

Computer science at Bath

Our student stories



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

The best people to tell you what it's like to study computer science at Bath are our students.



This brochure was written by our students, based on questions they had before they started their course.

If you have any specific questions about living or studying here, please speak to staff and students at an **Applicant Visit Day**, or contact us directly – see back page for details.



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Written by
students, for
students



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BSc Computer Science

Your first week

For most students, the first week at Bath is Freshers' Week which is all about finding your way around, meeting new people and getting used to a new routine.

"I live in Eastwood which I love. There's no en-suite toilet but this has created a good sense of community between us, also helped by the shared kitchen/social space. I don't live with any other computer science students, but this means I've made friends outside of my course."

Dominic



"My first year accommodation is in Quads. The rooms are pretty centrally located and close to the bus stand and the STV. There's also a common area which is shared between two flats of 8 people, often hosting sport and society socials on Wednesday evenings."

Richard



See all accommodation options:
go.bath.ac.uk/student-accommodation



Ask our students about
the campus ducks.



Did you know?

We have clubs for around **50** sports?
www.thesubath.com/sport



Join a society

Learn new skills Meet new people Try something new

“Regardless of interests, I would recommend joining the Bath Computer Science Society (BCSS). Pretty much every student from our Department is a member and it hosts different types of events ranging from socials to hackathons.”

Tarun

BCSS:
Bath Computer Science Society



As a computer science student, you'll be invited to join the BCSS during induction week.
[instagram.com/bathcompsci](https://www.instagram.com/bathcompsci)



“The societies at Bath are a great way to make friends and try something new. Drinking is entirely optional and most socials will have a designated sober committee.”

Richard

There are **over 160** student groups on offer, from societies to volunteering:
www.thesubath.com/groups



The step-up to university

“Going from school to university was certainly daunting but during my time here I have never felt overwhelmed. Each of my units slowly increases the workload so I have time to get used to work independently. This has definitely helped me settle into the routine of university life.”

Dominic



You'll have access to a University Mathematics Resources Centre (MASH) if you need help with any maths problems.
go.bath.ac.uk/mash

“Most of the staff work in offices that have glass walls and these surround the computer labs. This makes the Department feel very friendly. Sometimes when we're working in the labs, lecturers just walk in and have a chat with us. This is great as it shows they care and are really invested in making sure we do well on the course.”

Tristan

“There's such a big difference between school teachers and lecturers. I feel like the lecturers treat you as an equal and I really get on with staff in the Department. Some even take the time to learn everyone's name.”

Evgenia



A typical week

"I have roughly 20-25 hours contact time a week including lectures, labs (working on computers) and tutorials (working in a classroom setting). This also includes the optional advanced lab sessions run by older students on the course."

Richard

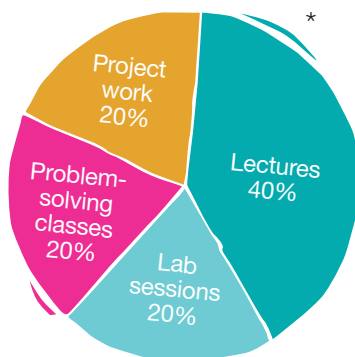
"Group tutorials are useful when it comes to coursework, as the tutors help me with specific questions I have whilst trying to complete a unit."

Tarun

"Going to lectures was a little overwhelming at first as there can be 200 people in one lecture theatre! However, they are normally recorded and I can always email lecturers or **Peer Mentors** for help afterwards if I don't understand something.

I found I had to put in as much time outside of lectures as I did in lectures, but this meant I still had a free day most weekends as I managed my time well."

Molly

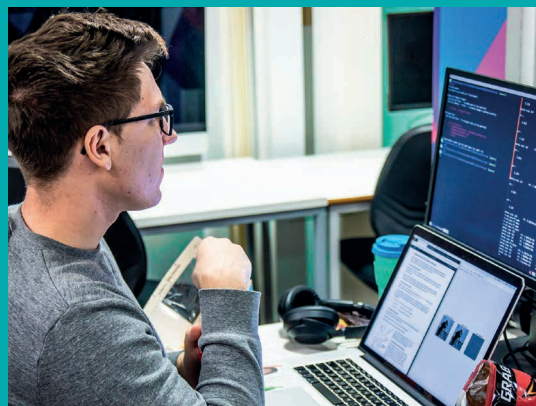


Small group tutorials are normally led by postgraduate tutors in relation to a specific unit. They are made up of a small group of students so you can discuss, in detail, any further questions you may have from lectures.

Join a supportive community

"I really like our department because it offers a supportive community where everyone from lecturers to students in higher years are willing to help. Some lecturers even have an open door policy and email lists to help answer questions about coursework."

Tareq



"When joining Bath, I was allocated a second year **Peer Mentor**. It was so helpful having someone who was in the same shoes as me to go to for advice. I could ask them informal questions, like which societies they recommended joining or course-related ones, like how do you even run Java! Questions I didn't feel comfortable asking the lecturers."

Evgenia

"I was assigned a **Personal Tutor** in my first year, who was a Teaching Fellow in the Department. They were able to advise me on the more academic side of the year and were there if I wanted to speak to a member of staff about any issues."

Yassin



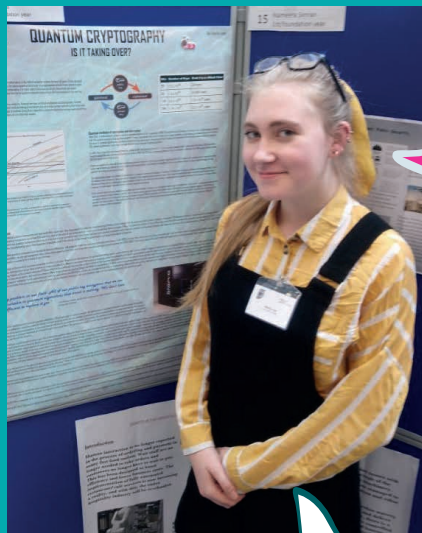
You'll be introduced to your Personal Tutor during induction week.

"I had never programmed before I started my course, or taken computer science A Level, but I found it didn't matter. The lecturers assume no knowledge and start by teaching the basics before moving on to more advanced concepts and techniques."

Tristan



All first year students have access to a **Peer Assisted Learning (PAL)** scheme where second year students can help with lecture content, exam questions and coursework.



"I'd done a fair amount of programming before I started the course and was worried that this would mean I would be doing pointless exercises for a while. However, this wasn't the case. The lecturers brought everyone up to speed really quickly and there were advanced labs for practicing programming skills and preparing for hackathons and competitions – I really enjoyed doing these."

Molly

"Sometimes the course can feel a little male-dominated but I've never found this to be an issue! Staff in the Department are so supportive and there's a **Women in Technology (WIT)** Society who arranges socials and events. I also took part in the Lovelace Colloquium (a nationwide conference for women in technology), which was one of the highlights of my whole year!"

Molly



Our coursework

Facilities

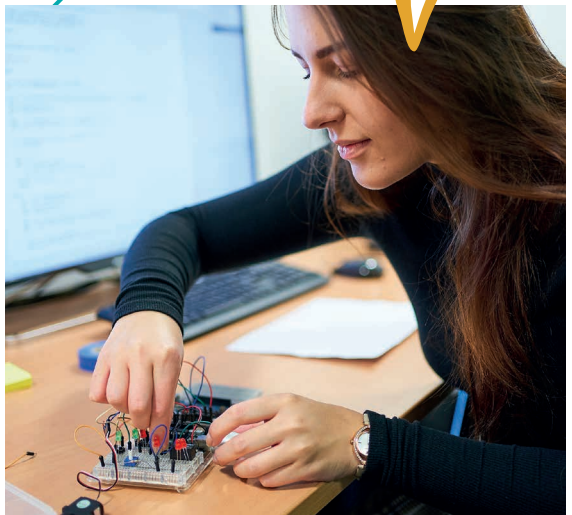
Our computer science lab is open 24/7 and only available to students in the Department.

“Having labs exclusive to computer science students is brilliant. When it gets to exam season, the Library can get really crowded and it’s sometimes impossible to find a space to work. When you know there’s a space reserved for computer scientists, it makes revision a bit less stressful. They’re also a great place to hang out with your course mates so you can work things out together and make late nights slightly more bearable!

Molly

“For one of our first courseworks, everyone was given their own Arduino kit to work with. We were also given a time to work in the **Lovelace Lab** where there were tools and extra hardware parts we could use for the project. The Department didn’t have a part that I wanted to use in my project so they ordered it especially.”

Evgenia



Finding a placement

Going on a placement year gives you the chance to try out different areas of work and could improve your employability. If you haven't applied for a course with a placement, you can switch after you've started the course.



Konstantin Simeonov on placement at Cisco.

"I switched to the placement option a couple of weeks into my course. There have been weekly sessions to support me with writing CVs and cover letters, alongside more practical sessions about networking. The Department also has weekly drop-in sessions which I use to get feedback on my placement applications."

Tareq



Tom Slattery on placement at IBM.

Our **Placements Team** are subject experts which means they know our computer science courses well and will be able to help match your interests to the right employer. go.bath.ac.uk/science-placements



Ways you can find out more



Read our student blogs: blogs.bath.ac.uk/students

Chat to a current student:

In early 2022, all offer holders will have the opportunity to **ask a student** any questions about living and studying at Bath. You don't need to do anything, simply look out for a call or email from a current student sometime in early 2022.

Join us on social media:



www.facebook.com/uniofbath/



www.twitter.com/uniofbath



www.instagram.com/uniofbath/

Contact the Department

compsciapplicants@bath.ac.uk

01225 383214

go.bath.ac.uk/comp-sci



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We may make changes to our courses in response to, for example, feedback from students, developments in the field of studies, the requirements of accrediting bodies, or any unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances.

Please check our online course pages to ensure you have the most up-to-date information. Find out more about this and other important University terms and conditions go.bath.ac.uk/ugp-important-terms