THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Physics and Astronomy

Transcript for "Programmes and Courses – MSc Programmes in HPC" video

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MSc in High Performance Computing (HPC)
MSc in High Performance Computing with Data Science (HPC with DS)

Alasdair King: It's nicely structured in that it's broken down into the two semesters and you basically have six modules a piece. But, what's nice is that there is a decent split between having just exams and just course work.

Raluca Andra: You can read the theory everywhere else right, so by making it practical you actually have a better understanding of what you're doing, how to put things in practice and in perspective and I think that was great, because you don't get to do that anywhere else.

Alasdair King: There's plenty to choose from in terms of just the EPCC modules as well as modules from around the university such as in informatics, mathematics and in physics as well.

Padraig O Conbhui: So the coursework that we were given was usually an assignment in say open MP or MPI or whatever particular subject that we were studying.

Raluca Andra: The course I liked best was High Performance Computer architecture. It was about super computers and cloud computing in general, and we got to a lot of knowledge about those two and I kind of liked that.

Jia Song: I went to the internet, supercomputer conference as a volunteer and I joined so many courses there and I know so many people who are working in this industry. They gave me a lot of information. The most important thing is that I worked with supercomputers.

Raluca Andra: Having the opportunity to use the supercomputers was great. You get to see how much faster it can be rather than using a normal computer. We also had a challenge to build our own small supercomputer,

which was really great. You actually get to see how one is built.

Padraig O Conbhui: The computer labs were quite good because you're sitting around kind of with friends trying to solve a problem, and you know you have some of the world's foremost experts right next to you if you have any questions to ask.

Alasdair King: You get given a personal tutor at the start and you will have a series of meetings throughout the course, and then an opportunity to say how well are you going, how well are you doing, where do you need to pick up on?

Padraig O Conbhui: We'd have lunch in the EPCC break room, drinking a bit of coffee, and we had a Connect 4 tournament going on with all the emotional highs and lows that go with that.

Raluca Andra: It was a very sociable place to study, fun to be around.

Padraig O Conbhui: The kind of things that I learnt on the MSc were different forms of parallel programming and performance programming. I particularly liked the single core performance optimisation because when you're doing real world applications that's generally the sort of thing that you're really aiming for.

Raluca Andra: Choosing the MSc was a way to actually put in practice that I've learned about computer science and do something else at the same time.

Padraig O Conbhui: With the MSc behind me now I'm perfectly capable of tackling both big applications and small applications.

Raluca Andra: If there's a student thinking of joining the MSc I would say go for it, it's really fun, it's a really good course and you actually have to learn a lot of it. And it will help you in your future career. Performance is a very important thing in computer science.

Alasdair King: The best experience in terms of the MSc is coming to do the MSc.

Jia Song: I miss the time I started here very much because I have very good friends here and also the teachers here are quite nice. I wanted to come back again [chuckles].

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]