

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computer Science

Enrolment and programme information

The Bachelor of Science (Honours) (BSc(Hons)) is a one year programme (when studied full time), that requires 120 points.

In your first semester you will enrol in COMPSCI 789A Honours Research Project (15 points) alongside three 15 point taught courses. In your second semester you will enrol in 789B, the second half of your Research Project and a further three 15 point taught courses.

When selecting your taught courses you need to choose at least 4 courses from the Computer Science schedule: BIOSCI 700, COMPSCI 701–711, 715, 720–762, 765, 767, 771–777

Please note that COMPSCI 712, 713, 714, 717, 718, 719, 764 and 769 are reserved for students in other programmes. You will not be able to enrol in these courses.

Not all courses will be offered each year.

You also have the option to take up to two courses from 700 level courses in other subjects related to Computer Science, e.g., Statistics or Information Systems. **Please discuss with the BSc(Hons) adviser before enrolling in out-of- schedule courses to check that they are appropriate for your degree. You may need to apply for an enrolment concession for those courses.**

Most COMPSCI courses are open to everyone in postgraduate Computer Science Programmes (i.e. they do not require a concession request.) However, background knowledge in the subject area is still required to succeed in the course. Many of the technical courses assume that you've studied relevant topics as part of your bachelor's degree. Please check the [Curriculum Catalogue](#) information on the course content and the [recommended preparation](#) for each course. For example, the recommended preparation for COMPSCI 742 is COMPSCI 315 Data Communications Technologies. If you are unsure whether you have the background knowledge required to succeed in a course we advise that you contact the [relevant course coordinator](#) to discuss this.

We also recommend that you take note of the [enrolment deadlines](#). Within the first two weeks of semester you can add and drop courses (as long as there are spaces still available). So if after the first couple of lectures you realise that a course is not appropriate for you, you can switch to a different course.

In all cases we recommend discussing your course of study with the [BSc\(Hons\) Adviser](#)

Please take note of the calendar regulations linked below. Important points are:

- Full-time students must complete the programme within one year. Part-time students within two years (please discuss part-time study with the BSc(Hons) adviser).
- Enrolment in the programme must be continuous, if you need to take a break due to exceptional circumstances you will need to apply for a [suspension](#).
- Students who fail more than two courses (30 points) will not be permitted to continue in the programme.

Other important information:

[Programme Information and Supplementary Guides](#)

Calendar Regulations:

<https://www.calendar.auckland.ac.nz/en/progreg/regulations-science/bschons.html>

<https://www.calendar.auckland.ac.nz/en/genregs/gen-postgrad/bachelors-honours.html>

Enrolment instructions: <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/study/applications-and-admissions/enrolment/undergraduate-enrolment.html>

BSc (Hons) Dissertation: COMPSCI 789 A and B Semester 1/2

This following provides information about the honours dissertation, including how to find a supervisor, enrolling and expectations throughout the academic year. This page also provides some information and links of relevance to honours generally, as well as for Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) students. The orientation sessions for the two programmes are often held jointly.

Structure: This is a compulsory 30-point dissertation course for BSc(Hons) and BAdvSci(Hons) students towards a major in Computer Science. You will enrol in COMPSCI 789A and COMPSCI 789B in consecutive semesters.

This research opportunity will introduce you to self-directed study in a specialised field of Computer Science. You will work closely with an academic member of staff, and develop your skills and knowledge in the agreed topic area. The form of study undertaken will vary widely, depending upon your chosen topic, which may require careful theoretical investigation or a large implementation.

Prerequisites: An excellent academic record and approval from the school required. You cannot take COMPSCI 780 if you enrol in COMPSCI 789.

Assessment: 100% on course assessment - dissertation.

Description: The project consists of supervised independent research or development work on a topic related to Computer Science.

Enrolment: You will need to find a staff member to supervise your dissertation project before you are to enrol in this course. If you are a BSC(Hons) student, you will do this as part of your application to the Programme. If you are a BAdvSci(Hons) student, you will need to do this before your enrolment concession in COMPSCI 789A is approved.

Please upload evidence of approval from your supervisor and the Honours coordinator to the form here:

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/our-research/finding-your-supervisor.html>

Honours coordinator: Prof Jim Warren

- Email: jim@cs.auckland.ac.nz
- Office: CS Building (303S), floor 4, room 303S-483 (note: I work part-time for the University - best to make contact by email)
- Deputy honours coordinator: Dr Marc Vinyals (marc.vinyals@auckland.ac.nz) - for times when Jim is away

Faculty of Science Postgraduate academic services:

- Email: sciencepg@auckland.ac.nz

How to find a supervisor: You're required to find a supervisor for your dissertation. This is a terrific opportunity for getting to work closely with an academic staff member in a way far different from the relationship when you see them as lecturers. We're really passionate about our research and love to talk about it! That said, it can be daunting to figure out who to work with and on what topic. Here's some ways to approach it.

- Check out the [staff Research Profiles](#) - if you search for 'Computer Science', you'll get the whole School, but you can also try more specific keywords. The results link to individual staff profiles that include their research interests and publications.
- Have a look at the [Computer Science research pages](#) - ultimately, these link to the same staff profiles, but staff are grouped under research areas
- If you studied undergraduate Computer Science here at University of Auckland, think back on the courses you found interesting and the lecturers you enjoyed listening to, especially at Stage 3 - ask them about their research
- Email your prospective supervisor with the following information:
 - Why you are contacting them
 - A copy of your academic transcript
 - A proposed area of interest (even if it's very general in your mind at this stage)

Orientation: The orientation is mainly aimed at explaining the requirements and expectations for the Honours Dissertation. However, I will also review requirements and pathways related to the Postgraduate Diploma and Honours. And it provides a chance for us to meet face-to-face, for you to ask questions, and for you to meet your fellow students. The next Orientation will be held Thursday 26 February at noon in the level 4 common area, next to the School of Computer Science office (building 303, room 303.407; 38 Princes St, Auckland). A light lunch will be provided.

These slides describe the expectations for the degree and the dissertation deliverables ([download February 2026 orientation slides](#)).

Submission: You need to submit the following items (see further information about expectations for each deliverable in the orientation slides above):

- **Project Proposal.** Due 5pm on Monday of Week 5 of the semester of your enrolment in COMPSCI789A. The proposal must have your supervisor's signature. Submit as PDF by email to jim@cs.auckland.ac.nz.
- **Seminar presentation.** Due by week 10 of the semester of your enrolment in COMPSCI789B. Arrange time and location with your supervisor who will select the most appropriate venue.
- **Research Diary.** Due 5pm on Monday after the last day of lectures in the semester of your enrolment in COMPSCI789B. Submit the paper copy to Jim's mailbox on 303 Level 4 or by email to jim@cs.auckland.ac.nz.
- **Dissertation.** Due 5pm on the last day of exams in the semester of your enrolment in COMPSCI789B. Submit as a PDF file to Faculty of Science Postgraduate academic services: sciencepg@auckland.ac.nz - it is also recommended to cc the submission to your supervisor and to the honours coordinator

Time for dissertation examination: It can take some time to examine your dissertation - usually about four weeks from submission to posting of the grade. As such, you may not receive your grade in time to attend the upcoming graduation ceremony. This is generally not a problem for on-time completion in semester 2, but can be an issue if you are granted an extension into summer. Also, the timeframe for examination with a semester 1 submission is very tight relative to the Spring graduation deadline - let the honours coordinator and your supervisor know in advance if you are submitting in semester 1 and want to make the Spring graduation.

For postgraduate diploma students interested in research courses. PGDip students normally just take eight regular coursework courses, including the options of 30 points (two of the eight) from approved other disciplines (such as INFOSYS, DIGIHLTH or STATS). However, you are eligible to take either COMPSCI 780 (15-point project) or COMPSCI 691a/b (30-point dissertation). These have expectations similar to the COMPSCI 789a/b 30-point honours dissertation. In particular, however, the requirement is that you have the agreement of a project/dissertation supervisor. Staff are under no obligation to provide such supervision as these are optional pathways in the PGDip. But staff may take an interest in you approach them in a timely fashion with a good project idea relevant to your skills and their research agenda. See staff Research Profile links above.

Relevant links:

- [Academic integrity](#)
- [Postgraduate courses in Computer Science](#) – enter “course:COMPSCI 7” in the search bar
- [Extension, suspensions, deletions and withdrawals](#) - if you need an extension, you apply online via the AS-503 link from here. Note that extensions are for 'exceptional circumstances' only, and entail additional enrolment and fees
- [Guide to Theses and Dissertations](#) - note this is 'over spec' for the 30 point honours dissertation. For instance, we don't require binding, just any readable PDF for the final submission. However, it gives useful ideas, and let's you know what's required if you go on to a Master's or PhD thesis
- [University Calendar](#) – includes [General Regulations – Bachelors Honours Postgraduate Degrees](#) and [General Regulations – Postgraduate Diplomas](#)