MSc Individual Project

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Introduction To The MSc Project

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What We Are Covering

What the MSc Project is

How the MSc Project is assessed

Support available for the MSc Project

Choosing an MSc Project

Dates, deadlines, contacts and links

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Official Project Information

The official information and Project Guidelines can be accessed at:

https://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/lab/msc-projects

This presentation just provides an overview

(the official information always takes precedence)

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What Is The MSc Project?

A **major** and open-ended piece of work

Mainly selected from staff approved Proposals

Addresses a non-trivial problem

The main **research component** of your MSc

Includes a substantial implementation or theoretical piece of work

The concluding part of your MSc

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Substantial Work

The MSc Project takes place across the summer term <u>and</u> the summer '*vacation*' period

(many students will start this earlier)

Officially, it represents **900 hours** of work before the September deadline

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The Summer Period

Summer is **<u>not</u>** a vacation period for MSc students

You are unlikely to have time to devote to other substantial activities

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MSc Project Assessment

Some Project Targets

Conduct **independent research**, with evaluative judgement, under the guidance of a Supervisor

Discuss the **wider context** of the field you are investigating, including its legal and ethical implications

Apply relevant **theoretical and practical** techniques

Communicate your process and accomplishments clearly verbally and in writing (including in a **Report**)

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To PASS the Project

Obtain a mark of **at least 51%**.

Complete the components:

Background and Progress Report

Project Report

Oral Presentation and Demonstration

(must be presented to both supervisor and second marker)

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Pass/Merit/Distinction

Overall, a **Project** will not be recommended for a Pass/Merit/Distinction if the **Project Report** is not at the level of a Pass/Merit/Distinction, respectively

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To Obtain An MSc With Distinction

Obtain an aggregated mark of at least 70% on the MSc taught components

AND

Obtain a mark of **at least 71% on the individual project**

(AND meet all other requirements to pass the MSc)

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To Obtain An MSc With Merit

Obtain an aggregated mark of at least 60% on the MSc taught components

AND

Obtain a mark of **at least 61% on the individual project**
(AND meet all other requirements to pass the MSc)
(AND not qualify for Distinction)

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To **Pass** The MSc

Obtain an aggregated mark of at least 50% on the MSc taught components

AND

Obtain a mark of **at least 51% on the individual project.**

(AND not qualify for Merit/Distinction)

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Project Support

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Project Supervisor

All Projects have an internal Supervisor (who must be on an approved list, usually a member of the Department of Computing, such as a Lecturer or Teaching Fellow)

The College expectation is that the Supervisor will provide you with regular support throughout the duration of the Project

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Supervision Meetings

Arrange the schedule for these with your Supervisor

(bear in mind that they have vacation time, even if you do not)

Our expectation is that you arrive prepared for every meeting, with details of your progress and questions

Your supervisor may prefer to provide some support with you through other channels, such as email (e.g. when giving feedback on draft work)

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Project Attendance

You are expected to be in attendance throughout the project duration for the supervision meetings and the Oral Presentation/Demonstration

Short-term absence needs to be approved by the Course Director

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Selecting A Project

The Standard Route

Staff Proposals are available on the MSc Project Portal

https://project-portal.doc.ic.ac.uk

Use sensible criteria to select from these (i.e. personal interest, achievability, relevance to MSc, future aims, competition for the proposal)

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Competition

Many Proposals attract a lot of interest. You will need to convince a supervisor that they are investing their time wisely if they choose to work with you

You are expected to meet with multiple possible supervisors

Be prepared!

(why do you want to do that project? what do you know about the area?)

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Selecting Projects From The MSc Project Portal

This does contain plenty of choice

You will only see Proposals relevant to your MSc

Mark the Proposals that interest you in the Portal

See the Supervisors in good time (don't assume they will be available last minute)

Ensure that the **Supervisors also mark that you have seen them** in the Portal

Supervisors will also indicate *how interested* they are in supervising you, but this will not be visible to you

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Project Shortlisting – Standard Route

You must shortlist three Projects (1st, 2nd, 3rd choice) from at least two different supervisors

Use the information on the Project Portal regarding how competitive each topic is to aid your choice

It is quite common to not receive your first choice, particularly for competitive projects

A supervisor cannot guarantee you will get any particular topic – the allocation is completed by the Project Coordinator

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Common Error

Only listing one project

(in this situation, there is a very good chance you won't end up with a Project – and your choice afterwards will be much more restricted)

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The Alternative Route (**Rare!**)

You **can** propose a project yourself (the other Proposals will give you an idea regarding the level/depth)

You will need to add a Proposal to the Project Portal

You will need to attract a Supervisor (and have the meeting recorded in the Project Portal)

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Industry-Linked Projects

They are possible and can be useful, but need planning

Permission must be obtained from the Course Director

They still need a departmental Supervisor

They are not an internship

Can be difficult to manage the industry requirements and the academic requirements (the industry partner is not involved in assessment)

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Non Disclosure Agreements (NDAs)

You are advised to consider carefully if you wish to be bound by an NDA
(if you can't submit it, we can't assess it)

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Project Shortlisting – Alternative Route

You need only shortlist your own Proposal

Make sure that the Supervisor has confirmed their interest on the Project Portal

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Note About ISOs/Group Projects

The Individual Project **must be distinct** from the ISO and any previous work

 You cannot get credit twice for the same work (this is a form of self-plagiarism)

You **can** relate your Project to previous work, but you need to acknowledge and reference this without using the previous words

(example – your ISO was a Literature Review in the same field)

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Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Breaches

Plagiarism anywhere in the Project is unacceptable (whether in the reports, implementation or presentation slides)

You are expected to fully reference (and build upon) external sources. **Do not copy and paste**

You could be asked about anything you write about. Don't include it in the Report if you don't understand it

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Project Milestones

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Project Milestones

1. Choose (**and be chosen for**) a project
2. Submit a Background and Progress Report
3. Present and demonstrate results
4. Submit a final Report ("*thesis*")
5. Submit any artefacts ("*code*")

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Important Dates (Spring Term)

Review project proposals and meet with potential
supervisors
 Spring term weeks 2–4
Indicate your project preferences
 first, second, third choice
 deadline: 23:59 Friday 1 February

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Important Dates (After Spring Term)

Submit Background and Progress Report electronically: by 23:59 Friday 7 June

Present and demonstrate results to supervisor and second marker: by arrangement, close to report deadline, absolute deadline 17:00 Friday 13 September

Submit final report electronically: by 14:00 Friday 6 September

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Project Contact And Links

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Project Contacts

MSc Project Coordinator
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Course Director
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MAC/MCSS Coordinator
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MCS Coordinator
Dr. Fidelis Perkonigg
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Some Important Links

Project Information

http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/lab/msc-projects

http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/lab/msc-projects/ProjectsGuide.html

(this can Iso be accessed via MSc noticeboard)

Viewing project proposals and recording preferences

https://project-portal.doc.ic.ac.uk

Previous Distinguished Projects

http://www.imperial.ac.uk/computing/current-students/projectinfo/pg-prizes

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The MSc Project is challenging but it is rewarding!

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Any Questions?

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