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
  - Especially the sub-page of studies

- Study guide

- Teaching programme

- Computing Facilities at the Department of Computer Science
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
- If you want the exam questions in English, contact the examiner two weeks before the exam.
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](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 diciplines use f.e. WebOODI for registration*
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

www.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

(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
    - Course list available in WebOODI