

# Discussion Paper: Curriculum Structure

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The aim of this short paper is to poll the views on changing our degree programme offerings.

Our English competitor institutions all offer Integrated Masters (e.g. MCompSci) in almost all of their degree programmes. In the College of Science and Engineering 50% or more of students in other Schools (Physics, Engineering, Mathematics) are enrolled on Integrated Masters programmes. Our MInf programme accounts for less than 20% of our students. I'd like to discuss the following two questions:

Should we in principle (detail to be considered at BoS):

- A. Offer Integrated Masters in all the programmes we offer wholly within the School?
- B. Offer Integrated Masters in all the joint degree programmes we offer with other Schools?

Advantages:

- i. We offer similar programmes to our competitor institutions. Increasingly in English Institutions the Integrated Masters is seen as the main qualification and the Bachelors degree is seen as a "fail" degree.
- ii. Because the students' programme runs over 5 years we could potentially see a moderate reduction in intake in first year.
- iii. We are finding it difficult to fit all the basic material we want to cover into years one and two (in particular adequate programming experience). The Integrated Masters could have a 3+2 structure where the first three years have limited choice and the final two years have more of the character of the final two years of our current MInf programme.

Disadvantages:

- iv. Integrated Masters have two supervised projects so this has the potential to increase supervisory load on UG programmes. We do not have spare capacity. Not all Integrated Masters have this structure.
- v. It increases the numbers of programmes we offer so we should consider making the programmes structurally similar so curriculum management is straightforward
- vi. For our joint programmes, on a quick survey it seems there is quite a bit of variability in the structure of the Integrated Masters programmes. For example some have a project in first semester of final year some in the second semester. This may make a clean and uniform structure for the joint programmes impossible to achieve.