

Computer Science Development Group meetings

Meeting 1. 8 th /9 th March 2017	
Agenda item	Notes
International provision of computer science at upper second level	The presentation shared the main findings of research conducted into the international provision of Computer Science courses at upper second level. The report is available on the NCCA website
Aim and objectives	The Development group discussed the nature of the course. They were divided up into three groups and were asked to consider draft aim and objectives. The NCCA executive was asked to compile the thoughts of the group for their consideration at the next meeting.

Meeting 2. 23 rd March 2017	
Agenda item	Notes
Aim and objectives	The collected thoughts from the development group about the aim and objectives were discussed. An initial draft of the specification aim and objectives was agreed, with the understanding that these would be reviewed as the writing progressed.
Structure	A draft structure that represents a balance of theory and practice was proposed for the DG members to consider. The structure and content will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting 3. 6 th April 2017	
Agenda item	Notes
Learning outcomes	<p>The development group worked collaboratively to develop draft learning outcomes relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • computer practices and perspectives • core concepts. <p>The learning outcomes were discussed and refined. The group identified the key concepts and performances that should be captured in the learning outcomes.</p> <p>Jake will write a complete set of draft learning outcomes, based on the output of these discussions. These will be available for consideration and refinement by the group at the next meeting.</p>
Assessment	Assessment and the nature of the components of assessment will be considered the next two meetings.

Meeting 4. 24 th April 2017	
Agenda item	Notes
Learning outcomes	<p>The development group worked collaboratively to finalise the draft learning outcomes relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • computer practices and perspectives • cross-cutting core concepts. <p>The group will review the remaining learning outcomes on the contexts prior to the next meeting. The draft learning outcomes for the contexts section will be finalised at the next meeting</p>
Assessment	<p>Assessment, assessment criteria and the nature of the assessment components were discussed. Assessment will be a major focus of the next meeting. It was agreed that the practical nature of the subject should be reflected in the assessment.</p>

Meeting 5. 15 th May 2017	
Agenda item	Notes
Learning outcomes	<p>The development group collaborated to finalise the draft learning outcomes relating to section 3 <i>Computer Science in Practice</i></p> <p>The number of projects was reduced from 6 to 5. The structure of section 3 was amended to provide an indicative order for the projects.</p> <p>A detailed description of how the practices and principles and core cross-cutting concepts should be included in each of the projects will be included in the specification.</p>
Assessment	<p>Assessment, assessment criteria and the nature of the assessment components were discussed.</p> <p>Assessment will comprise 2 components. An end of course assessment (70%) and coursework (30%).</p> <p>As well as traditional question types, the end of course assessment will require students to demonstrate programming skills in a practical setting. The coursework assessment will reflect the structure of the projects in section 3.</p>
Next steps	<p>The draft specification will be published on the NCCA website for a period of consultation. The Development Group will reconvene following the consultation to consider the responses and prepare the final specification for implementation.</p>

Meeting 6. 02 nd October 2017	
Agenda item	Notes
Consultation Report	A summary of the main findings from consultation was presented. Some key areas were the introduction to the course, interaction between strands, project number, the language around some LOs and Higher/Ordinary differentiation of LOs. The main items were broadly discussed.
Learning outcomes	A mapping exercise was carried out, to see how LOs across the spec could be met within the five strand 3 projects.
Discussion of Draft Spec	Discussion around the number of projects, terminology, nature of strand 3 and coverage of all strands in a 2 year school cycle. It was agreed that the word project only be associated with the final assessment, the number of 'applied learning tasks' (by consensus) be reduced to 3, the emphasis now placed more on application of knowledge acquired.
Next steps	A new version of the draft specification will be updated to reflect consultation feedback and development group decisions for next meeting. Next meeting 10 th October.

Meeting 7. 10 th October 2017 (Final Meeting of the Dev Group)	
Agenda item	Notes
Review of latest draft spec	The latest revision of the spec incorporating the decisions from the last meeting and feedback from consultation was reviewed and agreed. Strand 2 renamed Core Concepts.
Outstanding Issues	Analytics and Modelling/Simulation kept as separate applied learning tasks. 4 ALTs agreed. Assessment issues raised largely beyond the scope of a development group. Acceptance of the 30% - 70% breakdown. 2 remaining outstanding Issues to be addressed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More clarity on Higher v Ordinary Level topics 2. Number of LOs
Learning Outcomes	Using the mapping exercise from the previous meeting and hard copies of the spec, each LO was worked through by the group. Some LOs were merged or removed, thus reducing the number by approximately 10. Greater clarity and certainty placed the differentiation of HL and OL material.
Next steps	All members of the group thanked for their work and dedication. The final spec to go to Board will be drawn up for 16 th October incorporating the decisions of the final meeting.