The School of Computer Science offers an MSc degree in Computer Science.

The program emphasizes both academic and applied research that can contribute to further research, academic studies, industry partnerships, and government programs. The MSc degree encompasses professors at the cutting edge of their fields, course offerings covering a wide range of computer science areas, and competitive financial incentives to eligible students.

The School of Computer Science also offers an Interdisciplinary PhD degree in Computational Sciences. More information can be found at: Computational Sciences (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/graduate-programs/computational-sciences/)

**Administrative Staff**

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**Graduate Faculty**

*This list may include Regular Graduate Faculty, Associated Graduate Faculty and/or Graduate Faculty from other universities.*

- **Luiza Antoine**  
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- **Neil Bruce**  
B.Sc. Guelph, M.A.Sc., Waterloo, PhD York - Associate Professor  
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- **David A. Calvert**  
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PhD Windsor - Assistant Professor  
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- **Rozita Dara**  
B.Sc. Shahid Teheshti, M.Sc. Guelph, PhD Waterloo - Associate Professor  
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- **Ali Dehghantanha**  
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- **David Flata**  
B.Sc., M.Sc., PhD Saskatchewan - Associate Professor  
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- **Dan Gillis**  
B.Sc., M.Sc., PhD Guelph - Associate Professor

- **Graduate Faculty**

- **Minglun Gong**  
B.Eng. Harbin Engineering, M.Sc. Tsinghua, PhD Alberta - Professor and Director  
Graduate Faculty

- **Gary Gréwal**  
B.Sc. Brock, M.Sc., PhD Guelph - Associate Professor  
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- **Hassan Khan Khan**  
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- **Stefan C. Kremer**  
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- **Xiaodong Lin**  
BASc Nanjing, M.Sc. East China Normal, PhD Beijing, PhD Waterloo - Professor  
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- **Pascal Matsakis**  
B.Sc., M.Sc., PhD Paul Sabatier (France) - Professor  
Graduate Faculty

- **Judi R. McCuaig**  
B.Ed., B.Sc., MS, PhD Saskatchewan - Associate Professor  
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- **Denis Nikitenko**  
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Associated Graduate Faculty

- **Charlie F. Obimbo**  
M.Sc. Kiev, PhD New Brunswick - Professor  
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- **Joseph Sawada**  
B.Sc., PhD Victoria (British Columbia) - Professor  
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- **Stacey Scott**  
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- **Deborah A. Stacey**  
B.Sc. Guelph, MASc, PhD Waterloo - Associate Professor  
Graduate Faculty

- **Fangju Wang**  
BE Changsha, M.Sc. Peking, PhD Waterloo - Professor  
Graduate Faculty

- **Mark Wineberg**  
B.Sc. Toronto, M.Sc., PhD Carleton - Associate Professor
Program Requirements

Once a student has been admitted to the MSc program, the following components are required for the successful completion of the MSc degree:

- Completion of CIS*6890 Technical Communication and Research Methodology and at least four other graduate courses
- Completion of the seminar requirement.
- An accepted thesis.

Duration of the Program

The MSc degree is a two-year program during which students complete five courses, give a public seminar and complete and successfully defend a thesis. Heavy emphasis is placed on the thesis, which usually requires at least two semesters. Students should plan on spending at least four full-time semesters (16 months) in the program assuming adequate preparation for graduate work.

Course Requirement

An MSc student is required to take CIS*6890 Technical Communication and Research Methodology and at least four other CIS graduate courses. Of these four courses, at least two should be outside of the student’s thesis topic area. This area and the courses which fall outside of this area are identified by the student’s advisor. With approval from the Graduate Program Committee, a CIS graduate course requirement may also be met by a non-CIS graduate course or by a 4000-level course. At most one reading course (CIS*6660 Topics in Computer Science II) and at most one 4000-level course can count towards the course requirement.

Seminar Requirement

An MSc student must give one publicly announced research seminar on their MSc thesis research. The student will be allocated times and dates for the seminar. It must be attended by the student’s advisor and at least one other member of the student’s Advisory Committee. The quality of the presentation is graded on a pass/fail basis. The MSc seminar requirement is intended for students to practice presentation and communication skills and to participate in the process of knowledge dissemination as part of the academic life.

Thesis Defence

Arrangements for the MSc thesis defence should be made at least four weeks prior to the anticipated date of the defence, and the student must submit their MSc thesis to the Examination Committee at least two weeks prior to the defence. The examination consists of an oral presentation by the student followed by questions from the Examination Committee.

Collaborative Specializations

Artificial Intelligence

The School of Computer Science participates in the collaborative specialization in Artificial Intelligence. MSc students wishing to undertake thesis research with an emphasis on artificial intelligence are eligible to apply to register concurrently in Computer Science and the collaborative specialization. Students should consult the Artificial Intelligence (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/collaborative-specializations/artificial-intelligence/) listing for more information.

One Health

The School of Computer Science participates in the collaborative specialization in One Health. Master’s and Doctoral students wishing to undertake thesis research or their major research paper/project with an emphasis on one health are eligible to apply to register concurrently in Computer Science and the collaborative specialization. Students should consult the One Health (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/collaborative-specializations/one-health/) listing for more information.

Courses

The core graduate courses are designed to be accessible to any student with an appropriate background in Computer Science and will provide enough introduction for those unfamiliar with the specific area to allow them to keep up with the advanced material.

The advanced graduate courses are taught with the assumption that the student has sufficient background in the research area to understand the advanced concepts and research ideas. Students who intend to take a course for which they have insufficient background should consult with the instructor prior to enrollment in the course.
CIS*6020 Artificial Intelligence Unspecified [0.50]
An examination of Artificial Intelligence principles and techniques such as: logic and rule based systems; forward and backward chaining; frames, scripts, semantic nets and the object-oriented approach; the evaluation of intelligent systems and knowledge acquisition. A sizeable project is required and applications in other areas are encouraged.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6030 Information Systems Unspecified [0.50]
Relational and other database systems, web information concurrency protocols, data integrity, transaction management, distributed databases, remote access, data warehousing, data mining.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6050 Neural Networks Unspecified [0.50]
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6060 Bioinformatics Unspecified [0.50]
Data mining and bioinformatics, molecular biology databases, taxonomic groupings, sequences, feature extraction, Bayesian inference, cluster analysis, information theory, machine learning, feature selection.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6070 Discrete Optimization Unspecified [0.50]
This course will discuss problems where optimization is required and describes the most common techniques for discrete optimization such as the use of linear programming, constraint satisfaction methods, and genetic algorithms.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6080 Genetic Algorithms Unspecified [0.50]
This course introduces the student to basic genetic algorithms, which are based on the process of natural evolution. It is explored in terms of its mathematical foundation and applications to optimization in various domains.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6100 Uncertainty Reasoning in Knowledge Representation Unspecified [0.50]
Representation of uncertainty, Dempster-Schafer theory, fuzzy logic, Bayesian belief networks, decision networks, dynamic networks, probabilistic models, utility theory.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6130 Object-Oriented Modeling, Design and Programming Unspecified [0.50]
Objects, modeling, program design, object-oriented methodology, UML, CORBA, database
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6160 Multiagent Systems Unspecified [0.50]
Intelligent systems consisting of multiple autonomous and interacting subsystems with emphasis on distributed reasoning and decision making. Deductive reasoning agents, practical reasoning agents, probabilistic reasoning agents, reactive and hybrid agents, negotiation and agreement, cooperation and coordination, multiagent search, distributed MDP, game theory, and modal logics.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6170 Human-Computer Interaction Unspecified [0.50]
This course concentrates on the theoretical and practical issues related to the design and study of interactive technologies for human use. Topics include: general principles of design, qualitative and quantitative research methods, prototyping techniques, theoretical issues underlying designing to individuals and groups, and ethical issues related to conducting research involving humans.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6180 Analysis of Big Data Unspecified [0.50]
This course introduces software tools and data science techniques for analyzing big data. It covers big data principles, state-of-the-art methodologies for large data management and analysis, and their applications to real-world problems. Modern and traditional machine learning techniques and data mining methods are discussed and ethical implications of big data analysis are examined. May be offered in conjunction with DATA*6300.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6190 Machine Learning for Sequential Data Processing Unspecified [0.50]
This course emphasizes machine learning for sequential data processing. It covers common challenges and pre-processing techniques for sequential data such as text, biological sequences, and time series data. Students are exposed to machine learning techniques, including classical methods and more recent deep learning models, so that they obtain the background and skills needed to confront real-world applications of sequential data processing. May be offered in conjunction with DATA*6400.
Department(s): School of Engineering
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6320 Image Processing Algorithms and Applications Unspecified [0.50]
Brightness transformation, image smoothing, image enhancement, thresholding, segmentation, morphology, texture analysis, shape analysis, applications in medicine and biology.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6420 Soft Computing Unspecified [0.50]
Neural networks, artificial intelligence, connectionist model, back propagation, resonance theory, sequence processing, software engineering concepts.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph
CIS*6510  Cybersecurity and Defense in Depth  Fall Only  [0.50]
This course provides an overview of concepts and technical measures that are employed to enforce security policies and protect networks and systems from malicious activities. Students will learn how to engineer a secure system and how to secure networks in an ethical manner.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6520  Advanced Digital Forensics and Incident Response  Fall Only  [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth understanding of theoretical concepts and practical issues in the field of digital forensics and incident response. Students will develop necessary skills, methodologies, and processes to detect cyber incidents and conduct in-depth computer and network investigation.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6530  Cyber Threat Intelligence and Adversarial Risk Analysis  Winter Only  [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth understanding of techniques for detecting, responding to, and defeating Advanced Persistent Threats (APT) and malware campaigns using artificial intelligence and data mining techniques. Students will identify, extract, and leverage intelligence from different types of cyber threat actors.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6540  Advanced Penetration Testing and Exploit Development  Winter Only  [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth understanding of techniques for detecting, responding to, and defeating Advanced Persistent Threats (APT) and malware campaigns using artificial intelligence and data mining techniques. Students will identify, extract, and leverage intelligence from different types of cyber threat actors.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6550  Privacy, Compliance, and Human Aspects of Cybersecurity  Unspecified  [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth view of the privacy, regulatory, and ethical issues surrounding cybersecurity. It covers methods of mitigating/treating privacy risks associated with emerging technologies that collect, manage, and analyse data. This course also examines data protection regulations and compliance strategies.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6560  Cybersecurity and Threat Intelligence Project  Winter and Summer Reg Required  [1.00]
Students plan, develop, and write an industry- or faculty-led report and produce required tools, services, and software. Projects should advance knowledge or practice, and address an emerging challenge in cybersecurity, cyber threat intelligence, digital forensics and incident response, cyber threat hunting, or a closely related field.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6570  Advanced Cryptography and Cryptanalysis  Unspecified  [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth understanding of modern cryptography, with emphasis on practical applications. Topics covered include classical systems, information theory, symmetrical cryptosystems, block ciphers, stream ciphers, DES, AES, asymmetric cryptosystems, ECC, provable security, keyexchange and management, and authentication and digital signatures, among others.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6580  Security Monitoring and Cyber Threat Hunting  Unspecified  [0.50]
This course provides a comprehensive review of tools, techniques, and procedures for monitoring network events and assets to build a secure network architecture. It trains students in methods for hunting attackers that could bypass designed network defense mechanisms in an enterprise.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6590  Professional Seminar in Cybersecurity  Fall and Winter Reg Required  [0.50]
This two-semester course offers a multidisciplinary forum for discussion of topics related to cybersecurity. The seminar fosters professional skills development (academic and industry), promotes collaboration between industry experts and graduate students, facilitates mentoring and project development, and contributes to the transfer of knowledge between industry and academia.
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6650  Topics in Computer Science I  Unspecified  [0.50]
This special topics course examines selected, advanced topics in computer science that are not covered by existing courses. The topic(s) will vary depending on the need and the instructor.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6660  Topics in Computer Science II  Unspecified  [0.50]
This is a reading course. Its aim is to provide background knowledge to students who need to get a head-start in their thesis research fields early during their program while no suitable regular graduate courses are offered. Admission is under the discretion of the instructor.
Restriction(s): Instructor consent required.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6670  Special Topics in Cybersecurity  Unspecified  [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth view of a variety of advanced topics within cybersecurity. Subject areas discussed in any particular semester will depend upon the interests of both the students and the instructor. Students should check with the School of Computer Science to determine what topics will be offered during specific semesters.
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6890  Technical Communication and Research Methodology  Unspecified  [0.50]
This course aims to develop students’ ability in technical communication and general research methodology. Each student is expected to present a short talk, give a mini lecture, review a conference paper, write a literature survey and critique fellow students’ talks and lectures.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph