INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMME COMPUTER SCIENCE

Institute of Engineering, Computing and Advanced Manufacturing

Academic Level:	3	**Credits:**	120
UCAS Code:	N/A		
Awarding Body:	University of Cumbria		
Delivered by:	Malvern International		
Delivery Site:	International College – Lancaster Campus		
Programme Length:	Full-Time		
Mode of Delivery:	Face-to-face		
Pattern of Delivery:	Full-Time		
	Total weeks of study:	24	
	Delivery pattern:	2 semesters x 12 weeks each semester	
	Standard semester dates:	Yes	
Programme Webpage:	https://internationalcollege.cumbria.ac.uk/programmes/international-foundation-programme/		

Entry Criteria
The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the Applicant Information pages of the University website for more information. APL, is not accepted for these programmes. Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the above programme webpage.

PROGRAMME AIMS AND OUTCOMES

Programme Aims

By the end of this programme you will be able to:

1. Become equipped with essential academic competencies such as critical thinking, independent learning, and analytical skills, providing a strong foundation for success in higher-level computer science studies.
2. Improve your English language skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, targeting an IELTS equivalent of an overall 6.0 with no element below 5.5 to support effective communication in academic and professional settings within the field of computer science.
3. Familiarise yourself with UK higher education expectations, including study practices, collaborative work, and academic integrity, to support your transition to an undergraduate programme.
4. Provide you with an introduction to core computer science principles, including programming, algorithms, and data structures, preparing you for specialised undergraduate study in computer science and related fields.
5. Enhance your proficiency in using software tools, programming languages, and computational thinking, supporting your ability to engage with modern technology and digital platforms in an academic context.
6. Foster professionalism, effective time management, and self-reflection, helping you to manage your workload, meet deadlines, and evaluate your own progress and development.
7. Equip you with the academic, communication, and computer science-specific skills needed to meet the entry requirements and standards for undergraduate study in computer science and related programmes.

Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After completing 120 credits (FdCert) of study, you will be able to demonstrate:

K1 Demonstrate knowledge of core principles in computer science, including computational thinking, fundamental programming concepts, algorithms and data structures, establishing a foundation for specialised undergraduate study.

K2 Apply analytical and critical thinking skills to interpret and solve computational problems , using logical reasoning and algorithm techniques in theoretical and practical concepts. .

K3 Demonstrate effective research and academic study skills in line with UK Higher Education expectations and practices, including research methodologies, critical reading, academic writing, and adherence to academic integrity principles.

K4 Demonstrate proficiency in English language skills across reading, writing, speaking, and listening, achieving clear and structured communication in both academic and technical contexts, with a target of an IELTS equivalent of overall 6.0 with no element below 5.5.

K5 Recognise and evaluate ethical, cultural and social considerations within computer science, including data privacy, digital citizenship, and responsible use of technology in a global context.

K6: Develop foundational digital literacy skills, including the use of software tools, version control, and collaborative platforms for academic research, technical writing, and presentations in the field of computer science.

Programme Outcomes – Skills and Other Attributes

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After completing 120 credits (FdCert) of study, you will be able to demonstrate:

S1 Develop effective written and spoken communication skills , for academic and technical contexts, demonstrating the ability to explain complex computing concepts clearly, participate in discussions, and produce structured technical reports using appropriate conventions.

S2 Apply problem-solving and computational thinking skills to design, implement and optimisealgorithms using logical reasoning and structured approaches and solve programming challenges effectively. .

S3 Develop teamwork and collaboration skills by contributing to group projects in diverse, multicultural settings, using collaborative software tools and demonstrating interpersonal and professional skills .

S4 Enhance digital literacy and technical proficiency, through practical experience with programming languages, software tools, and digital platforms relevant to academic and professional environments .

S5 Develop effective time management, independent learning, and self-discipline to meet academic deadlines and project requirements, applying structured approaches to personal and professional development.

S6 Demonstrate an awareness of ethical considerations in computer science, including cybersecurity, data privacy, responsible use of AI, and the impact of technology in society, applying these principles in academic and project-based settings.

PROGRAMME FEATURES

Programme Overview

The programme is a one-year preparatory course designed to equip international students with essential academic skills, English language proficiency, and foundational knowledge for undergraduate studies in the UK. This programme combines core computer science modules with academic and research skills, providing a well-rounded foundation for success in higher education.

This programme is ideal for international students who have completed secondary education but do not yet meet the academic or English language requirements for direct entry into UK university programmes. It bridges this gap, helping students develop the technical, analytical, and communicative competencies necessary for undergraduate study in computer science and related fields.

Students will engage in a curriculum that focuses on academic and professional English, digital literacy, computational thinking, and essential computer science concepts. The programme is carefully structured to foster critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and an understanding of cultural and ethical issues in technology, all vital for excelling in UK higher education and professional environments.

Upon successful completion, students are guaranteed a place in a suitable undergraduate programme, enabling a smooth transition into their chosen field of computer science.

Malvern International – International College

Our programme offers a comprehensive blend of English language development and essential skills training through a practice-led, student-centred approach tailored to the demands of computer science. Over the academic year, students will build confidence in using English across both academic and technical contexts while developing critical research, study, and computational skills vital for success in UK higher education. Alongside language enhancement, students will engage with foundational concepts in computer science, fostering the analytical and logical thinking required to approach real-world challenges and academic inquiries in technology.

Students will also acquire essential digital literacy and technical skills, gaining hands-on experience with industry-standard programming languages, software tools, and digital platforms for coding, data analysis, and project management. Exposure to ethical and cultural considerations in technology will further broaden their understanding, preparing them to navigate the multicultural and dynamic environments they will encounter in both academic and professional settings.

This programme ensures that students are well-prepared to transition seamlessly into undergraduate study in computer science, equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in their future academic and professional endeavours.

At admissions, you have selected the following pathway programme:

- BSc (Hons) Computer Science

Programme Structure

The duration of the programme is one academic year. The students will need to complete 120 credits to successfully pass the foundation programme. Each module will have 72 hours of contact time and 128 hours of independent student learning, totalling 200 hours per module.

The structure of the programme is as follows:

- English Language Proficiency for Scientists
- Exploring Research: Foundations for Inquiry
- Mathematics for Scientists
- Introduction to Programming
- Web Development
- Data Structures and Algorithms

Learning and Teaching

Teaching

A variety of blended learning teaching methods will be embedded in the programme to enable students to achieve the learning outcomes and to facilitate their personal and professional development. Methods of teaching and learning will include practical lab sessions, formal lectures, seminars, group work and discussions, tutorials and self-directed study. The teaching and learning will be supported by online asynchronous learning activities accessed via the Virtual Learning Environment. Underpinning the learning and teaching methods will be an enquiry-based learning approach where an exploration of scenarios and real-world problems will be utilised to discuss and develop the students understanding thereby integrating theory into practice.

At Level 3 you typically have around 6 contact hours per week per module, typically consisting of:

- 2 hours of lectures
- 2 hours of seminars
- 2 hours of workshop

Independent Learning

When not attending scheduled learning activities you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study.

Teaching Staff

Teaching staff for this programme will typically have a blend of academic qualifications in the subject area and practical experience. In our pathway programmes, we ensure English language development is integrated with core subject knowledge. Our English for academic purposes and research skills team are applied linguistics professionals with academic experience in teaching English and research skills to international students. Our core subject specialists possess at least a Masters in the field of study and have extensive teaching experience in higher education. Often our subject leads also have extensive professional experience and/or are engaged in active research.

Assessment

Year 0

The programme makes use of both summative and formative assessments to meet the overall learning outcomes at the programme level and the individual learning outcomes at the modular level. The assessment strategy will enable students to integrate their learning and apply it to the academic environment. The assessments will also enable students to demonstrate a variety of skills required for academic autonomy and decision-making within the higher education setting.

Students will be assessed using a variety of methods including portfolios, reflective accounts, case studies, verbal presentations, reports and essays. Formative assessment will be embedded in all modules to allow for monitoring and progression of student learning.

Feedback

Feedback is provided within 20 working-days in either written or oral form.

Graduate Prospects

The International Foundation Programme in Computer Science is designed to support your progression into undergraduate study and to lay the early foundations for academic and professional development within the computing and technology sectors.

Throughout the programme, you will begin developing key academic and technical skills essential for success in higher education. These include written and spoken communication, independent study, research techniques, time management, and foundational computing knowledge such as programming, algorithms, and digital literacy.

You will also gain experience using industry-standard tools and platforms, develop your problem-solving and critical thinking abilities, and begin exploring ethical and global issues within the context of computing. These skills will prepare you to enter undergraduate study with confidence and a strong foundation for future learning.

As part of your development, you will be introduced to the Career Ahead Award, the University of Cumbria's online employability programme. The award helps you reflect on your skills, track your experiences, and begin planning for your future academic and career goals. Career Ahead focuses on three key areas:

- Skills – identifying and reflecting on your developing academic and personal skills
- Experience – recording your learning, activities, and contributions throughout the year
- Career Planning – starting to consider your long-term academic and professional ambitions

You will also have access to the University's Careers and Employability Service, which provides further support through workshops, 1:1 guidance, and resources throughout your time at Cumbria.

Upon successful completion of the Foundation Year, you will be well-prepared to enter undergraduate study in computer science or a related discipline, with a growing awareness of the academic and professional pathways available to you.

MODULES

Year 1			
Code	**Title**	**Credits**	**Status**
UCIC3013	English Language Development and Proficiency	20	Compulsory
UCIC3014	Exploring Research: Foundations for Inquiry	20	Compulsory
UCIC3015	Foundations of Mathematics	20	Compulsory
UCIC3016	Introduction to Programming	20	Compulsory
UCIC3017	Web Development	20	Compulsory
UCIC3018	Data Structures and Algorithms	20	Compulsory
Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive an International Foundation Certificate (FdCert) in Computer Science			

Additional Module Information
- Students must pass 120 credits in order to progress to the next level of studies. - Students must complete all the modules relevant to the selected pathway at the point of admission. There are no optional modules available to students at this level.

Key to Module Statuses	
Compulsory modules	Must be taken although it may be possible to compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed).

Timetables
Timetables are normally available during Welcome Week. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure timetables are as student-friendly as possible, scheduled learning can take place on any day of the week. Our Timetabling team work hard to ensure that timetables are available to students as far in advance as possible, however, there may be occasional exceptions such as in the case of teaching which falls outside of the usual academic calendar. The University of Cumbria academic calendar runs from July to July, so timetabling information for programmes which include teaching sessions in August may not be published until closer to the August delivery.

All classes will be delivered in the centre with face-to-face teaching. There is no possibility for online delivery mode with this programme.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Support

Student Support Services

The Student Enquiry Point is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- Careers and Employability
- Chaplaincy for faith and spiritual wellbeing
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Digital Skills
- Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD)
- International Student Support
- Library
- Money Matters
- Safeguarding
- Skills@Cumbria
- Sports and Fitness Facilities
- University Student Accommodation

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at www.ucsu.me

You can email at any time at studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk

Induction

Induction takes place during Welcome Week, prior to the official start of teaching. All foundation year students will participate in a shared induction programme with international college and University events, giving you the opportunity to meet students from your subject area as well as those from other foundation pathways. In addition, you will also take part in programme-specific induction activities, where you'll be introduced to your academic team**,** learn more about your modules and assessment types, and get to know the expectation of your chosen programme.

Throughout Welcome Week, you will take part in a range of activities designed to:

- Build a strong sense of community with your classmates
- Help you navigate life at the University

- Introduce you to the academic support and wellbeing services available
- Prepare you for the transition into UK higher education

You will be shown how to access and use our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Blackboard, and how to submit your assessments using Turnitin.

During your first week of teaching, you will be assigned a Personal Tutor (PT). Your PT will support you throughout the Foundation Year, providing academic guidance and helping you settle into university study. In addition, UCIC students benefit from dedicated support from the Student Services Team. This enhanced induction and support structure is specifically designed to ensure a successful transition to your follow-on course at the University of Cumbria.

Transitioning to Level 4: When you progress to your main degree programme, you will already have taken part in a Foundation Year induction. However, it is important that you also engage with your Level 4 induction activities, which are designed to help you meet your new cohort, understand your programme structure, and feel fully integrated into your academic department.

Personal Tutor

All students on this programme are assigned a Personal Tutor (PT) from the International College academic team at the beginning of their Foundation Year. The Personal Tutor provides structured academic and pastoral support, helping students to engage with their studies, reflect on their progress, and access appropriate services when needed.

Personal Tutors:

- Offer one-to-one academic guidance
- Monitor student engagement and progress using tools such as the Student Progress Tracker (SPT)
- Support students in managing challenges that may impact their academic performance
- Refer students to relevant support services when necessary

The International College's Academic Development Policy underpins the delivery of personal tutoring through regular progress reviews, Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) where appropriate, and coordinated support from student services.

Upon successful completion of the Foundation Year, students progressing to Level 4 will be assigned a new Personal Tutor within their academic department at the University of Cumbria, in line with the University's Personal Tutoring Policy. This tutor will support students through the remainder of their undergraduate studies, offering discipline-specific academic advice and ongoing developmental support.

Library Services and Academic Skills

The Library home page can be accessed here: https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning.
Module leaders will collaborate with Library Services to ensure that your online reading and resource lists are current and items are available via the library discovery tool OneSearch. In order to maximise access, availability and usefulness, ebooks and electronic journal titles will, in most cases, be prioritised. You can access a wide range of electronic and print content using OneSearch and you can find out more about key texts, databases and journals for your subject by accessing the library's subject resources webpages. Where appropriate, module reading and resource lists will be made available to you electronically on Blackboard.

Each campus library has a dedicated webpage. Check out local information about opening hours, reserving books, using self-service kiosks, printing and photocopying, booking study spaces and more. https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Libraries/
An Ask a Librarian service runs from 17:00 - 09:00 weekdays and round the clock on weekends and holidays. This means you can get professional help using about library services, finding information, referencing and searching, even when the library is closed. https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Libraries/Ask/

The Skills@Cumbria service can help support your academic, library and digital skills and success throughout your programme. It includes a suite of online self-help resources accessible 24/7 via the University's website and Blackboard site.

The Student Enquiry Point is a simple way to contact Library and Skills@Cumbria Services. Additional skills support for students is offered via:

- Appointments
- Learn Well at Cumbria
- Study from Home Webpage
- Digital Capabilities and LinkedIn Learning Pathways

Further support and guidance, including EDI and Safeguarding: We are an inclusive community, committed to supporting and learning from each other, find out more about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Depending on the nature of your course, you may well already know about or be learning about safeguarding in a professional context and to find out about the University of Cumbria's safeguarding policy and procedures visit: Safeguarding.

Student Voice
As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.
The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with

academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at www.ucsu.me.
You can email at any time on studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk.

IT and Technical Support

Technology is an invaluable asset when it comes to studying, so it's important you know how to make the most out of the excellent IT facilities we have available. Our aim is to ensure you can access university electronic resources from anywhere or any device, whether on or off campus. The Student Hub is your one-stop gateway to all University systems, Outlook email, and OneDrive.
Whether you consider yourself a computer expert or you're not confident about your IT skills, we're always around to ensure you get the level of support you need. We have a wealth of information and support available on the IT Services website and have a dedicated IT Service Desk where you can talk to someone by phone or log your question online from anywhere, at any time.

University Cumbria Students' Union (UCSU) Student Support

UCSU offers a free, independent and confidential advice service to all students. They can help with things like academic appeals, extenuating circumstances or if you're considering a formal complaint. UCSU are also on hand to represent you in any formal meetings, for example in malpractice panels or fitness to practice meetings. Appointments are telephone based and can be booked at www.ucsu.me/support.

Course Costs

Tuition Fees

Course fees can be found at https://internationalcollege.cumbria.ac.uk/programmes/international-foundation-programme/

Additional Costs

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- A laptop equipped to run software programs

Exceptions to the Academic Regulations

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes.

External and Internal Benchmarks

All programme and assessment regulations, policies and procedures are aligned with The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ): The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (qaa.ac.uk)

The programme considered the Subject Benchmark statements in QAA Subject Benchmark: Computer Science (2022) in the development of this foundation course.

Quality Assurance Mechanisms:

Quality assurance is undertaken as close as possible to the point of delivery. There is a route from the module level to course levels so that issues can be addressed and delivery enhanced in the appropriate arena.

Externality is guaranteed via external examiner reports who make judgements on the quality and standards of its provision.

Students can comment on their modules and courses in various ways including module evaluations, and course committees.

- Student evaluations and feedback
- Annual programme monitoring reports
- External examiners' reports and responses to reports
- Periodic teaching and learning review
- Moderation and standardisation processes
- Internal boards
- Internal and external stakeholder feedback
- Continuous evaluation of recruitment and retention data, progression and achievement data, student destination data, and data relating to student support.
- UoC Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
- UoC Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes

Disclaimer
This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery modes, delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University or Malvern International to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage.

Date of Programme Specification Production	09/04/2025
Date Programme Specification was last updated	