Introducing BSc Cognitive Science

Cognitive Science is the study of the mind and how it works to solve everyday tasks such as visual processing, reasoning, memory, problem-solving, language and communication. This programme focuses on both behavioural and computational aspects of cognitive science, giving you the opportunity to learn a range of skills and to explore different ways of studying the mind, from experiments with human participants to building computer simulations. Your courses will combine compulsory and option choices from informatics with a range of options chosen from psychology, linguistics, and philosophy. The programme will teach you mathematical and programming skills as well as a deeper understanding of computation, human mind and behaviour, and the links between natural and artificial intelligence.

**Year 1**
You will be introduced to basic principles of programming, computation and cognitive science, with courses in informatics and a choice of courses from psychology, philosophy and language sciences. You will learn how information can be represented and processed in computational systems, whether artificial (computers) or natural (humans). The year also includes courses in mathematics necessary for all areas of cognitive science. Together these form the foundations of more in-depth study of computation and cognition in future years.

**Year 2**
You will build on Year 1, covering more advanced computational and mathematical methods such as programming and data structures, working with data and statistics, and studying foundations of artificial intelligence. You will also develop further expertise in your chosen area of psychology, philosophy, or language sciences through a range of course options.

**Year 3**
Your studies will become more focused and you will have more choices in selecting specialised courses, according to your own interests, from a range of options in cognitive science. Coursework assignments typically provide you with experience in practical work and independent problem solving, and may involve group work or essay writing. Your exact curriculum depends on your selected courses. Options offered in recent years include courses in computational cognitive science, robotics, language processing, and machine learning, from the School of Informatics, as well as many course options from the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences.

**Year 4**
You will choose from a large number of advanced course options in cognitive science to build a portfolio according to your interests. Year 4 includes an individual honours project where you will learn to develop a viable project starting from a given topic. You will have a variety of choices in selecting your project and a supervisor to guide you.

**Our facilities**
You will be based within the School of Informatics, with lectures, tutorials and classes held in Appleton Tower, which provides purpose-built facilities and dedicated learning and teaching spaces, all located in the University’s Central Area. You will have 24-hour access to computer laboratories and quality software support is available.

**Career Opportunities**
Our graduates have excellent career prospects in IT industry and beyond.

They comfortably secure roles such as software engineer, hardware engineer, app developer, web developer, and programmer but also increasingly: data analyst/scientist or business analyst in the financial sector.

Popular employers include: Google, Facebook, Amazon, IBM, SkyScanner, Intel, ARM, Samsung, NVIDIA, Keysight, RockStar North as well as RBS, JP Morgan, Citigroup.

Other industries and professions that rely heavily on computing systems, including media (e.g. BBC), communications (Ericsson, Huawei), energy (British Gas) and medicine (Canon Medical Systems) are all potential employers for the School of Informatics graduates.

Our school has a record number of startups and spinouts over the last ten years including those set up by our alumni, such as Fanduel, Robotical or PlayerData.

**Contact Details**
www.ed.ac.uk/informatics
Teaching Office: ito@inf.ed.ac.uk
Communications: infcomms@ed.ac.uk