

Weighting %:	10%	Submission deadline (for students):	3/07/2025 11:59
Authorship:	Group	The target date for returning marked coursework:	24/07/2025
Tutor setting the work:	Mohammad Tayanani	Number of hours you are expected to work on this assignment:	40

This Assignment assesses the following module Learning Outcomes (from the Definitive Module Document):

1. Critical review of literature
2. Development of the self-directed learner
3. Respond to opportunities for innovation
4. Use appropriate processes
5. Investigate and define a problem
6. Apply principles of supporting disciplines
7. An ability to work as a member of a development team
8. Systematic understanding of knowledge of the domain with depth in particular areas
9. Produce work informed by research at the forefront
10. Systematic understanding of knowledge at the forefront in the development and implementation of systems

Assignment Tasks:

You are required to submit an interim report. The main body of your report must not exceed 500 words. Supporting evidence (e.g. screenshots, source code) must be included as appendices.

Submission Requirements:

You are required to submit a document containing your Interim Report via the Canvas module site.

File type for the submission:

Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx/.pdf)

Submission deadline to Canvas by 11:59 (UK local time) on the 3rd of July

The Interim Report (IR) has an online submission to Canvas ONLY.

06 June 2025 5:22 pm

Submit assignment

Marks awarded for:

1. Is the RQ valid? (i.e. related to computer science, and indicative of a systematic review)?
2. Have the Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome been (correctly) identified?
3. Does the number of papers returned in the search match the number of papers reported in the Interim Report/Table?
4. Is the search string syntactically correct? (using a Boolean search format according to IEEEExplore requirements).
5. Does the research protocol specify both inclusion and exclusion criteria?

Full points require the specification of both inclusion and exclusion criteria.

6. Are the inclusion and exclusion criteria appropriate for the research question and search string?
7. Does the report meet the format and layout standards outlined in the Assignment submission?

As per the assignment specifications:

- (a) Add a Title page with Group information and student names as they appear on Canvas.
 - (b) Add a Table of Contents with the corresponding page information.
 - (c) Add Chapter 1 as an Introduction. Here introduce your research area and summarise what the report will include.
 - (d) Add Chapter 2 as Background. Here add some background and a brief history of the research domain. I.e. What is the problem you are trying to address? Include at least 2 citations from relevant works.
 - (e) Add Chapter 3 as the Literature Review Protocol. Include 3 sub-sections: 3.1 Your Research question and Context and PICO elements - i.e. the context, population, intervention, comparison, and outcome associated with the question. (As in the RQ template table [Interim Report Table Template.docx](#) ↓ 3.2 include your search string, as used in IEEEExplore, and the number of papers returned. 3.3 List your inclusion and exclusion criteria for paper inclusion. Note: the exclusion criteria must differ from the inclusion criteria and cannot merely negate one of the inclusion criteria.
 - (f) Add a Bibliography section. Use the Harvard style for citations (in text) and full references (at the end of the report). (Cite work in the sentence in which the work is referenced, not at the end of a paragraph, or just list as a reference at the end of the report.)
8. Is the research question presented in the report well justified by the background research and cited literature? Does the background frame and motivate the research question appropriately? Are there any relevant citations on the topic?
 9. Do all components (research question, research protocol) presented in the report present a consistent message?
 10. Presentation: spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Type of Feedback to be given for this assignment:

Written feedback from the marker in the form of a score and comments.

Also, via discussions with your tutor during the practical sessions.

Additional Information:

- Regulations governing assessment offences including Plagiarism and Collusion are available from https://www.herts.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/237625/AS14-Anx3-Academic-Misconduct.pdf (UPRAS14).
- Guidance on avoiding plagiarism can be found here: <https://herts.instructure.com/courses/61421> (see the Referencing section)

Submit assignment

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- Guidance on avoiding plagiarism can be found here: <https://herts.instructure.com/courses/61421> (see the Referencing section)
- For postgraduate modules:
 - a score of 50% or above represents a pass mark.
 - late submission of any item of coursework for each day or part thereof (or for hard copy submission only, working day or part thereof) for up to five days after the published deadline, coursework relating to modules at Level 7 submitted late (including deferred coursework, but with the exception of referred coursework), will have the numeric grade reduced by 10 grade points until or unless the numeric grade reaches or is 50. Where the numeric grade awarded for the assessment is less than 50, no lateness penalty will be applied.

You should have done about 4 weeks of work on your Group Work by the time you submit your Interim Report. This 1st Dropping Point will contribute Ten per cent (10%) of the module grade i.e., 10 points.

Please refer to the Rubric attached under this assignment for the marking scheme.

For the 1st Dropping Point, you have to fulfil the below tasks by the 3rd of July 2025, 11:59.

- A. Research question(s).
- (a) Formulate a research question using the structure described in class. Be sure you identify the context, population, intervention, comparison, and outcome associated with the question.
 - (b) Write your research question(s), using correctly spelt, correctly punctuated, grammatically correct English and add it to your report in the form of a table. Please follow this template, and submit it to Canvas as part of your Interim Report: [Interim Report Table Template-1.docx](#)
- B. Search string and review protocol.
- (a) Create a search string that will find the literature related to your research questions.
 - (b) Define the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the papers that will be identified in your search. If you don't remember what inclusion or exclusion criteria are, read Section 6.2 of Kitchenham and Charters (2007) [1].
 - (c) Document your topic and research question, search string, and inclusion/exclusion criteria, using correctly spelt, correctly punctuated, grammatically correct English and add it to your report in the form of a table [Interim Report Table Template-2.docx](#)
 - (d) Use your search string to search the IEEEExplore digital library (<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/Xplore/home.jsp>), using the "command search" facility on the "Advanced search" page (<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/search/advanced>).
 - (e) Optionally, download the results of your search to a CSV file called papers.csv. Upload the CSV file to Canvas (this is optional).
- C. Interim Report 500 words +/- 10%. Add appropriate referencing wherever required and use the Harvard referencing style.
- (a) Add a Title page with Group information and student names as they appear on Canvas.
 - (b) Add a Table of Contents with the corresponding page information.
 - (c) Add Chapter 1 as an Introduction. Here introduce your research area.
 - (d) Add Chapter 2 as background. Here add some background and a brief history of the research domain. I.e. What is the problem you are trying to address? Include at least 2 citations from relevant works.
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 - (f) Add a Bibliography section. Use the Harvard style for citations and full references. (Cite work in the sentence in which the work is referenced, not at the end of a paragraph, nor include references at the end without citing the work in the text.

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View Rubric

Module chat



Search



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View Rubric

Interim Report Rubric (2)

Criteria	Ratings					Points
Research Question view longer description	10 pts Full marks Full marks if the RQ asks a clear appropriate question.	5 pts Satisfactory Partial marks if the question is about computer science, but is not indicative of a systematic review.	0 pts No marks Zero marks if there is no (valid) research question -i.e., RQ is not related to computer science, or is not relevant to a systematic review.			
PICO Elements view longer description	15 pts Full marks All PICO elements have been identified correctly.	10 pts Satisfactory Three of the PICO elements have been identified correctly.	8 pts Satisfactory Two of the PICO elements have been identified correctly.	5 pts Weak All PICO elements are present, regardless of how correct they are.	0 pts No mark PICO elements do not exist in the report.	
The number of papers returned from search view longer description	5 pts Full marks Yes, the correct number of papers was returned				0 pts No marks No	
Search String view longer description	5 pts Full marks Search string submitted and syntactically correct.	2.5 pts Good Search string submitted, but is not syntactically correct or does not run on IEEE Xplore.			0 pts No marks No search string submitted.	
Inclusion Exclusion Criteria view longer description	10 pts Full marks Yes Points are given only if both Inclusion and exclusion criteria have been specified.	5 pts Good There are some redundancies and limited criteria.			0 pts No marks No	

06 June 2025 5:24 pm

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Protocol Tables view longer description	5 pts Yes Both tables are included in Chapter 3.	0 pts No The tables are omitted.		
Format and Layout view longer description	15 pts Full marks All chapters and layouts conform to this standard.	10 pts Good Minor format errors. Please see the feedback.	5 pts Satisfactory Major errors concerning format and layout standards. Please see the feedback.	0 pts No marks Most or all layout or formatting is incorrect, or there was no submission.
Motivation view longer description	10 pts Full marks The research question is justified properly and the background frame is appropriate.	5 pts Good Partial presentation of research question and background.	0 pts No marks No merit	
Consistency view longer description	10 pts Full marks Full marks if all components are consistent. Partial marks for minor (1) errors. Zero marks for major (2+) errors or no submission.	5 pts Satisfactory Full marks if all components are consistent. Partial marks for minor (1) errors. Zero marks for major (2+) errors or no submission.	0 pts No marks Full marks if all components are consistent. Partial marks for minor (1) errors. Zero marks for major (2+) errors or no submission.	
Presentation view longer description	10 pts Full marks Full marks if the submission has zero spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Marks will be reduced based on the markers' assessment of the presentation on these aspects.	0 pts No marks Full marks if the submission has zero spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Marks will be reduced based on the markers' assessment of the presentation on these aspects.		
Referencing material view longer description	5 pts Yes	0 pts No		