Programme Specification

MSc Mobile Communications and Smart Networking (2020-21)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of Award	Mobile Communications and Smart Networking
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education
	Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	N/A
Programme Code	8289
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	Mohammed El-Hajjar (meh1r11)
Pathway Lead	

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The programme of MSc Mobile Communications and Smart Networking has been designed to equip students with both the systematic knowledge and the essential training towards engineering design and independent research in the field of intelligent mobile communications and networking. It has been structured by providing a gradually increasing grade of challenge for all abilities, while also allowing the most talented students to conduct cutting edge research. Following a number of compulsory modules to ensure that you are exposed to the key topics of all the areas in mobile communications and networking, the programme endeavours to maximise your degrees of freedom for learning by allowing you to tailor the structure to suit your own interests.

This one year programme prepares you to become a capable mobile communications and networking engineer, building core areas of expertise, from understanding the fundamentals of wireless transmission, networking and coding as well as signal processing to building wireless transceivers and designing and analysing intelligent wireless networks. The key strength of this programme is that we place an emphasis on fundamental concepts and how they relate to recent advances in mobile communications and network design and we use real-world examples to emphasise the relevance and importance of these concepts.

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the scientific and technological principles of intelligent mobile communications and networking, employ skills to analyse the techniques for mobile communications and to evaluate and compare the performance of various wireless communication systems, be capable of exploiting knowledge for design and carrying out in-depth research, and be able to acquire new knowledge through critical reading of scientific and technical books and

research papers.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles

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Learning and teaching
While some modules in this programme are primarily taught using lectures, some other courses are taught using a combination of lectures, small group teaching, directed reading and assignments. Furthermore, some courses are entirely coursework based. Following the taught part of the course, you will undertake an individual project.

Throughout the programme, there is a heavy emphasis on private study and practice, with the support by tutorials, laboratories, and supervision of individual and group projects.

Assessment
The programme uses both formative and summative assessments. Depending on the specific structures of the individual modules, the assessment methods may include written examinations, coursework and coursework reports, progress reports, oral presentation, and dissertation.

Special Features of the programme

Our modules use a variety of innovative teaching and assessment methods, including written examinations, practical laboratories, coursework, group-based learning, group-work, oral presentation and dissertation. Below are some examples of what you'll be able to do.

Next Generation Network System design and analysis

During the second semester, you will be exposed to advanced topics in wireless systems and network design, including multimedia communications, future wireless techniques as well as machine learning for wireless communications, with focus on the technologies proposed for the next generation mobile standard, namely the 5G.

Group Design Project

Transceiver System Design: System and major component-level (filter, amplifier, mixer) design from a requirement specification of a 2.4GHz superhet transceiver, including Matlab code for modulation, demodulation, bit timing recovery and carrier synchronisation.

Group-Based Learning

Each group with a group leader includes 5-6 students, who work on similar problems from coursework. The group members meet regularly about ones or twice per week to exchange knowledge and to discuss the problems they meet during their individual study.

Oral Presentation

Each student gives a presentation of about 8-10 minutes to show her/his investigation on a specific studying task. The assessment of a presentation is based on the design of slides, quality of presentation, knowledge and understanding, critical analysis and comparison, results, etc.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our Disclaimer to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

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Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to enable you to:

1) Develop original ideas and solve complex problems in new or unfamiliar environments, based on advanced knowledge of the principles and methodologies of mobile communications and networking
2) Integrate knowledge and handle complexity in this area of electronic engineering, formulating sound judgements with incomplete or limited data
3) Communicate your conclusions and the underpinning knowledge and rationale clearly and unambiguously to specialist and non-specialist audiences
4) Develop your independent learning skills as required for continued professional development

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

A1.   The scientific and engineering principles underpinning mobile communications and smart networking
A2.   Advanced concepts in specialist areas of mobile communications and networking, such as transceiver design, advanced modulation techniques and routing design
A3.   Techniques, technologies and tools used in these areas
A4.   Methods of design, analysis and evaluation used in these areas
A5.   Applicable methods of research and enquiry

Teaching and Learning Methods

A1-A5: Most modules consist of a combination of lectures, small group teaching, practical work, directed reading and coursework assignments. At the end of the taught part of the programme you will undertake an individual project associated with a research group. Small group teaching, including all practical work, and the individual project accommodate different learning styles. One-on-one tutorials can support full- class lectures, when required.

Assessment Methods

Testing of the knowledge base is through a combination of unseen written examinations and assessed coursework in the form of problem solving exercises, laboratory reports with literature review components, design exercises, and individual and small-group projects.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

B1.   Specify, design and evaluate transmitter and receiver technologies with attention to a wide range of outcomes, including technical, practical, efficiency and security
B2.   Model and simulate the behaviour of wireless communication channels and parts of wireless devices at the appropriate level of detail
B3.   Critically analyse and compare the performance of various technical options for mobile networks combined with intelligent processing for improved performance and reduced complexity
B4.   Find, read, understand and explain literature related to advanced and specialised areas of mobile communications and smart networking, including scientific publications, industrial documentation, standards, ethical, legal and environmental guidance
B5.   Plan and manage a research project involving an advanced and specialised aspect of mobile communications and smart networking, using appropriate state of the art techniques, technologies and/or tools

Teaching and Learning Methods

B1-B4: Most modules consist of a combination of lectures, small group teaching, and practical work including advanced design and analysis tools, directed reading and coursework assignments, which can include a literature review.
B4, B5: The Project Preparation module and the Individual Project itself concern the formulation of a research project. Small group teaching, including all practical work, and the individual project accommodate different learning styles. One-on-one tutorials can support full-class lectures, when required.

Assessment Methods

B1-B5: Testing of the subject specific intellectual and research skills is through a combination of unseen written examinations and assessed coursework in the form of problem solving exercises, laboratory reports with literature review components, design exercises, and individual and small-group projects.
B4: The Project Preparation module and the dissertation from the MSc Project include a significant literature survey and peer review, and have assessment criteria related specifically to these skills.
B5: The Project dissertation is centrally focussed on assessing research and development skills.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

C1.   Use conventional and electronic indexing and search methods to find technical information
C2.   Present technical information concisely in written and verbal forms to a range of audiences
C3.   Work in a pair or in a small group on a given task, managing your own contribution and the overall task
C4.   Work independently on a significant research project, managing time and risk in an effective manner
C5.   Recognise legal and ethical issues of concern to business, professional bodies and society, and follow relevant guidelines to address these issues

Teaching and Learning Methods

A number of modules have a significant coursework element. This can range from design work through

to presentations resulting from directed reading. The individual project includes independent research, project management and report writing.

C1-C3: Most modules include small group teaching, practical work with one or more lab partners, directed reading and coursework assignments with a literature review component. The Project Preparation module includes project management and the delivery of a project plan via a presentation. Small group teaching, including all practical work, and the individual project accommodate different learning styles.

C4: The individual project includes independent research and report writing.

C5: Legal, ethical and professional issues are covered in the Project Preparation module.

Assessment Methods

Coursework is generally assessed through written reports. The individual project is assessed by a dissertation of up to 15,000 words. The Project Preparation module is assessed via a literature review, as well as written and presentation versions of the project plan.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

D1.   Use specialist tools and techniques to specify, simulate and analyse mobile communications and networking systems

Teaching and Learning Methods

Most modules include practical work, involving machine-readable models and software for the specification, simulation and analysis of mobile communications and networking systems.

Assessment Methods

Assessment is based on coursework in the form of technical reports and system designs, including correct execution of models and software, and also the MSc dissertation.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Pathway

Part I
Typical course content

This programme consists of eight taught modules, each worth 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) credit points and an individual research project worth 30 ECTS (60 CATS) credit points. Four compulsory technical modules cover core material for Mobile Communications and Smart Networking. In another compulsory module, Research Methods and Project Preparation, you will undertake appropriate preparatory study for your research project and you will also examine ethical and legal issues around professional practice. Three optional modules can be selected to tailor the programme to students' interests.

Programme details

The programme runs over three semesters. The first semester consists of three compulsory modules. The second semester consists of three optional modules. There are two compulsory modules which run over both semesters. Following the first two semesters of the taught component of the programme, the students will undertake a research project which will be assessed by a degree dissertation.

It should be noted that it may not be possible to run some optional modules if the number of students registered on the module is very small. It should also be noted that optional module choice can be restricted by the University Timetable, which varies from year to year: some optional modules may clash with other optional or compulsory modules. Please be aware that many modules are shared between different cohorts; the class size depends on cohort size, which varies from year to year.

Examinations are held at the end of Semester 1 (January) and at the end of Semester 2 (May/June). Students who have successfully completed 30 ECTS (60 CATS) or 60 ECTS (120 CATS) at the level of the award may exit with a Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma, respectively.

The following is the normal pattern of study for a full-time student, completing the programme within 12 calendar months:

Semester 1:
Three compulsory modules. Examinations are held in January.

Semester 2:
Three optional modules. Examinations are held in May/June.

Semester 1+2:
The Simulation of Mobile Communications and the Research Methods and Project Preparation modules are compulsory.

Summer/Semester 3:
You will undertake an individual research project lasting up to 14 weeks, which is assessed by a 15,000-word dissertation.

The programme structure, including the compulsory and optional modules for each semester, is summarised below:

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SEMESTER 1

ELEC3203 - compulsory
ELEC6217 - compulsory
ELEC6218 - compulsory

SEMESTER 1 + 2:

ELEC6258 - compulsory
ELEC6259 - compulsory

SEMESTER 2 - select three optional modules

ELEC6214 - optional
ELEC6219 - optional
ELEC6229 - optional
ELEC6242 - optional
ELEC6252 - optional
ELEC6253 - optional

SUMMER

COMP6200 - core
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Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ELEC3203	Digital Coding and Transmission 2020-21	7.5	Compulsory
ELEC6217	Radio Communications Engineering 2020-21	7.5	Compulsory
ELEC6259	Research Methods and Project Preparation 2020-21	7.5	Compulsory
ELEC6218	Signal Processing 2020-21	7.5	Compulsory
ELEC6258	Simulation of Mobile Communications 2020-21	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
COMP6200	MSc Project 2020-21	30	Core

Part I Optional
Select three semester 2 modules (22.5 ECTS/45 CATS) from the following:

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ELEC6229	Advanced Systems and Signal Processing 2020-21	7.5	Optional
ELEC6214	Advanced Wireless Communications Networks and Systems 2020-21	7.5	Optional
ELEC6242	Cryptography 2020-21	7.5	Optional
ELEC6252	Future Wireless Techniques 2020-21	7.5	Optional
ELEC6253	Machine Learning for Wireless Communications 2020-21	7.5	Optional
ELEC6219	Wireless and Mobile Networks 2020-21	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes* or *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes.* Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in *section VI of the University Calendar*.

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV.
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community (18.00-08.00).
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides
- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:
· IEEE Xplore: http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/Xplore/dynhome.jsp?tag=1
· References from the Next Generation Wireless Research Group https://www.wireless.ecs.soton.ac.uk/

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the *Quality handbook*.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the course have employment opportunities in both the industrial and academic sectors, while many of them may continue to PhD research. You may find employment in numerous industrial organisations carrying out research and development for mobile communications, transceiver design as well as network design and optimisation, although you may also find employment in many other types of technology

organisations, as they usually have the special need for IT specialists.

Graduates of the course can also find employment in educational organisations, as well as in the specialised research institutes and research labs in universities.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Professor Matthew Turner - University of Leicester

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day- to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies essential (or core) texts, these should be available in the library. Where possible, primary provision will be in electronic format. However, due to demand students may prefer to buy their own copies; these can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest optional additional or (background) reading texts. The library will hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Approved Calculators	Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX-570 and Casio FX-85GT Plus. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy.

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at *www.calendar.soton.ac.uk*.