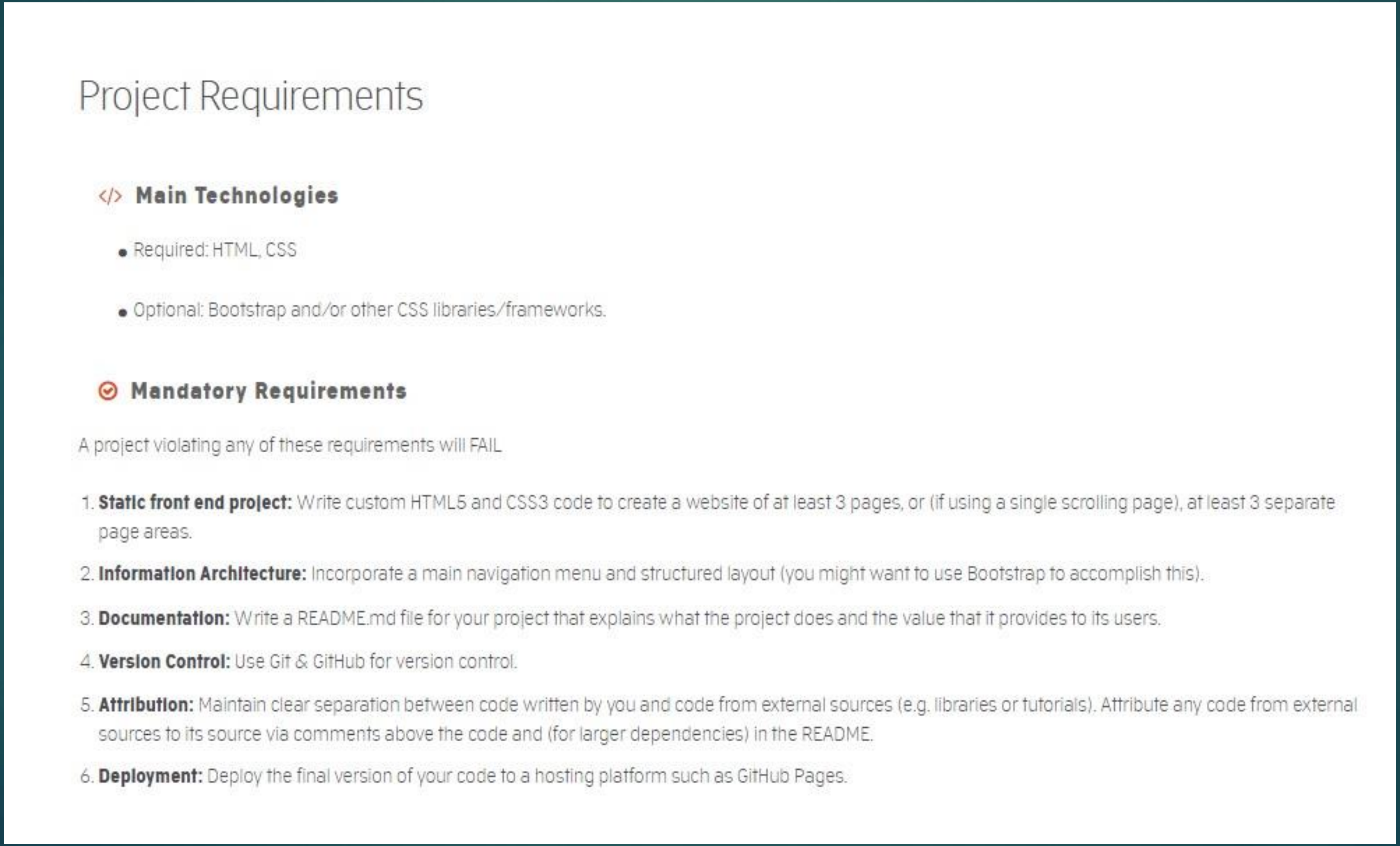
MS1 PREPERATION

~ GETTING READY FOR YOUR FIRST MILESTONE PROJECT ~

Project Requirements



Project Requirements

</> Main Technologies

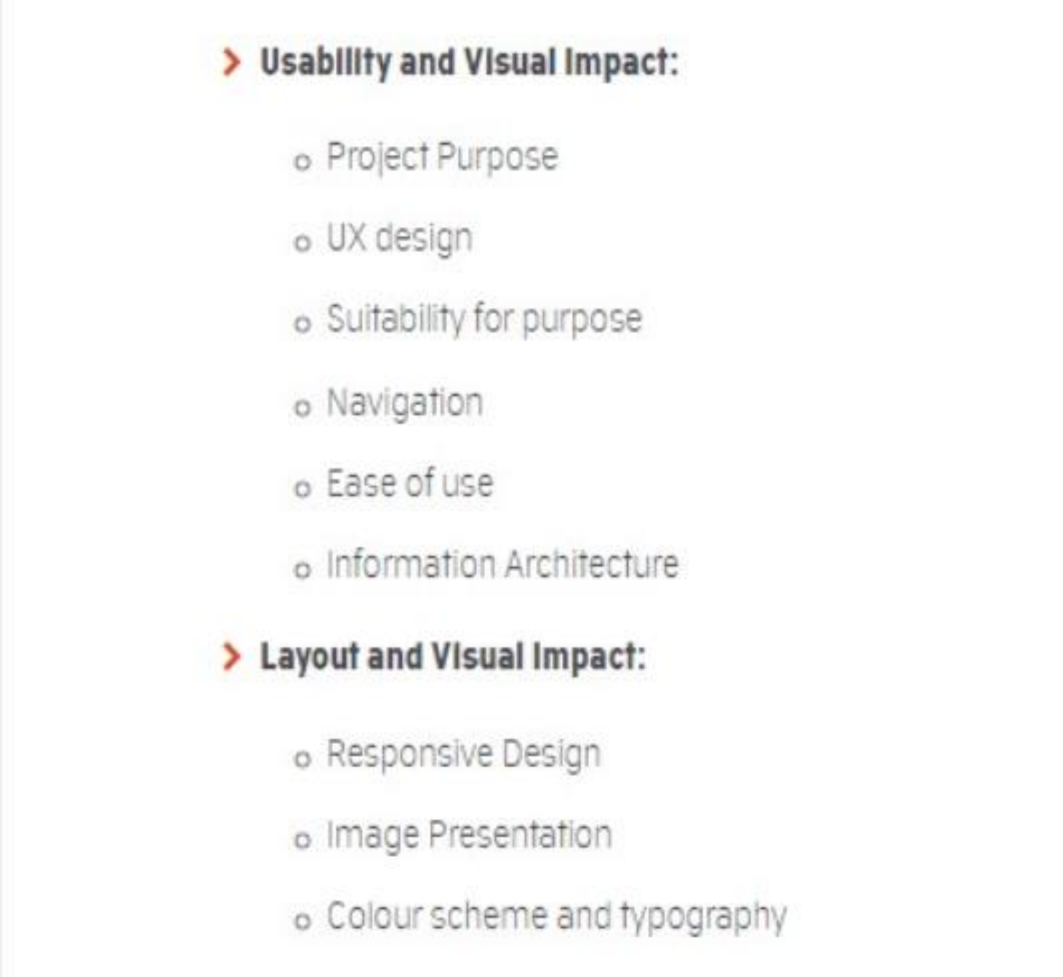
- Required: HTML, CSS
- Optional: Bootstrap and/or other CSS libraries/frameworks.

⊘ Mandatory Requirements

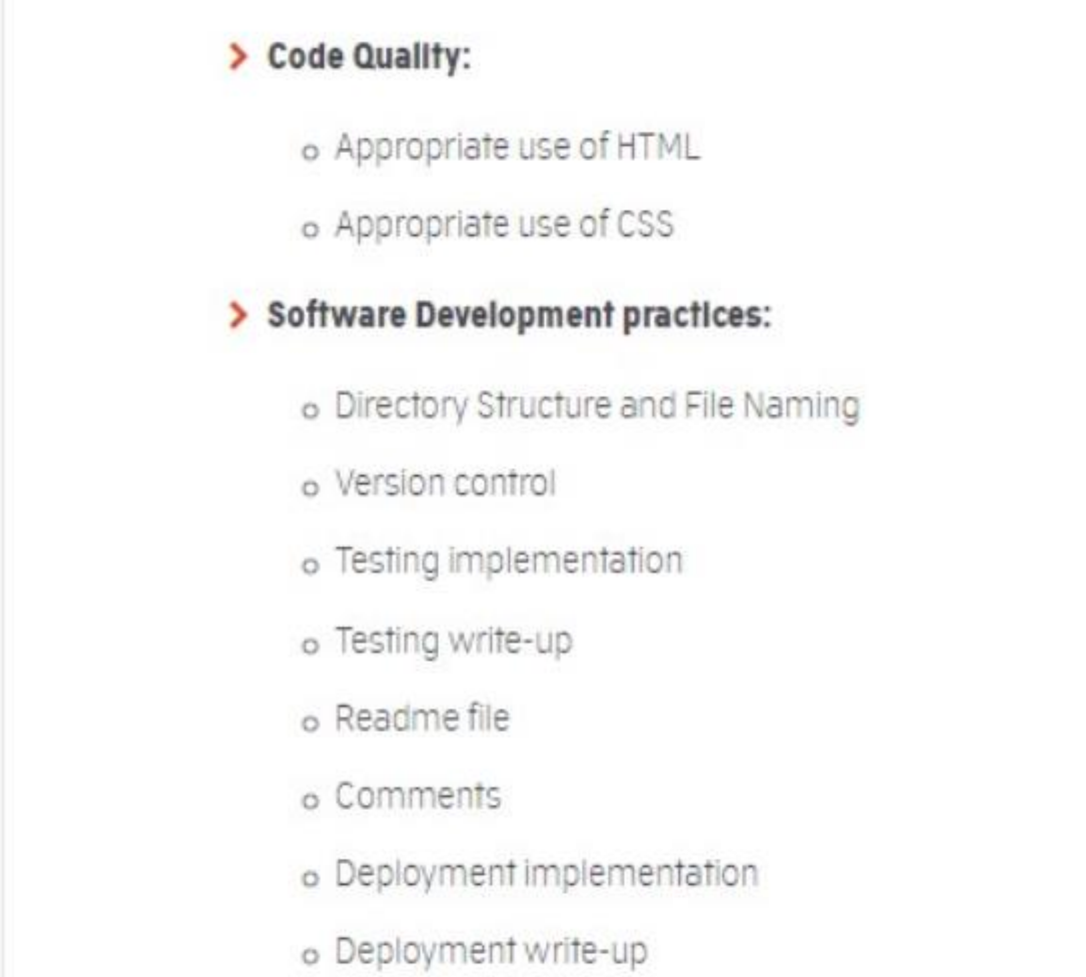
A project violating any of these requirements will FAIL

1. **Static front end project:** Write custom HTML5 and CSS3 code to create a website of at least 3 pages, or (if using a single scrolling page), at least 3 separate page areas.
2. **Information Architecture:** Incorporate a main navigation menu and structured layout (you might want to use Bootstrap to accomplish this).
3. **Documentation:** Write a README.md file for your project that explains what the project does and the value that it provides to its users.
4. **Version Control:** Use Git & GitHub for version control.
5. **Attribution:** Maintain clear separation between code written by you and code from external sources (e.g. libraries or tutorials). Attribute any code from external sources to its source via comments above the code and (for larger dependencies) in the README.
6. **Deployment:** Deploy the final version of your code to a hosting platform such as GitHub Pages.

Assessment Criteria



- **Usability and Visual Impact:**
  - Project Purpose
  - UX design
  - Suitability for purpose
  - Navigation
  - Ease of use
  - Information Architecture
- **Layout and Visual Impact:**
  - Responsive Design
  - Image Presentation
  - Colour scheme and typography



- **Code Quality:**
  - Appropriate use of HTML
  - Appropriate use of CSS
- **Software Development practices:**
  - Directory Structure and File Naming
  - Version control
  - Testing implementation
  - Testing write-up
  - Readme file
  - Comments
  - Deployment implementation
  - Deployment write-up

1. Planning

User stories

What users expect

List example questions and answer them in your strategy

UX - 5 Planes

Strategy - Project goals, customer goals, company goals

Scope - Features you will include based on your strategy (can/cannot achieve)

Structure - How is your information logically grouped on your site

Skeleton - How information is presented – navigation to features etc.

Surface - The *look and feel* of your site - colours, typography, ease of use.

2. README.md

- **Use Markdown**

  https://commonmark.org/help/

  https://github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/wiki/Markdown-Cheatsheet

  https://typora.io/

- **Research examples**

  https://github.com/Code-Institute-Solutions/StudentExampleProjectGradeFive

  https://github.com/AJGreaves/portrait-artist/blob/master/README.md

- **Write basic Readme before starting your project**

  (You will add to it as you go along - credits, testing, barriers etc.)

README (cont…)

- **Responsive Mockup** - http://ami.responsivedesign.is/
- **User stories** - List user questions (“*As a User, I want to* ___”)
- **5 Planes** - Detail each UX plane & answer user stories
- **Features & Technologies** - List site features and what technologies used
- **Resources** - List resources used in your project
- **Testing** - Document all testing measures taken
- **Project barriers and solutions** - Document any barriers and how overcame
- **Version control** - Describe your version control use
- **Deployment** - Describe steps taken to deploy your project
- **Credits** - ‘Borrowed’ code, images, videos
- **Acknowledgements** - Guidance, assistance with code etc.

3. Wireframes

Get out that pen, pencil or even crayons and **play on paper**

Look at **examples**

- https://careerfoundry.com/en/blog/ux-design/how-to-create-your-first-wireframe/
- https://balsamiq.com/learn/courses/intro-to-ui-design/ui-design-templates/

Use a **wireframe mock-up software**

- **https://balsamiq.com** *(CI offers a free license to use with Balsamiq – search Slack)*
- **https://www.figma.com**

Upload your Wireframe before starting to code

4. Version Control

GitPod - IDE (Integrated Development Environment)

- Gitpod is Cloud-based & powered by VSCode (a local IDE)

GIT - Version control system (VCS). Makes it easier to track changes to files.

- add file(s) => git add . (all in current directory)
  => git add index.html style.css (specified files)
- commit => git commit –m “your commit message here”
- push => git push (files ‘pushed’ to your repository – i.e. Github)

GitHub - Free git repository hosting service.

GitHub Pages - Free public webpage hosting service.

5. Start Coding!

A few tips to keep in mind:

- Start somewhere - Get your navbar up, style it, make sure its responsive. Add, commit, push
- Mobile-first - It is recommended to use a mobile-first approach.
- Commit often - Every time a feature has been introduced, styled or updated.
- Keep It Simple - This is your first milestone project, don’t go overboard. A clean MVP will suffice.
- Take breaks - Stop for a tea/coffee, a walk or a drive… just get out often.
- Credit as you go - Borrowed code, images, videos etc. - credit in Readme AND in code comments.
- Barriers/bugs - As above
- Play! - Don’t be scared to try things. All keyboards have delete and backspace keys!
- DevTools - This will become your best friend. Always keep it open.
- Google - It’s there ALL the time, use it!

6. Final touches

- **Images**
  - Ensure your images are resized and compressed before uploading
  - To resize use any editing software or online service such as https://www.adobe.com/ie/photoshop/online/resize-image.html
  - To compress images use TinyPNG: https://tinypng.com/
- **Fine-tuning**
  - Go through your code line by line.
  - Check indents and formatting
  - Delete unnecessary code and comments
  - Go through each section/page in responsive mode on DevTools
  - Check padding, margins and consistency throughout
- **Testing**
  - Ensure you take time and cover all testing for your project. You cannot have too many tests documented.
  - **HTML Validation** https://validator.w3.org/
  - **CSS Validation** https://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/
  - **Auto Prefixer** https://autoprefixer.github.io/
  - **Browser compatibility check - Chrome, Opera, Firefox, IE etc.**
  - **Test links from navigation, test links to external resources, test contact form 'required' fields.**
  - **Check spelling in your code and your Readme**
  - **Test things that you didn't even think could be tested! ☺**

Additional Resources

Check out these awesome resources:

Anna Greaves – Milestone 1 PDF's (will share in channel after call)

What the CSS? – Resources site for all things CSS https://jimlynx.github.io/what-the-css/

Bootstrap – Documentation https://getbootstrap.com/docs

– Using Bootstrap grid https://ajgreaves.github.io/bootstrap-grid-demo/

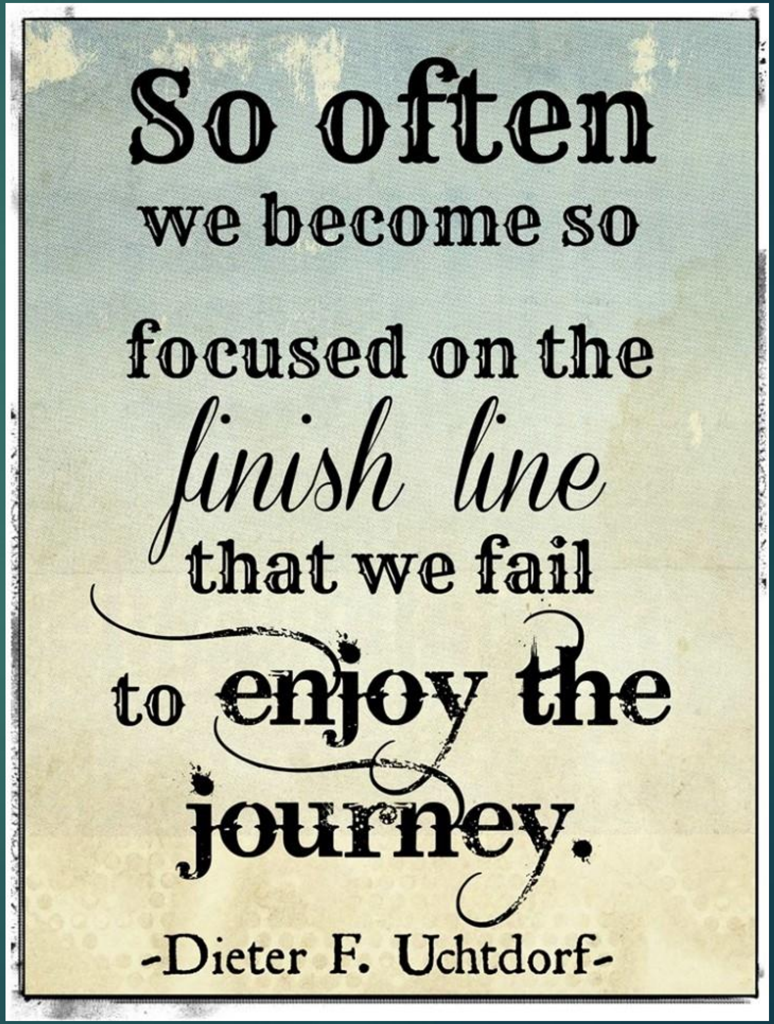
Slack – **Join calls!** This is an excellent way to interact and feel 'part' of the community

#in-it-together - **Community group – daily meetup calls at 11am**

#study-group - **Thursday evening (8pm UK time) – Pre-determined topics and code-play**

Most important rule

- Don’t be afraid to try things!
- Take on small chunks at a time.
- You’ll learn LOADS while doing this project and solving problems along the way.
- Grab a tea/coffee, sit back and ENJOY the ride!!!



So often
we become so
focused on the
finish line
that we fail
to enjoy the
journey.

-Dieter F. Uchtdorf-