

## MODULE SPECIFICATION

- 1 **Title of module:** Computing Law and Professional Responsibility
- 2 **Department responsible for management:** Computing
- 3 **Start date:** September 2006
- 4 **Number of students:** 60
- 5 **Modules to be withdrawn:** None
- 6 **Level:** H
- 7 **Number of credits:** 15
- 8 **Terms during which module taught:** 1 or 2
- 9 **Prerequisites and co-requisites:**  
Software Engineering Practice.
- 10 **Programmes of study:**  
BSc Computer Science, BSc Computer Science and Management Science,  
BSc Computer Science with Business Administration,  
BSc Mathematics with Computer Science,  
BSc Computing and Business Administration (subject to prerequisites),  
Applied Computing Joint Honours (subject to prerequisites)  
and their Year in Industry counterparts.
- 11 **Subject-specific learning outcomes and relationship to programme learning outcomes:**  
On successful completion of this module, students will:
  - a) Possess an ability to accurately deploy established techniques based on Professional Issues requirements for BCS/IEE accreditation. [A3, A6, A8]
  - b) Have a conceptual understanding of what is ethical and what is legal, and appreciate the difference. [B4, B6]
  - c) Have a systematic understanding of basic legal processes and data privacy legislation, and have acquired basic knowledge of computer law as it currently exists with respect to IT in the UK. [A8, B6]
  - d) Be able to critically evaluate IT related health and safety issues. [A7, B5, B6]
  - e) Possess critical awareness of some of the potential legal and ethical problems of large IT projects. [A9, B1]
- 12 **Generic learning outcomes and relationship to programme learning outcomes:**  
On successful completion of this module, students will:
  - f) Be able to evaluate systems in terms of health and safety issues and legal responsibilities, with an awareness of possible trade-offs. [A4, A7]
  - g) Be able to communicate legal and professional issues clearly to specialist audiences. [A10, C7, B10, D2]
  - h) Be able to apply relevant codes of conduct and practice. [B8, B9, B10, D6]
- 13 **Synopsis of curriculum.**  
The scope of the module is outlined below. Note that topics will not necessarily be delivered in this order.
  - Professional issues and professional organisations.
  - Data privacy legislation, and other UK laws relating to the professional use of computer systems.

- Criminal law relating to networked computer use, including new Anti-Terrorism legislation; and their application.
- Intellectual Property Rights, including Copyright, Patent and Contract Laws.
- Health & Safety issues.
- Computer-based Projects, including the vendor-client relationship and professional responsibilities.

However, as this is a rapidly evolving field, specific topics will change from year to year, as both computer law and professional responsibilities continue to evolve.

#### 14 Indicative reading list:

- Langford, D., Business Computer Ethics, 1999, Addison-Wesley
- Ayres R., The Essence of Professional Issues in Computing. ISBN 0-13-908740-0, Prentice Hall Europe 1999
- Dejoie, R. et al., Ethical Issues in Information Systems. (ISBN 0-878-355-626), Boyd & Fraser 1991
- Bott F et al, Professional Issues in Software Engineering, 3rd Edition (ISBN 0748409513), Pitman 2000, UCL 1995
- Langford, D., Internet Ethics, 2000, Pearson/MacMillan
- Langford, D., Practical Computer Ethics, 1995, McGraw-Hill

#### 15 Learning and teaching methods.

All learning outcomes will be achieved through a combination of lectures and private study, supported by reading guides and web-based materials, with further assistance provided electronically via newsgroups and/or the web. The achievement of learning outcomes will additionally be facilitated by a formative coursework assignment, also supported by the same means. This module represents a total of 150 study hours, broken down approximately as follows:

- 30 contact hours (lectures)
- 90 hours of private study (including exam revision)
- 30 hours spent on coursework

#### 16 Assessment methods.

All learning outcomes are assessed by an unseen written examination, and by coursework. The weightings are as follows:

- 75% written examination
- 25% coursework

#### 17 Implications for learning resources: None.

#### 18 A statement confirming that, as far as can be reasonably anticipated, the curriculum, learning and teaching methods and forms of assessment do not present any non-justifiable disadvantage to students with disabilities.

As far as can be reasonably anticipated, the curriculum, learning and teaching methods and forms of assessment do not present any non-justifiable disadvantage to students with disabilities.

**Statement by the Director of Learning and Teaching:** "I confirm I have been consulted on the above module proposal and have given advice on the correct procedures and required content of module proposals"

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Director of Learning and Teaching

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Date

**Statement by the Head of Department:** "I confirm that the Department has approved the introduction of the module and will be responsible for its resourcing"

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Head of Department

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Date