Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD002647	**Version:** 12 **Date Amended:** 27/Nov/2025

1. Module Title
Professional Issues: Computing and Society

2a. Module Leader
Jin Zhang

2b. School
School of Computing and Information Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Professional Issues: Computing and Society gives you a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities, challenges and wider implications created by the pervasive use of computer systems. The module is designed to foster reflective thinking in both computing specialists and those from other disciplines and forms an important part of professional development for anyone seeking to apply responsible practice in the IT and computing sectors.

You'll explore up-to-date issues in computer law, such as data protection, intellectual property and computer misuse, as well as broader ethical, social and legal questions. These include analysing the causes and consequences of system failures (not limited to computing systems) and evaluating the responsibilities that computing professionals carry, particularly the ethical and societal impact of their work.

By the end of the module, you'll have a deep understanding of the legal, ethical, professional and technical considerations that shape a career in computing.

6b. Outline Content

- Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Privacy ... ... [3 wks approx.] - Intellectual Property, Computer Misuse, Hacking, Security [2 wks approx.] - Professionalism; Ethics; Whistleblowing ... ... [2 wks approx.] - System Failures - Computers and Major Systems - Common Issues and avoidance - Social Trends and Issues e.g. Teleworking, Globalisation - Trends in Computing: Past, Present, Future - Student led seminars (individual or small group depending on class size) on narrow topic within above wide areas or on other lecturer-approved topic [typically weeks 6 - 11 or 12]

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Room(s) with Data Projector for student seminars (Weeks 6-12)

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Explain and lead discussion on an approved topic on social, professional, legal, ethical aspects of computing and IT, showing an inclusive approach to engineering practice, recognising the responsibilities, benefits and importance of supporting equality, diversity and inclusion.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Appreciate the complexities of engineering management principles, quality management, commercial context, project and change management, relevant legal matters, and contribute to discussions led by others on social, professional, legal, ethical aspects of computing and IT.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Discuss, compare and contrast key issues, and make reasoned choices informed by professional codes of conduct and industry standards.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically appraise and evaluate own and others' work.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	18	2	VLE may be used.
Other teacher managed learning	18	1,3,4	VLE may be used.
Student managed learning	114	1,2,3,4	VLE may be used.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

In-Class Test (1 Hour) with individual report of 2000 words

Assessment components for Element 010

Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
010/1	In-Class Test (1 Hour)	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	20 (%)	All
010/2	Individual Report	Canvas	80 (%)	

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]