“I really hadn’t expected it, but the computer science papers I did turned out to be most interesting. Solving otherwise insoluble problems using sophisticated technology is a real buzz.”

Dave Ferguson
BSc(Hons) Otago, PhD Carnegie Mellon
Robotics Researcher at Google

Study Computer Science at Otago and open doors to your future - computer animation, computer games, software design and robotics, through to legal, financial and business careers.

Computer science forms the basis for all information technology and it is a fast changing and rapidly growing field, central to our modern society. Computer scientists analyse, design and implement computer algorithms and computer systems. Their skills are desperately needed in New Zealand and world-wide.

At Otago, we cover all core areas of computer science, and actively research at the cutting edge in areas such as artificial intelligence, computer graphics and vision, distributed computing, databases, search, and theory.
Why study Computer Science?

Computer scientists are in demand across the world and attract excellent salaries. Technologies change rapidly and there is always something new and exciting to learn – whether as a programmer, software engineer, systems architect or chief technical officer. A career as a computer scientist is challenging and rewarding. If you like solving problems, then a major in computer science is for you. It is hard to describe the joy involved in designing and implementing a complex system and then seeing it all work in front of your eyes.

A minor in computer science is an invaluable supplement to any degree, whether in science, health science, business or the humanities. Technical expertise in computing in addition to expertise in another field opens doors to many exciting careers. It will change the way you think about your chosen field and make you more effective in that field.

Choosing computer science papers as electives will open doors in your mind to the possibilities of computers, will make you much more effective at using computers, and will look great on your CV.

Background

There are no special requirements or pre-requisites, but taking Digital Technology for NCEA is useful. For students wishing to major in Computer Science, NCEA Level 3 Mathematics (preferably calculus) would be helpful.

Career opportunities

There is currently a worldwide shortage of IT professionals and they are in high demand in NZ, Australia, USA and the UK. The Information and Communications Technology section of seek.co.nz consistently has more advertised vacancies than any other category.

You will find Otago Computer Science graduates at work worldwide in every aspect of commerce, government, education, research and media in a variety of interesting roles: programmers, software engineers, systems analysts, network managers, consultants and advisors, web programmers and designers and database administrators.

For questions about Computer Science

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otago.ac.nz/computerscience