



# North Highland College University of the Highlands and Islands

## **Computing Science – Higher (SCQF 6)**

### Overview of course

Students will gain awareness of the importance that computing professionals play in meeting the needs of society today and for the future, in fields which include science, education, business and industry. They will study topics including web design, programming and databases.

### Entry requirements/criteria

- Studying at national 5 level
- Ideally have achieved National 5 Computing Science
- Ideally have demonstrated ability to study and/or have achieved at higher level
- Relevant subject experience
- Satisfactory reference

### Additional attributes North Highland College UHI would look for

Students should have prior knowledge of Computing Science or prior experience of successful study at Higher level in any other subject.

Students with prior knowledge of Computing Science (eg at N5 level) will be able to develop their knowledge and understanding and their application of this theory to real life examples on the course.

Students with prior experience of successful study at Higher level will be able to transfer their study skills to this course and will have an understanding of the level of commitment required and workload expected at this level of study.

Students will be expected to -

- Be prepared to work hard all session
- Catch up on work missed if they are absent
- Ask for help if they need it
- Complete weekly homework task
- Submit homework on time
- Complete homework to a high standard
- Revise throughout the session
- Access and use the virtual learning environment

Therefore, the following attributes and skills are important for applicants –

- Motivation for learning
- Commitment to take personal responsibility for learning
- Confidence to ask questions
- Dedication to completing work out with class
- Basic IT skills
- Independent study skills

### What can students do after this course

On completion and successful achievement of this course students could progress to an HNC level of study in computing or a related field (see our NHC website).

### Additional information on this course for Guidance Teachers

Computing Science is an excellent choice for any student who wants to understand more about the world they live in – with computing being such an integral part of our lives, the course deals with some of the issues that this brings. The course breadth will prepare students for the world of work and further study in Computer Science. The depth of understanding and application required to pass the course will place students at a significant advantage if pursuing further study in this subject area.

Students will need to take an active role in their learning by applying the theory they've learnt to real life situations to be successful on this course.

Although classes are once a week, students will need to commit to regular private study in between classes to consolidate their learning. Private study tasks will be issued to students but individuals must take responsibility for completing these tasks. Since learners will be expected to take greater responsibility for their own learning and the development of their study skills, this course offers excellent preparation for any student considering progression to College or University study in any subject.

Many class activities are completed in groups, and as the class is made up of students from various schools and full time college students this is an excellent opportunity to make new friends and develop skills in working with others which will be an important for students considering entering the world of work or continuing to study at college or university.

While the Higher course is available to students with no prior computing study, students who have studied National 5 Computing Science will have a significant advantage when joining the Higher course. Students considering the Higher course without any prior computing study will find there is a lot to learn. Students with experience of studying at Higher level will be in a better position to rise to the challenge of studying an unfamiliar subject at a level they have already demonstrated ability at.

Students who have no prior computing study and no experience of studying at Higher level should be advised to think carefully about the implications of undertaking a new subject at Higher level. Guidance teachers can help students think through these implications and assess their commitment and study skills to determine the level of course that would be most suitable for them.