Module Code:	CHP 2524
Module Title:	INDIVIDUAL PROJECT
School involved in delivery:	Computing and Engineering
Name of Course(s):	All final year Informatics UG degrees
Module Leader:	T L McCluskey
Location:	Queensgate
Module Type:	Core
Credit Rating:	40 Credits
Level:	Honours
Learning Method(s):	Supervised learning: 15 hrs Unsupervised Learning: 385 hrs
Prerequisites:	None
Recommended prior learning:	N/A
Prequisites:	None
Barred combinations:	None
Professional body requirements:	For accredited courses: must be passed at the first attempt (without referral) for BCS recognition.
Module status:	Dedicated

Module Aims

To enable students to undertake a project that is aimed at solving some tangible problem within the subject area and scope of their degree course. This provides them with an opportunity to investigate an area in some depth, and requires a degree of initiative to complete.

Module Synopsis

This project module involves the student selecting a problem to solve which is relevant to their degree, and of appropriate scope and depth to be tackled within a 40 credit module. Carrying out the project will enable students to develop and demonstrate the ability to undertake research, manage time, use initiative, learn independently, discuss and write cogently on a subject requiring independent learning, create a tangible product in an advanced or relatively novel area of informatics, and perform a critical evaluation.

Students will utilise existing and acquire additional knowledge and skills as appropriate for making a contribution to a solution of the identified problem. The project should include a significant amount of research and concept development, and use of evaluation techniques and critical appraisal.

Outline Syllabus: Contact time typically consists of lectures, seminar or studio but is context specific. Sessions will be held to introduce new topics and re-enforce learning outcomes from previous modules. These may include:

- Project Overview, Project Proposals
- Research Techniques
- Project Management
- Project Progress Reporting, Producing Posters
- Ethical & Legal Issues
- Thesis Writing
- Evaluation Strategies
- Project Reports & Product Documentation, Poster presentations

Each student will be assigned an individual supervisor who will meet with the student every week. Otherwise, the project consists of self-managed activity, as determined by the subject of the project.

Learning Outcomes

1. Knowledge and Understanding

With respect to the project's subject area, a student will, by the end of the module,

1.1 have assimilated knowledge in sufficient depth to understand and discuss key ideas and concepts

1.2 have acquired knowledge and understanding of current, leading research and development directions

1.3 have acquired knowledge and understanding of the tools and techniques relevant to the solution of the project's identified problem.

2. Abilities

Upon completion of this module, a student will be able to:

2.1 employ a systematic method to develop a product that forms a solution to an identified problem, using sound decision making and initiative where appropriate,

2.2 gather, examine and appraise research data and materials,

2.3 examine, appraise and select the technical and design tools and techniques relevant to the development of the product

2.4 articulate verbally and in a written form, the context, problem and underlying research-based issues of the project's subject area

2.5 critically evaluate the product and the product's development process, recognising good practice

2.6 produce well-constructed documentation and presentations that critically assess, communicate and present project deliverables

2.7 employ a systematic method to manage a project throughout its lifecycle.

Learning strategy: Initial guidance and information will be provided to the student via introductory workshops, the module leader and project tutors, to enable them to identify a project topic and write a project specification. Each student will be allocated an individual supervisor who will offer guidance and supervision throughout the project. Once a student's project proposal has been accepted, the students are expected to progress their project on an independent basis. Learning will take place through the application and development of skills and material previously encountered, by self-development of new skills and by researching new material. The student is expected to consult relevant literature, past project reports and other sources. A number of lectures or workshops will be provided and delivered at an appropriate time during the year. Each student will have regular supervision sessions.

Assessment Strategy:

The deliverables of the project are:

1. Project Proposal / Specification
2. Interim progress report and presentation
3. Project report
4. Project product and demonstration

Deliverable 1 is to be submitted at the end of week 3 of term 1. Deliverable 2 is to be submitted during the last week of semester 1 and a presentation / discussion with the supervisor and examiner to be held within the first 2 weeks of semester 2. A formative assessment of the student's progress will then be made and feedback given to the student as to his/her progress.

Non-submission of Deliverable 1 or 2 will result in the student failing the module.

Final assessment will be carried out after the project report is submitted, and a demonstration of the product given, at the end of the project. The project will be marked holistically, with one mark of 100%, which will be based on deliverables 3 (normally 50% weighting) and 4 (normally 40% weighting), together with a mark for student progress (normally 10%), informed by deliverable 2.

The deliverable breakdown is as follows:

Interim progress report and presentation (To Assess Outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)

The report and presentation will include:

The Context – problem, client, users and product

Summary of the academic research undertaken so far

Product specification

Product development plan

Project report (To Assess All Outcomes)

Project product and demonstration (To Assess Outcomes 2.1, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7)

More details on course-based variations on deliverables and assessment criteria will be issued in the module hand books.