University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**FdSc Network Engineering**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 5**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**None**
Credit Structure[2]	**240 Credits** **Level 4: 120 Credits** **Level 5: 120 Credits**
Mode of Attendance	**Full-time and Part-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**2 years full-time and 2.5 years part-time**
Intended Award	**FdSc Network Engineering**
Named Exit Awards	**None**
Entry Requirements[4]	**Typical Offer:** **80 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent)** **Evidence of appropriate employment and employer's support**
Delivering Institution(s)	**University of Suffolk**
UCAS Code	**I121**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the FdSc Network Engineering course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2018-19 academic year.[5]

Course Summary
Skills in configuring and managing networks are skills that are essential for the efficient operation of most medium and large organisations. Allowing business and commercial information to be shared (and kept secure) is a key aspect of the maintenance of processes and business function. However, the skills and knowledge required to ensure the correct operation of this function are not always readily available in the current workforce, and are not easily picked up without effective training or educational programmes.

This course will provide the opportunity for local businesses and organisations to develop their employees. Through the provision of a part-time day-release course we aim to enable current employees to gain the skills they require at the workplace, and to also achieve a qualification that will support their professional and career development.

For students taking the course, we expect that the study will build upon their work activities,

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[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)
[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.
[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards.
[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy
[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

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providing structure to their learning and ensuring that the more specific skills and knowledge that are practiced in their workplace are placed in a broader context. This will equip the students for their existing and future careers, and also enable them to make a more valuable contribution to their employers as they are better informed to be able to contribute to the decision making processes.

However, we expect that in some cases the students will use this course as a means of developing and certifying knowledge and skills that they have picked up within their current role as they have attempted to maintain their local networking provision.

Course Aims

- Provide students with a sound knowledge and understanding of network technologies

- Enable students to be proficient in the design and maintenance of data communication networks

- Help students develop competencies in effective interpersonal and business communication, presentation skills, business and project management

- Help students develop the personal qualities and professional attributes required by employers (these include: reliability, integrity, ethical approach, dependability, team work and reflection)

- Encourage students to understand their own technological responsibilities in the context of the client organisation and its commercial and business operation

- Develop students' ability to take responsibility for their own learning and professional development

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the FdSc Network Engineering course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).[6]

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of essential facts, concepts, principles and theories relating to computer networks and data communication

2. Demonstrated knowledge and skills in networking technologies, with the ability to specify technical solutions in terms of component systems and protocols

Cognitive Skills

3. Used their knowledge and understanding in the modelling and design of computer networks for the purposes of comprehension, communication, prediction and the understanding of trade-offs

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[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)

4. Recognised and analyse criteria and specifications appropriate to specific problems and plan strategies for their solution
5. Analysed the extent to which a network system meets the criteria defined for its current use and future development

6. Presented rational and reasonable arguments that address a communication networking problem or opportunity

Subject Specific Skills

7. Deployed appropriate theory, practices and tools for the specification, design, implementation and evaluation of network systems

8. Selected and used effectively appropriate tools for provision and maintenance of secure networked systems

9. Researched, designed, implemented and documented the provision of a networking solution for a specific audience

10. Recognised professional issues in the exploitation of network technology

Key/ transferable skills

11. Demonstrated an understanding of commercial situations and operations through personal reflection of their experience with such environments

12. Evidenced the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision making

Course Design
The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- Computing (2007)
- Foundation Degree (2015)

Course Structure
The FdSc Network Engineering comprises modules at levels 4 and 5.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 4			
	Platforms	20	M
	Networking Overview	20	M
	Personal & Professional Development	20	M
	Delivering Networking Capability	40	M

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[7] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

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	Foundations of Management	20	M
Level 5			
	Routing Technologies	20	M
	Research Skills	20	M
	Managing Network Projects	20	M
	Network Security	20	M
	Voice over Internet Protocol	20	M
	Software Design & Programming	20	M

Awards
On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a FdSc Network Engineering.

Course Delivery
The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying part-time on the FdSc Network Engineering course are likely to have approximately 6 contact hours per week during semesters with taught modules. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical network or related activities and tutorials. Students will normally be expected to undertake a minimum of 18 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment
A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 75% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) and 25% written/practical time-constrained assignments.

Course Team
The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs
Students undertaking FdSc Network Engineering will be charged tuition fees as detailed below:

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£8,220 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,370 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£11,500 per year
Part-time International	£1,915 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

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Academic Framework and Regulations
This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.