

LM121 - BSc Computer Science

Computer Systems / Computer Games Development /
Mobile Communications & Security

Application information for mature student applicants

<p>Apply through CAO by 1st February www.cao.ie</p>	<p>Late applications may be considered up to 1st May. Please check on the Undergraduate Admissions Office website if late applications will be accepted https://ulsites.ul.ie/admissions/node/29831</p>
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No. of places reserved for mature students: 14

Guideline figure. Not all mature student places may be filled, as the number and quality of applications received in any year may vary.

Application Process:

1. **CAO application form** – Applicants must ensure that they tick the ‘mature’ special category on the CAO application form and complete Sections 1 to 11 of the Mature Applicant section.
2. **Personal Statement for LM121** – Course Directors use personal statements to help them more effectively assess an applicant’s suitability for, and level of interest in, a particular course. See guidelines overleaf for writing a personal statement for LM121. The Personal Statement requirement is to enable you to provide more specific information to that which is provided in the ‘Statement of Interest’ on your CAO form.
3. **Supporting documentation** – All supporting documentation (e.g. evidence of prior qualifications, Personal Statement for LM121 etc.) should be posted directly to the CAO.

Minimum Entry Requirements:

- Evidence of certification from an appropriate online programming courses such as those provided by Coursera or Udacity, etc. **(see page 3 for further details)**
OR
- QQI level 5 or 6 qualification in one of the following domains: Web/Internet, Software, Programming, with a minimum of a Distinction grade in the programming components.

Application Assessment Criteria:

- Programming portfolio – *related to programming course undertaken*
- Mathematical competency
- Prior Education
- Work/voluntary experience
- Personal statement
- Other courses completed
- Interest in the programme

Interview Assessment Criteria:

- Discussion of the programming portfolio (related to programming course undertaken)
- Ability to cope with mathematical concepts
- Preparedness for third-level and associated workload
- Personal information and background
- Knowledge of the programme & related careers
- Relevant life /work experience

During the interview, the applicant will be asked to:

- a) Run a program that he/she has coded/implemented.
- b) Walk the Course Director through the code, for example, using questions such as "What does this line of code do?"
- c) Convince the Course Director that they are mathematically literate.

Guidelines for writing a Personal Statement for LM121:

The Personal Statement is your opportunity to 'sell' yourself and to emphasise the experience and/or interests you have which are relevant to the course for which you are applying. A tailored personal statement is important, especially if you are applying to a competitive programme for which there is a high demand for places, as you will need to be specific and proactively demonstrate how your experience or your interests match the course you are interested in doing.

Your personal statement should be no greater than one side of a **single A4 page** and cover the following areas:

1. Reasons for wishing to undertake LM121
 2. Programme's potential contribution to your future career or life plans
 3. Highlight relevant experiences or skills gained through employment, voluntary work, or personal interests which have prepared you to undertake LM121
 4. Your knowledge and understanding of the career area in which you are interested
 5. Any specific preparation you have undertaken in anticipation of commencing LM121
- Please title your document 'Personal Statement for LM121'
 - Please also ensure that you include your CAO number on your Personal Statement

Defined Degree Options from LM121 - Common Entry:

On entry into the Computer Science programme, three different BSc programmes will be open to you as listed above.

Entry to this programme is available from the
Mature Student Access Certificate

<https://ulsites.ul.ie/mso/mature-student-access-certificate>

Further information for mature student applicants to LM121:

It is recommended that all mature student applicants to LM121 attend the 1-day **LM121 CAO Programming Workshop** during Easter 2020: exact dates to be confirmed. All CAO applicants to LM121 will be notified of this workshop by the UL Admissions Office.

It is also recommended that all mature student applicants attend the 2-week **HeadStart Mathematics Refresher course** run by the UL Maths Learning Centre immediately prior to the start of the new academic year (17th – 28th August 2020). It provides an opportunity for mature students to develop a basic competency in maths, build up a support network of peers, and acclimatise to third-level education and to UL. Successful applicants to LM121 will be notified of the HeadStart Maths course by the Mature Student Office in July, after CAO offers have been made.

A note on programming:

LM121 Computer Science [Common Entry] does NOT assume a basic knowledge of programming on entry. However, it is advisable to have some knowledge of one or more programming languages if nominating ICT-based courses on the CAO in order to ensure that you are making an informed decision. This in turn maximises your likelihood of completion of the offered course.

It is suggested that students considering LM121 start with Scratch (<https://scratch.mit.edu>) - a visual coding language from MIT that introduces commonly-occurring concepts in programming. One can then move on to Python or JavaScript programming languages. Websites with excellent programming tutorials are:

- Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org/>)
- Udemy (<https://www.udemy.com>)
- Udacity (<https://eu.udacity.com>)
- Coursera (<https://www.coursera.org>)

..... to name but a few.

Potential LM121 students are advised to:

- (1) Enroll on a basic course that is either free or costs very little.
- (2) Resist the temptation to dabble in C or C++, much too complicated for beginners.
- (3) Be cognisant that one cannot develop any level of expertise over a few months.
- (4) Understand that programming for beginners can be challenging, especially when doing so on one's own.



There are at least 10,000 programming languages, with the most popular languages being those mentioned above – see <https://spectrum.ieee.org/at-work/innovation/the-2018-top-programming-languages>.

Programming in the first semester of LM121 is currently based on Java, and those feeling adventurous might consider following an introductory course for this language.

Mature student applicants for LM121 are welcome to email the Course Director, JJ Collins, (J.J.Collins@ul.ie) with any queries that you may have. Please put "LM121 Mature Query" as the subject.