



General issues on studying Computer Science

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Outline

- Important guides and links
- Teaching periods
- Ways of completing a course, grading
- Registration for courses
- Library
- Computing facilities
- Planning of studies
- Language studies



Important guides and links

- The university-level orientation page
<http://www.helsinki.fi/orientation/>
 - The Orientation Handbook
- The main page of the Department of Computer Science
<http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/en>
 - Especially the sub-page of studies
<http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/en/studies>
- Study guide
- Teaching programme
- Computing Facilities at the Department of Computer Science
<http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/en/compfac/>



Teaching periods

- 4 periods (7 weeks teaching + one exam week)
 - I Period: September 1 - October 19 (exams: 20.10-24.10)
 - II Period: October 28 - December 14 (exams: 15.12-19.12)
 - III Period: January 12 - March 1 (exams: 2.3-6.3)
 - IV Period: March 9 - May 3 (exams: 4.5-7.5)
- + two weeks for intensive period in May



Completing a course

- Two ways
 - Lecture course
 - Separate exam

- Both require advance registration



Lecture courses

- Usually 4-10 credits
- Consist of
 - lectures
 - weekly exercises
 - sometimes a project work
 - one or two course exams (2.5 hours); some courses have also a renewal exam
- Always check details from the course homepage!
- If you want the exam questions in English, contact the examiner two weeks before the exam.



Separate exams

- Independent of the lecture courses
- Requirements are based on the material in the course description
- Duration 3.5 hours
- Schedule for separate exams can be found at the studies web page <http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/en/studies>
- If you want the exam questions in English, contact the examiner two weeks before the exam.



Grading

- The grading scale is divided into six steps (0-5)
- To gain the lowest passing grade, 1/5, a student usually needs to gain half of the maximum points
- 5/6 of the maximum points usually gives grade 5/5



Intermediate studies project (for exchange students)

- In the Bachelor's degree 3 individual projects
 - The Programming project
 - The Database application
 - The Data Structures project
- Each project course lasts 6 weeks
- Registration for the project course is binding
- *Projects at master's degree have more variety in their formats*



Registration for courses

- Registration system at the Department of Computer Science <http://ilmo.cs.helsinki.fi>
- Most other departments use OODI for registrations
- For separate and renewal (=make-up) exams you should register about two weeks before the exam.
- If you want the exam questions in English, contact the examiner two weeks before the exam.
- *Some other disciplines use f.e. WebOODI for registration*



Kumpula Science Library

- The collections contain material in the fields of physical sciences, geology, chemistry, geography, mathematics and statistics, computer science and seismology.
- Web page: <http://www.helsinki.fi/library/kumpula>
- Either of the following two cards can be used as a library card:
 - HELKA card
 - UniCard or Lyyra card
- **Library is under renovation at the moment**



Computing facilities

1. The main university account by IT Department (AD)
 - all university-level services (oodi, oodle, flamma)
 - log in to the computers
 2. The Computer Science Department system (cs),
 - self-activated (in the computing tools course)
 - second mail box
 - access to ukko cluster and some other departmental servers
- User account manager at the CS department: Pekka Niklander, room A230, luvat@cs.helsinki.fi



Computing facilities at the department

- Workstations in
 - computer class rooms B221, BK107, CK110, DK108, and DK110, and
 - halls C202 and D202
- Each workstation in the computer classrooms/halls has 2 operating systems:
 - Cubbli (Ubuntu based)
 - Windows

- OR only MacOS (in halls C202 and D202)



Tour at the Department

- Exactum floor plans
- <http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/contact/exactum-kartat.html>
- (Old page, some minor changes to the room organizations)



Planning of studies

- The size of the MSc degree is 120 credits and the optimal study time 2 years
 - 2 years = 4 terms
 - About $120/4 = 30$ credits per term

- A course that yields 4 credits requires, for example, a minimum of about 100 hours of work.



Planning of studies

- The basic planning rule:
 - schedule appr. 2 hours of independent work per every classroom or exercise hour.
- The number of lectures and other contact teaching per course (and credit) varies
 - If there are uncommonly few teaching hours in relation to the number of credits a course yields, the portion of independent work is even larger than described above.



Courses for the first period

- **ALL: Computing tools for CS studies**
 - Introduction to the department environment and Linux
 - hands-on course in paja, no lectures
 - (Can be expanded to 4cr, by doing the optional ICT-driving license, obligatory only for our bachelors)
- **Masters:**
 - Scientific writing for MSc in computer science
 - Academic Writing for ... (few alternative courses)



Language studies

- Finnish language course and exams

<http://www.helsinki.fi/fus/studying/finnishforinternationalstudents.html>

- Finnish Language Courses for International Degree Students
- Finnish Language Courses for Exchange Students

- Language centre

<http://www.helsinki.fi/kksc/english/index.html>

- Course list available in WebOODI