

What is online study?

Our innovative online programme enables you to top-up your two year diploma to a bachelors degree (BSc with honours) without the need to attend the University. Our online degrees are based on long standing on-campus equivalents, and share the same academic quality standards. This means your award should be widely recognized internationally.

Just as on campus, you study as a group, with fixed start times and assessment deadlines. As an online student, a major difference is that there is no timetable; you can study when it suits you best. Also you are not required to attend examinations; all assessment is by coursework or online tests.

You will just need access to a suitable computer and the Internet.

Whom is it designed for?

Those with a two year diploma in Computing, Information Technology or similar, looking to top-up to a UK honours degree and open up graduate career opportunities. You will need 240 credit points from a BTEC Higher National Diploma (HND), Foundation Degree from the UK, Associate Degree or IMIS Higher Diploma in a relevant subject.

About the online Bachelors Degrees

We offer a **choice of two degree titles** depending on your background; see the box on the right. On successful completion, you will be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science with honours from the University of Hertfordshire.

To be awarded the bachelors degree you need to complete 120 credit points made up of three taught 30 credit modules (90 credits) and a 30 credit project.

For the *BSc Computer Science* you can choose any of the taught modules, providing you have the necessary background by means of prior learning or experience. Thus you choose **three electives** (options) For the *BSc Information Systems*, the same applies except that one module, *Strategic Information Systems Planning and Management* is **mandatory** and therefore there are **two electives**.

To enhance your understanding of the taught modules, you complete your studies with a **project** in Computer Science or Information Systems under the guidance of an experienced individual supervisor. Alternatively you can take the *e-Learning Applications* project module; see the Module Details section.

Also available

You can simply take individual modules, perhaps as part of your Continuing Professional Development (CPD). If you subsequently register for the degree course, your existing credit points will contribute (subject to certain conditions).

Once you have successfully completed the BSc, you can apply to join our masters programme, with a wide choice of specialist awards.

Choice of Two Degrees

Bachelor of Science with Honours

BSc (Honours) Computer Science

BSc (Honours) Information Systems

Key Advantages

Study online to top-up your two year diploma to an honours degree in computer science or information systems

- o choice of two degree titles, depending on your background
- o choice of modules
- o all tuition in English

Gain an internationally recognized bachelor's degree with high quality standards

- o same academic standards as our on-campus degrees
- o highly regarded and well-established computer science department with a strong RAE rating and extensive links with business and employers
- o full support from well-qualified tutors

Complete your top-up in as little as one year full-time, or flexibly over a longer period

- o fit your study in around your other commitments such as home or work, yet become part of a supportive group
- o two intakes per year

Invest in your career

- o avoid unnecessary costs with our inclusive fees, payment by module, and no need for travel or accommodation
- o with a BSc (honours) degree, graduate level careers are open to you, and there are opportunities for you to progress to our online masters programme

Online Study with UH

how it works

The online programme is very flexible. You can study full-time or part-time, simply by varying the number of modules you take at a time. You can also switch from one to the other, or you can take a break.

There are no set hours so you can study when and where you want, fitting in with your other commitments such as work or family.

However, there are two fixed start dates per year and there are fixed deadlines for assignments. All assessment is through coursework; some modules may also use online testing. You study as part of a mutually supportive group, often from many different countries.

This approach means that you combine the freedom of distance learning with the motivation and community spirit of conventional study.

You will be using *Studynet*, the University's state-of-the-art Virtual Learning Environment, to access all course materials, to receive and submit all assignments, and to communicate with staff and other students. You will need access to a suitable PC or Mac with a good Internet connection, preferably broadband.

Our materials exploit online technologies to provide faster, more effective communication and to deliver a much richer learning experience.

Tutored e-Learning: our blended approach

You can apply to the University, from anywhere in the world and, if accepted, you will study directly with us.

Alternatively, in certain locations, we also offer our innovative Tutored e-Learning approach. This combines the advantages of gaining an internationally recognized degree with those of studying at a local centre.

With Tutored e-Learning, the University works with carefully chosen and validated local universities, colleges or training centres in a partnership. The University provides quality materials and assessment; the support partner takes care of the local arrangements and provides additional services. Most of your studying will still be carried out independently.

Start dates and rates of study

There are two starts per year: in September and February. Each 30 credit taught module takes approximately 22 weeks to complete followed by a short gap. By studying two modules at a time, the course can be completed in under a year. By reducing this rate to one module at a time or taking a break, you can extend the course over a longer period.

Be aware that you should plan a commitment of at least 15 hours a week per 30 credit module, depending on your background and experience.

Entry requirements

- o You should have completed 240 credits from a BTEC Higher National Diploma (HND), a UK Foundation Degree, an Associate Degree, an IMIS Higher Diploma, or any equivalent recognized "two year post school" qualification. See our website for a fuller list of suitable qualifications.
- o The subject for your qualification should be primarily computing-related, for example Computer Studies, Information Systems, or IT.
- o If your first language is not English, you must satisfy the University's requirement for this programme, i.e. a minimum IELTS score of 6.0, or TOEFL 550 (213 CBT).

If you are not sure whether you meet these requirements, you should simply apply and your individual case will be carefully considered by an admissions tutor. There is no application fee.

The University provides:

- o all the online teaching and learning content
- o all the support material e.g. text books, software
- o access to learning resources such as online books and journals
- o all the assessment and marking
- o project supervision
- o group discussion board and individual access to University tutors (except with Tutored e-Learning)

With Tutored e-Learning the Support Partner typically provides:

- o supplementary tuition, e.g. to relate the course material to local practice
- o timetabled classes (e.g. 1-2 hrs/week) and/or local discussion boards
- o computer facilities, e.g. PCs, printers, broadband
- o graduate career support

Typical Study Patterns

Full-time over one year

each period, you take 2x 30 credit modules

Year

		Period		
1	1	30	30	taught modules
	2	30	30	

Flexible, e.g. part-time over two years

each period, you take 1x 30 credit module

Year

		Period		
1	1	30		taught module
	2	30		
	3	30		
2	4	30		project

OR you can take a break between modules

Module Details (all modules are 30 credits, level 3)

Business Intelligence

You will study the information systems that support decision making, the role they play in supporting business processes, and their impact on the organisation. You will learn how to design and implement decision support and expert systems, and how to make an appropriate choice between them.

Computer Network Protocols and Architectures

This module gives you an opportunity to reappraise the fundamental principles of computer networks and to explore their internal architectures. You will study the ways in which they can be used and how network applications may be constructed.

Databases

This module covers the principles and techniques needed to design moderately complex relational database systems and provides you with practical experience of their development, using a DBMS such as Oracle® to create and query a database.

You will develop skills to design, implement and query a typical relational OLTP (on-line transaction processing database), using appropriate techniques and notations.

Further Object-Oriented Development

This module develops your understanding of object-oriented technology in the analysis, design and implementation of software systems. It explores how concepts such as abstraction, encapsulation and inheritance can improve software quality and how standard architectures support the reuse of software components and distribution across multiple hosts. You will gain practical experience of a range of techniques and use a variety of industry-standard tools.

Principles and Applications of Web Services

This module introduces the fundamental architectures of web services and the protocols and standards that underpin them. You will study the strengths and weaknesses of alternative technologies and use a range of software tools to construct web-based applications and services.

Quantum Computing

Quantum Information Processing is an extremely active research area exploiting fundamental quantum phenomena in new applications from computation, secure data communication and information processing. The module is theoretical, exploring concepts and applications with an emphasis on Quantum Computing (QC).

Strategic Information Systems Planning and Management

In this module, you will learn to appreciate the need for a corporate information strategy and the contribution that effective management of information, systems and technology makes to competitive success. You will learn to evaluate current methods and techniques used to develop business and information strategies and to align the two.

Computer Science Project Information Systems Project

The Project gives you the opportunity to extend and deepen your knowledge of Computer Science or Information Systems.

For your project, typically you will design and develop a substantial piece of practical work. You will also write an academic project report describing your work

You plan, manage and evaluate the project yourself under the guidance of an individual project tutor.

e-Learning Applications Project

This module allows you to conduct a practical project in the domain of e-learning. As part of the project, you will develop an understanding of the context within which e-learning applications are used, and what are the implications of this to IT professionals involved in the design and development of such applications.

For your project, you will design and develop a substantial piece of practical work together with an academic project report describing your work

You plan, manage and evaluate the project yourself under the guidance of an assigned member of the module team.

The e-Learning Applications Project is taken as an alternative to the Computer Science of Information Systems Project. You gain the same project experience but delivered in a different way. As the name suggests, the application area of the project is defined, there is more structure, and there is more guidance as a group.

Note: *all modules are offered in any one year subject to demand*

University of Hertfordshire

why study with us

The University

We are one of the UK's leading business-facing universities, with over 23,000 students on two campuses in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, only 30km from the centre of London, and with excellent transport links. Hatfield and the surrounding area are a centre of high-tech industry in particular for IT, aerospace and pharmaceuticals.

The University has excellent facilities including Learning Resource Centres with 2,900 study places open 24/7, a £15m Sports Village, and accommodation for 3,700 students on-campus.

School of Computer Science

The School of Computer Science has provided undergraduate and postgraduate courses for more than 40 years and more recently has invested heavily in online materials for distance learning.

We have approximately 50 teaching staff with 5 full professors. There are more than 1,500 students in the department including 600 currently studying on our innovative online degree courses.

In the last Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008, over half the research outputs in Computer Science at UH were rated as world-leading or internationally excellent.

The research interests of the department include adaptive systems (including robotics), algorithms, biological and neural computation, teaching and learning, and software engineering.

Next Steps

want to know more?

Online Programme Fees

Online fees are different from the standard University postgraduate fees. Please visit go.herts.ac.uk/csonline for details. Our online fees are charged per module taken, in advance.

The fee includes full support from well-qualified tutors, all assessment, all materials (online, textbooks, software), and access to learning resources such as online books and journals.

How to Apply

For the online programme, you should apply directly to the School of Computer Science. See go.herts.ac.uk/csonline for further information or email csonline@herts.ac.uk for the application form.

You will need to provide two academic references or an academic one plus another from your current work. You will also need to provide copies of your qualifications, e.g. transcripts.

If Tutored e-Learning is offered in your area, then you should apply via the Support Partner.

More information

For more information:

- o about the course,
- o about the individual modules,
- o start dates and application deadlines,
- o a list of Tutored e-Learning Support Partners

Or to take the free trial of our sample material ...

visit: go.herts.ac.uk/csonline

or

email: CSonline@herts.ac.uk

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This Course Prospectus

This prospectus is available as a printed document and, in an extended form, as a downloadable pdf; with an FAQ and more details about modules.