Progression is subject to the University's Masters Degree Progress Regulations, Taught and Research (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/tpmdepr.pdf>) and Examination Conventions for Taught Masters Degrees (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/tpmdeprexamconv.pdf>). Limited compensation up to 45 credits of the taught element and down to a mark of 40 is possible and there are reassessment opportunities, with certain restrictions.

Common Marking Scheme

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Taught Postgraduate Examination Conventions, namely:

Summary description applicable to postgraduate Masters programmes

<50	Fail
50-59	Pass
60-69	Pass with Merit
70 or above	Pass with Distinction

Summary description applicable to postgraduate Certificate and Diploma programmes

<50	Fail
50 or above	Pass

Role of the External Examiner

An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, after recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is expected to:

- See and approve examination papers
- Moderate examination and coursework marking
- Attend the Board of Examiners

Report to the University on the standards of the programme

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/>)

The School Brochure (contact enquiries@ncl.ac.uk)

The University Regulations (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/>)

The Degree Programme Handbook

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Intended Learning Outcome	Module codes (Comp/Core in Bold)
A1	All modules
A2	All modules
A3	CSC8103, EEE8092, EEE8040, EEE8042, CSC8107
A4	EEE8041, CSC8102, EEE8092, EEE8040, EEE8091, EEE8002, EEE8042, CSC8107
A5	CSC8108, EEE8092, EEE8091
A6	EEE8043, EEE8092, EEE8091
B1	CSC8102, CSC8103, EEE8092, EEE8040, EEE8091, EEE8002, EEE8042, CSC8107, EEE8043, CSC8108
B2	EEE8092, EEE8091, EEE8002, EEE8043, EEE8108
B3	EEE8041, EEE8092, EEE8091, CSC8102, EEE8043, CSC8108
B4	EEE8041, CSC8103, EEE8092, EEE8091, EEE8002, CSC8102, EEE8043, CSC8108
B5	CSC8102, CSC8103, EEE8040, EEE8002, EEE8042, EEE8043
B6	EEE8092, EEE8040, EEE8091, EEE8043, CSC8108
C1	EEE8041, EEE8092, EEE8002, EEE8091, EEE8043, CSC8108
C2	EEE8041, CSC8102, CSC8103, EEE8002, EEE8042, EEE8043
C3	CSC8102, EEE8092, EEE8040, EEE8091, EEE8042, CSC8107, CSC8108
C4	CSC8108
C5	EEE8041, EEE8092, EEE8040, EEE8091, EEE8043
D1	EEE8041, CSC8107, CSC8103, EEE8092, EEE8091, EEE8002, EEE8043, EEE820, CSC828
D2	EEE8041, CSC8102, CSC8103, EEE8092, EEE8040, EEE8091, EEE8002, EEE8043, CSC8107
D3	EEE8041, CSC8102, CSC8103, EEE8092, EEE8091, EEE8002
D4	EEE8041, CSC8102, CSC8103, EEE8092, EEE8091, EEE8002, EEE8043, EEE820, CSC8107
D5	EEE8041, EEE8091, EEE8043
D6	EEE8041, CSC8102, CSC8108, CSC8103, CSC8107, EEE8092, EEE8091
D7	EEE8041, EEE8092, EEE8091, EEE802, EEE8043
D8	EEE8041, EEE8092, EEE8091, CSC8108, CSC8102, CSC8103, CSC8107, EEE8040, EEE8043
D9	EEE8041, CSC8102, CSC8103, EEE8092, EEE8040, EEE8091, EEE8043, CSC8107