

# Reflection Essay

## Individual Assignment

In the Reflection essay, students will evaluate and reflect on the critical choices made by the project group during the implementation of the Capstone project. They will examine the theoretical implications of their research, contextualize it within the broader empirical, theoretical, and policy literature, and analyze its potential policy implications and relevance for stakeholders. Students will critically evaluate the intervention and its effectiveness, identify shortcomings, and discuss avenues for future research. Additionally, students will reflect on their specific roles in the project, outlining their involvement across all four expertise tracks (RE, DE, CME, SSHE). They will provide concrete examples of their work, articulate how their contributions impacted the overall project outcomes, and reflect on the task allocation and decision-making processes during the group work. The essay should be well-structured, thoughtful, and adhere to academic writing standards, offering an honest and insightful account of the student's individual contribution to and critical reflection on the Capstone project.

## Indicative Structure of the Reflection Essay

This is the indicative structure of the Reflection Essay. You should write up those sections that are relevant to your essay.

1. Title page including the title and student name.
2. Introduction:
  - Brief overview of the Capstone project that a student worked on.
  - Purpose of the reflection essay and the key points covered.
3. Reflection on theoretical foundations of the project:
  - Examination of the theoretical implications of the research.
  - Analysis of how the research conducted and the intervention developed contributes to academic and policy debates.
  - Any personal suggestions for improving the project.
4. Evaluation of the intervention:
  - Assessment of the digital intervention developed from the theoretical, practical, and policy perspectives, incorporating stakeholder views and interests.
  - Reflection on the major methodological and theoretical decisions made by the group during the Capstone project and their influence on project outcomes.
  - Evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of a digital intervention, critical reflection on its effectiveness and impact, suggestions for improvement and avenues for future research.
  - Any personal suggestions for improving the project.
5. Personal reflection on skills:
  - Reflection on how an individual student acquired new skills and applied existing ones across all four expertise areas (RE, DE, CME, SSH).
  - Concrete examples of the student's work and contributions across these expertise tracks and reflection on how their contributions impacted the overall project outcomes.
  - Any personal suggestions for improving the project.
6. Conclusion:
  - Summary of the key reflections and insights from the essay.
  - Final thoughts on the overall learning experience during the Capstone project and the CSSci programme.

- Reflection on how the experience will influence future professional work.

## Deadlines

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 (17.00)	<b>Progress Check</b> <i>Submission of PDF file via Canvas</i>
Wednesday, June 11, 2025 (17.00)	<b>Reflection Essay</b> <i>Submission of PDF file via Canvas</i>

## Assessment Criteria for Reflection Essay

- Ability to conduct a clear and comprehensive analysis of the chosen challenge, identifying its complexity and dynamics using relevant social science theories.
- Demonstration of a theoretically informed, integrated, and balanced vision of the strengths and weaknesses of a digital intervention and the project as a whole, including their potential impacts.
- Ability to critically reflect on the ethical, legal, and social aspects of data collection and analysis, as well as the biases involved.
- Demonstration of critical reflection on team roles, collaboration processes, and individual learning experiences during the group work.
- Ability to connect specific skills and knowledge developed through the Capstone project to personal goals and broader societal needs.
- The essay is well-organized, with clear sections and a logical flow.
- Meets basic academic requirements, including:
  - Relevant academic sources are adequately utilized and correctly referenced.
  - Word count: 3,500 words maximum, excluding footnotes and bibliography.

## Learning Objectives

- Analyse at different levels the basic causes, complexity, dynamics and leverage points of a specific social challenge using relevant theories from various disciplines
- Create a theoretically informed integrated and balanced vision on the strengths and weaknesses of digital interventions
- Critically reflect on the ethical, legal and social aspects of their data collection and analysis strategies as well as of their underlying assumptions and biases
- Evaluate the limitations of the project and assess the value and sustainable contribution to the (research) field and community
- Reflect on the team roles, team expectations and team collaboration
- Reflect critically on the project, team collaboration and individual learning processes
- Connect specific skills and knowledge developed as a result of the project to personal interests/goals and societal needs/goals

Version History:  
Jan 20, 2025: V1.0