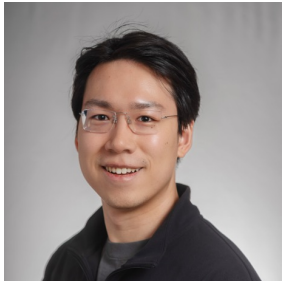


Individual Projects

Kick-off meeting

Andrew Calway

People



Shawn Shen, Unit Director



Sarah Connolly, Deputy Unit Director

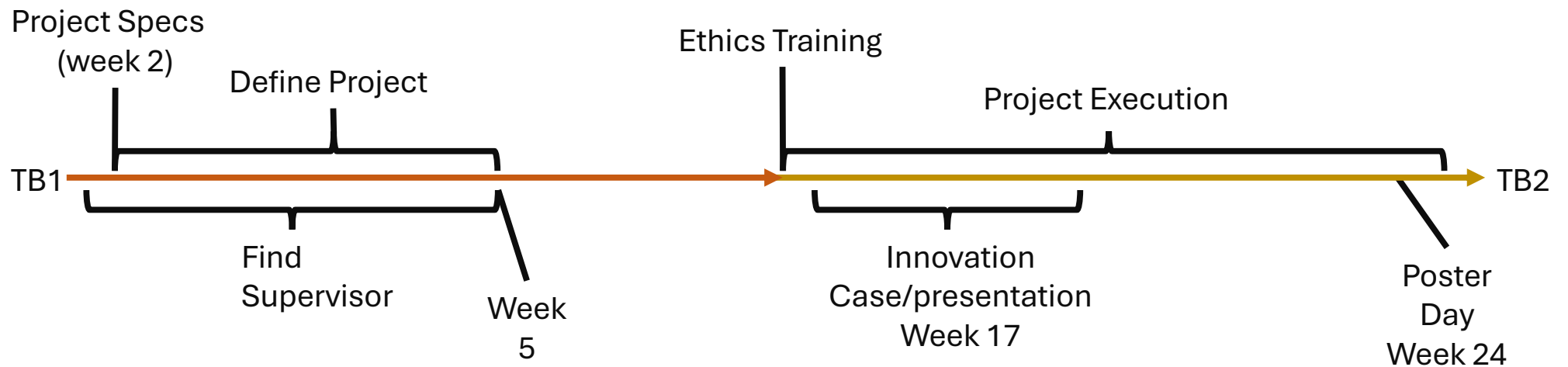


Andrew Calway, Deputy Unit Director

Project Units

- There are 4 different project units:
 - COMS30044: M&CS short project Y3 (BSc & MEng)
 - COMS30045: CS BSc project
 - COMSM0052: CS MEng project with Innovation Case
 - COMSM0142: M&CS MEng project with Presentation

Timeline of Projects



Defining a Project

- A project can be **anything** you can plausibly argue is Computer Science
 - It doesn't necessarily need to involve writing code
 - It doesn't necessarily need to involve maths
 - It doesn't necessarily need to involve end users
- But it does need to be Computer Science
- It does involve an extended period of research and/or (code or hardware) development
- It does involve writing a 25-50 page report/dissertation

Types of Project

There are typically three types of project:

- A primarily software or hardware development project to provide a solution to a problem or provide a user experience
- A theoretical project involving research into some piece of theory within a part of CS, possibly with some coding
- An application project, which combines both theory and software/hardware development to provide a solution to a problem.

The best project for me

- Selecting your project is one of the most important decisions in your final year, and perhaps your degree
 - Take your time and put plenty of effort, thought and time into selecting the best project for you
 - The best project is the one that inspires and excites you, and one that you feel you have some ownership, i.e. you WANT it to succeed/work
 - Try not to be distracted by thinking that you should do what others are doing or that it has to be “academic” or involve lots of citations or lots of coding
 - Find something that inspires you and then decide what it needs to involve.

Andrew's Project Tips

- Think through your project idea, from start to finish
- Imagine your final viva/demonstration – what does it involve? What will you talk about? What will you show?
- Explain your project to someone outside of CS – if you can convince them its interesting and challenging, then its probably ok.
- Talk to each other and share ideas, help each other to find the best project.
- The best projects are those dreamed up by students or co-created by students
- Enjoy looking for a project – be pro-active and positive

Supervisors

- Every project needs an academic supervisor.
- It is your responsibility to find the best supervisor for you and perhaps for your project if it's your idea.
- Try not to be intimidated – staff love working with students on interesting projects.
- But you need to show that you are enthusiastic and will work hard on the project and that you want the project to be a success.
- Be pro-active finding the right supervisor – be polite when making contact, but don't give up if you don't get an immediate response.

Project List and Supervisor Matching

- We provide two ways to help find a project and supervisor:
 - A list of staff interests and project ideas, released in Wk 2
 - A project matching session – big room, lots of students, lots of staff – find the best matches! Happens in Wk 3.
- You are strongly advised to make use of these if you are struggling to find a project.
- You should also talk to use if you are having difficulty finding a project or supervisor – we are here to help.

Confirming a Project

- By Week 5, we expect you have found a project and supervisor
- MAKE BEST USE OF THE NEXT FEW WEEKS
- In Week 6, we will start to chase you and help you find the best project.
- NOTE: it is very serious if you have not found a project by the end of TB1 – likely have significant impact on your final year mark and overall degree classification.

What Next?

- Start thinking about your project:
 - What area do I want to work on?
 - Who do I want to work with?
 - What projects could I do?
- Talk to people – lots of them – and be proactive.
- Read the unit web page – follow GitHub link on BB
- Q&A sessions in Week 2 and possibly Week 3.

Questions?