

# Accreditation of Degrees in the School of Computer Science 2003-2012

## Introduction

Accreditation is a complex topic. *The professional societies which provide accreditation are the ultimate authority.* For the School of Computer Science, these are the British Computer Society (BCS) and the Institute of Engineering Technology (IET), formerly the Institute of Electrical Engineering (IEE).

Accreditation of a university degree programme has two possible outcomes for a graduate of the programme:

1. It may provide full or partial exemption from the *educational* requirements for membership of the professional society, which would otherwise have to be met in some other way, e.g. by taking examinations set by the society.
2. It may provide full or partial exemption from the *educational* requirements for 'Chartered status'. As of the date this was written, only the BCS offers 'Chartered Information Technology Practitioner' (CITP) status, although there are plans to allow other bodies to award it. Both the BCS and IET, in common with all other professional bodies which are members of the Engineering Council, offer 'Chartered Engineer' (CEng) status.

Note that in addition to educational requirements, there are other requirements, e.g. having the appropriate employment experience and paying the required fees.

If your degree is not accredited, this does not mean that it will not be accepted by a professional society, since they have mechanisms for considering the educational achievements of individuals. However, this will usually take longer and incur an extra cost.

## Possible Accreditation Outcomes

The possible accreditation outcomes applying to the period covered by the summary are listed below. The following section then explains which outcomes apply to each degree programme.

Partial Exemption	Exemption from part of the educational requirements for membership of the professional society. Used up to 2007 by the BCS only.
Exemption	Exemption from all of the educational requirements for membership of the professional society. Used up to 2007 by the BCS only.
Partial CITP	Exemption from part of the educational requirements for the award of Chartered Information Technology Practitioner. Implies exemption from parts of the educational requirements for membership of the British Computer Society. Used from 2008 onwards by the BCS only.
CITP	Exemption from all of the educational requirements for the award of Chartered Information Technology Practitioner. Implies exemption from all of the educational requirements for membership of the British Computer Society. Used from 2008 onwards by the BCS only.
Partial CEng	Exemption from part of the educational requirements for the award of Chartered Engineer (the extra requirements are effectively equivalent to a Masters degree). For the IET(IEE), this includes membership exemption.
CEng	Exemption from all of the educational requirements for the award of Chartered Engineer. For the IET(IEE), this includes membership exemption.

## Accreditation Status by Degree Programme and Entry Year

The BCS and IET renew their accreditation every five years. The precise requirements and outcomes typically change slightly for each such period, which is why they are listed separately in the tables below. *It is never possible to guarantee in advance that a degree programme will be accredited since this is determined by the professional society, not the School.*

Accreditation applies to the **entry** year, not the graduation year. See the fuller explanation of Accreditation Outcomes above.

In all cases, students must have undertaken a practical (not purely report-based) final year project. If it was an option in their programme, students must have taken Communication Skills and Professional Issues.

### BSc in Artificial Intelligence & Computer Science (with an Industrial Year)

<i>Entry Year</i>	<i>BCS</i>
2003-2007	Exemption, Partial CEng
2008-2012	CITP

### BSc in Computer Science (with an Industrial Year), BSc in Computer Science with Study Abroad

<i>Entry Year</i>	<i>BCS</i>
2003-2007	Exemption, Partial CEng
2008-2012	CITP, Partial CEng

### BSc in Computer Science with Business Management (with an Industrial Year)

Commenced entry Academic Year 2004.

<i>Entry Year</i>	<i>BCS</i>
2004-2007	Exemption, Partial CEng
2008-2012	CITP, Partial CEng

### BSc in Computer Science/Software Engineering with Business Studies

Last entry Academic Year 2003.

<i>Entry Year</i>	<i>BCS</i>	<i>IET</i>
2003	Exemption, Partial CEng	Partial CEng (must have taken Maths & Logic A & B)

### BEng in Computer Science/Software Engineering (with an Industrial Year)

Commenced entry Academic Year 2001, but 2000 entrants to the BSc in Computer Science/Software Engineering were allowed to transfer to the second year. See the note at the end of this document for 2000-2002 entrants.

Last entry Academic Year 2010.

<i>Entry Year</i>	<i>BCS</i>	<i>IET</i>
2003-2007	Exemption, Partial CEng	Partial CEng
2008-2012	CITP, Partial CEng	Partial CEng

### MEng in Computer Science/Software Engineering (with an Industrial Year)

Commenced entry Academic Year 2001, but 2000 entrants to the BSc in Computer Science/Software Engineering were allowed to transfer to the second year. See the note at the end of this document for 2000-2002 entrants.

<i>Entry Year</i>	<i>BCS</i>	<i>IET</i>
2003-2007	Exemption, CEng	CEng

2008-2012            CITP, CEng                            CEng

### **Joint Honours degrees**

Accreditation of Joint Honours degrees including Computer Science depends on the precise options taken. Students must have taken the final year project, which must be of a practical nature, and must have taken the Communication Skills and Professional Issues module.

Under these circumstances, students should be entitled to Partial Exemption from the educational requirements for membership of the BCS up to the 2007 entry, and Partial Exemption from the educational requirements for CITP status from the 2008 entry onwards.

### **MSc in Computer Science**

<i>Entry Year</i>	<i>BCS</i>
2003-2007	Partial Exemption
2008-2012	None – see below

In 2008, the BCS ceased to offer accreditation to ‘generalist’ or ‘conversion’ Master programmes. It appears that this may be offered again in future, but the School’s programme is not currently accredited.

### **Other MSc Programmes**

‘Specialist’ or ‘advanced’ MSc programmes are intended for students who have already met the undergraduate requirements for the BCS or the IET. They can be accredited only as meeting the ‘further learning’ requirements needed to turn ‘Partial CEng’ into ‘CEng’.

The School has so far not sought this level of accreditation. However, graduates of the School’s MSc programmes (other than the MSc in Computer Science) who already meet the requirements for ‘Partial CEng’ may be able to apply individually for full ‘CEng’ on the basis of their MSc.

### **2000-2002 entrants to the BEng or MEng in Computer Science/Software Engineering**

Only the IET back-dated its accreditation of the BEng and MEng in Computer Science/Software Engineering to before the joint BCS/IET visit in 2003. Students who entered these two programmes in 2000-2002 and who seek CEng status should do so via the IET. Once acquired, the School has been advised that it can be transferred to the BCS.

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