2017-2018 Graduate Calendar

The information published in this Graduate Calendar outlines the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for the 2017-2018 academic years, including the Summer Semester 2017, Fall Semester 2017 and the Winter Semester 2018.

For your convenience the Graduate Calendar is available in PDF format.

If you wish to link to the Graduate Calendar please refer to the Linking Guidelines.

The University is a full member of:

 • The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

Contact Information:

>   University of Guelph
>   Guelph, Ontario, Canada
>   N1G 2W1
>
>   519-824-4120

Revision Information:

Date	Description
May 5, 2017	Initial Publication
June 19, 2017	Revision 1
August 11, 2017	Revision 2
August 31, 2017	Revision 3
December 11, 2017	Revision 4

Disclaimer

The Office of Graduate Studies has attempted to ensure the accuracy of this on-line Graduate Calendar. However, the publication of information in this document does not bind the university to the provision of courses, programs, schedules of studies, fees, or facilities as listed herein.

Limitations

The University of Guelph reserves the right to change without notice any information contained in this calendar, including any rule or regulation pertaining to the standards for admission to, the requirements for the continuation of study in, and the requirements for the granting of degrees or diplomas in any or all of its programs.

The university will not be liable for any interruption in, or cancellation of, any academic activities as set forth in this calendar and related information where such interruption is caused by fire, strike, lock-out, inability to procure materials or trades, restrictive laws or governmental regulations, actions taken by the faculty, staff or students of the university or by others, civil unrest or disobedience, Public Health Emergencies, or any other cause of any kind beyond the reasonable control of the university.

The University of Guelph reaffirms section 1 of the Ontario Human Rights Code, 1981, which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, age, marital status or family status.

The university encourages applications from women, aboriginal peoples, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and members of other under-represented groups.

Introduction

Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information

Personal information is collected under the authority of the University of Guelph Act (1964), and in accordance with Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90f31_e.htm. This information is used by University officials in order to carry out their authorized academic and administrative responsibilities and also to establish a relationship for alumni and development purposes. Certain personal information is disclosed to external agencies, including the Ontario Universities Application Centre, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, and Statistics Canada, for statistical and planning purposes, and is disclosed to other individuals or organizations in accordance with the Office of Registrarial Services Departmental Policy on the Release of Student Information. For details on the use and disclosure of this information call the Office of Registrarial Services at the University at (519) 824-4120 or see https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/

Statistics Canada - Notification of Disclosure

For further information, please see Statistics Canada's web site at http://www.statcan.gc.ca and Section XIV Statistics Canada.

Address for University Communication

Depending on the nature and timing of the communication, the University may use one of these addresses to communicate with students. Students are, therefore, responsible for checking all of the following on a regular basis:

Email Address

The University issued email address is considered an official means of communication with the student and will be used for correspondence from the University. Students are responsible for monitoring their University-issued email account regularly.

Home Address

Students are responsible for maintaining a current mailing address with the University. Address changes can be made, in writing, through the Office of Graduate Studies.

Name Changes

The University of Guelph is committed to the integrity of its student records, therefore, each student is required to provide either on application for admission or on personal data forms required for registration, his/her complete, legal name. Any requests to change a name, by means of alteration, deletion, substitution or addition, must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation.

Student Confidentiality and Release of Student Information Policy Excerpt

The University undertakes to protect the privacy of each student and the confidentiality of his or her record. To this end the University shall refuse to disclose personal information to any person other than the individual to whom the information relates where disclosure would constitute an unjustified invasion of the personal privacy of that person or of any other individual. All members of the University community must respect the confidential nature of the student information which they acquire in the course of their work.

Complete policy at http://www.uoguelph.ca/policies.

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Computer Science

The School of Computer Science offers an MSc degree in Computer Science.

The program emphasizes both academic and applied research that can contribute to further research, academic studies, industry partnerships, and government programs. The MSc degree encompasses professors at the cutting edge of their fields, course offerings covering a wide range of computer science areas, and competitive financial incentives to eligible students.

There are four main fields that students can study in. However, interaction with other disciplines is encouraged and many of our professors work in collaboration with both industry partners and other Schools/Departments at the University of Guelph. The fields are:

- **Applied Modelling (AM):** Students working in this field will engage in research on topics such as graph theory and algorithms, formal specifications, hardware-software co-design, and interdisciplinary work in environmental modeling and disease spread modeling.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Students working in this field will engage in research on topics such as Bayesian techniques, artificial neural networks, evolutionary computation, fuzzy systems, data mining, pattern recognition, and, intelligent agents.
- **Distributed Computing (DC):** Students working in this field will engage in research on topics such as parallel computing, distributed systems, embedded systems, multi-agent systems, mobile computing, wireless networks, and ad hoc networks.
- **Human Computer Interaction (HCI):** Students working in this field will engage in research on topics such as context-aware systems, usability, interface design, and mobile and ubiquitous computing.

The School of Computer Science also offers an Interdisciplinary PhD degree in Computational Sciences. More information on can be found at: Computational Sciences

Administrative Staff

Director
Pascal Matsakis (222 Reynolds, Ext. 58270)
director@socs.uoguelph.ca

Graduate Program Coordinator
Joe Sawada (306 Reynolds, Ext. 53277)
jsawada@uoguelph.ca

Graduate Program Assistant
Jennifer Hughes (224 Reynolds, Ext. 56402)
gradassist@socs.uoguelph.ca

Graduate Faculty

David A. Calvert
BA, MSc Guelph, PhD Waterloo - Associate Professor

David K.Y. Chiu
BA Waterloo, BSc Guelph, MSc Queen's, PhD Waterloo - Professor

Rozita Dara
BSc Shahid Teheshti, MSc Guelph, PhD Waterloo - Assistant Professor

William Gardner
BSEE MIT, BEd Toronto, PhD Victoria - Associate Professor

Dan Gillis
BSc, MSc, PhD Guelph - Assistant Professor

Gary Gréwal
BSc Brock, MSc, PhD Guelph - Associate Professor

Stefan C. Kremer
BSc Guelph, PhD Alberta - Associate Professor and Director

Xining Li
BSc, MSc Nanjing, PhD Calgary - Professor

Pascal Matsakis
BSc, MSc, PhD Paul Sabatier (France) - Professor

Judi R. McCuaig
BEd, BSc, MS, PhD Saskatchewan - Associate Professor

Blair Nonnecke
BSc, MSc Guelph, PhD South Bank - Associate Professor

Charlie F. Obimbo
MSc Kiev, PhD New Brunswick - Associate Professor

Joseph Sawada
BSc, PhD Victoria (British Columbia) - Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator

Fei Song
BSc Jilin (China), MSc Academia Sinica (China), PhD Waterloo - Associate Professor

Deborah A. Stacey
BSc Guelph, MASc, PhD Waterloo - Associate Professor

Fangju Wang
BE Changsha, MSc Peking, PhD Waterloo - Professor

Mark Wineberg
BSc Toronto, MSc, PhD Carleton - Associate Professor

Michael A. Wirth
BSc New England (Aust.), MSc Manitoba, PhD RMIT Melbourne - Associate Professor

Yang Xiang
BSs, MSc BUAA (Beijing), PhD UBC - Professor

MSc Program

The MSc is offered in the fields of: 1) applied modelling; 2) artificial intelligence; 3) distributed computing; and 4) human computer interaction.

Admission Requirements

Most spaces are filled in March for entry the following September, and in October for entry the following January. Prospective students should check the School of Computer Science website http://www.socs.uoguelph.ca/ for admission procedures and deadlines.

General Requirements

To be considered for admission, applicants must have a four-year honours degree in computer science, or a four-year honours degree in another discipline with a minor in computer science. Applicants must meet the minimum admission requirements of both the university and the School of Computer Science, including at least a 75% average during the previous two years of full-time university study for a degree.

In addition to the university and School of Computer Science requirements, applicants must also submit (i) a current CV and (ii) a statement of research that would normally include the following sections:

- Specific research interest with justification.
- Academic and/or practical research experience.

Course Requirement

Entrants who have a four-year honours degree in another discipline and a minor (or equivalent) in computer science must have taken at least 12 courses as described below. University of Guelph equivalents are given for comparison as appropriate.

(A) Seven prescribed courses:

- An introductory programming course (CIS*1500).
- An intermediate programming course (CIS*2500).
- An object-oriented programming course (CIS*2430).
- A software systems development course (CIS*2750).
- A course on data structures (CIS*2520).
- A course on discrete structures (CIS*1910 or CIS*2910).
- An introductory course in calculus (MATH*1200).

(B) Three core courses at the second-year or higher level selected from the following:

- A course on hardware and/or assembly language (CIS*2030).
- A course on digital systems (CIS*3120).
- A course on simulation and/or modelling (CIS*2460).
- A database course (CIS*3530).
- An operating systems course (CIS*3110).
- A computer algorithms course (CIS*3490).
- A course on automata theory (CIS*3150).
- A statistics course (STAT*2040).

(C) Two elective courses at the third-year or higher level:

- These courses should be related to the applicant's proposed research area. They can be from a discipline other than computer science if deemed relevant by the proposed supervisor.

Applicants who meet requirements (A) and (C) but who do not meet requirement (B) may be granted provisional admission, i.e., they may be granted admission with the provision that they take specified courses within a specified time and achieve grades above a specified threshold.

English Proficiency

A test of English proficiency is required of all applicants whose first language is not English. Please refer to the University of Guelph Admission Requirements

Degree Requirements

Once a student has been admitted to the MSc program, the following components are required for the successful completion of the MSc degree:

Completion of the Technical Communication and Research Methodology course (CIS*6890) and at least four other graduate courses

Completion of the seminar requirement.

An accepted thesis.

Duration of the Program

The MSc degree is a two-year program during which students complete five courses, give a public seminar and complete and successfully defend a thesis. Heavy emphasis is placed on the thesis, which usually requires at least two semesters. Students should plan on spending at least four full-time semesters (16 months) in the program assuming adequate preparation for graduate work.

Course Requirement

An MSc student is required to take the Technical Communication and Research Methodology course CIS*6890 and at least four other CIS graduate courses. Of these four courses, at least two should be outside of the student's thesis topic area. This area and the courses which fall outside of this area are identified by the student's advisor. With approval from the Graduate Program Committee, a CIS graduate course requirement may also be met by a non-CIS graduate course or by a 4000-level course. At most one reading course (CIS*6660) and at most one 4000-level course can count towards the course requirement.

Seminar Requirement

An MSc student must give one publicly announced research seminar on his/her MSc thesis research. The student will be allocated times and dates for the seminar. It must be attended by the student's advisor and at least one other member of the student's Advisory Committee. The quality of the presentation is graded on a pass/fail basis. The MSc seminar requirement is intended for students to practice presentation and communication skills and to participate in the process of knowledge dissemination as part of the academic life.

Thesis Defence

Arrangements for the MSc thesis defence should be made at least four weeks prior to the anticipated date of the defence, and the student must submit his/her MSc thesis to the Examination Committee at least two weeks prior to the defence. The examination consists of an oral presentation by the student followed by questions from the Examination Committee.

Courses

Core Courses

The core graduate courses are designed to be accessible to any student with an appropriate background in Computer Science and will provide enough introduction for those unfamiliar with the specific area to allow them to keep up with the advanced material.

CIS*6000 Distributed Systems U [0.50]

The evolution of distributed computer systems. Models for distributed processing. Taxonomy of multiprocessor systems. Interconnection networks. Memory and I/O for distributed architectures. Performance of distributed systems. Architectural issues of distributed systems

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6020 Artificial Intelligence U [0.50]

An examination of Artificial Intelligence principles and techniques such as: logic and rule based systems; forward and backward chaining; frames, scripts, semantic nets and the object-oriented approach; the evaluation of intelligent systems and knowledge acquisition. A sizeable project is required and applications in other areas are encouraged.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6030 Information Systems U [0.50]

Relational and other database systems, web information concurrency protocols, data integrity, transaction management, distributed databases, remote access, data warehousing, data mining.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6070 Discrete Optimization U [0.50]

This course will discuss problems where optimization is required and describes the most common techniques for discrete optimization such as the use of linear programming, constraint satisfaction methods, and genetic algorithms.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6320 Image Processing Algorithms and Applications U [0.50]

Brightness transformation, image smoothing, image enhancement, thresholding, segmentation, morphology, texture analysis, shape analysis, applications in medicine and biology.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6420 Soft Computing U [0.50]

Neural networks, artificial intelligence, connectionist model, back propagation, resonance theory, sequence processing, software engineering concepts.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6890 Technical Communication and Research Methodology U [0.50]

This course aims to develop students' ability in technical communication and general research methodology. Each student is expected to present a short talk, give a mini lecture, review a conference paper, write a literature survey and critique fellow students' talks and lectures.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

Advanced Courses

The advanced graduate courses are taught with the assumption that the student has sufficient background in the research area to understand the advanced concepts and research ideas. Students who intend to take a course for which they have insufficient background should consult with the instructor prior to enrollment in the course.

CIS*6050 Neural Networks U [0.50]

Artificial neural networks, dynamical recurrent networks, dynamic input/output sequences, communications signal identification, syntactic pattern recognition.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6060 Bioinformatics U [0.50]

Data mining and bioinformatics, molecular biology databases, taxonomic groupings, sequences, feature extraction, Bayesian inference, cluster analysis, information theory, machine learning, feature selection.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6080 Genetic Algorithms U [0.50]

This course introduces the student to basic genetic algorithms, which are based on the process of natural evolution. It is explored in terms of its mathematical foundation and applications to optimization in various domains.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6090 Hardware/Software Co-design of Embedded Systems U [0.50]

Specification and design of embedded systems, system-on-a-chip paradigm, specification languages, hardware/software co-design, performance estimation, co-simulation and validation, processes architectures and software synthesis, retargetable code generation and optimization.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6100 Parallel Processing Architectures U [0.50]

Parallelism in uniprocessor systems, parallel architectures, memory structures, pipelined architectures, performance issues, multiprocessor architectures.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6120 Uncertainty Reasoning in Knowledge Representation U [0.50]

Representation of uncertainty, Dempster-Schafer theory, fuzzy logic, Bayesian belief networks, decision networks, dynamic networks, probabilistic models, utility theory.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6130 Object-Oriented Modeling, Design and Programming U [0.50]

Objects, modeling, program design, object-oriented methodology, UML, CORBA, database

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6140 Software Engineering U [0.50]

This course will discuss problems where optimization is required and describes the most common techniques for discrete optimization such as the use of linear programming, constraint satisfaction methods, and meta-heuristics.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6160 Multiagent Systems U [0.50]

Intelligent systems consisting of multiple autonomous and interacting subsystems with emphasis on distributed reasoning and decision making. Deductive reasoning agents, practical reasoning agents, probabilistic reasoning agents, reactive and hybrid agents, negotiation and agreement, cooperation and coordination, multiagent search, distributed MDP, game theory, and modal logics.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6200 Design Automation in Digital Systems U [0.50]

Techniques and software tools for design of digital systems. Material covered includes high-level synthesis, design for testability, and FPGAs in design and prototyping.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6490 Analysis and Design of Computer Algorithms U [0.25]

The design and analysis of efficient computer algorithms: standard methodologies, asymptotic behaviour, optimality, lower bounds, implementation considerations, graph algorithms, matrix computations (e.g. Strassen's method), NP-completeness.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6650 Topics in Computer Science I U [0.50]

This special topics course examines selected, advanced topics in computer science that are not covered by existing courses. The topic(s) will vary depending on the need and the instructor.

Department(s):   School of Computer Science

CIS*6660 Topics in Computer Science II U [0.50]

This is a reading course. Its aim is to provide background knowledge to students who need to get a head-start in their thesis research fields early during their program while no suitable regular graduate courses are offered. Admission is under the discretion of the instructor.

Restriction(s):   Instructor consent required.
Department(s):   School of Computer Science