# NCI Fundamentals of Business Analysis

*Group Project*

Requirements Document for the re-design of the NCI website and portal

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Document History

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ver | Name | Date | Details |
| 0.1 | Mark Gaskin | 15/10/2017 | Initial Draft |
| 0.2 | Mark Gaskin | 20/10/2017 | Include NCI Logo |
| 0.3 | Mark Gaskin | 01/11/2017 | Add Technique overview and introduction to the techniques being used |
| 0.4 | Mark Gaskin | 02/11/2017 | Updated document structure and format |
| 0.5 | Mark Gaskin | 07/11/2017 | Add Requirements Analysis table content, observation output and brainstorming. |
| 0.6 | Mark Gaskin | 07/11/2017 | observation output Updated |
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# Introduction

## **Purpose of Document**

The analysis team outlined above are required to complete a group project of at least 2,000 words per person, which accounts for 50% of our overall mark.

Task outline:

National College of Ireland has decided to redevelop its website and student portal and it has approached you, and asked for you to complete a Requirements Elicitation for this project.

Using at least 4 different Elicitation Techniques, you must produce a report of your findings.

This document will serve as the foundation for the solution to the website and portal redevelopment.

Your report should include (but does not have to be limited to):

* A project introduction
* An overview of the techniques that you have chosen
* A summary of the activities involved in eliciting the requirements using the chosen techniques
* A documentation of the results of your elicitation
* An analysis of the results
* Specification of the proposed solution

## **Intended Audience**

The intended audience is Glen Holmes and the analysis team.

## **Assumptions**

A minimum of 4 techniques will be used.

The team will use What’s App group for ongoing scrums and GitHub for saving documentation.

## **Out of Scope**

It was confirmed that all students were not allowed to send survey requests to students and lecturers.

## **Outstanding Items**

2 Introduction & Overview to techniques being used

**2.1 Brainstorming**

Brainstorming is used to generate ideas for improvement opportunities.[[1]](#endnote-1)

Brainstorming is a useful tool to gather information and ideas from a requirements analysis brief. It can also be used to decide on what elicitation techniques are most suitable to gather required information.

Our team has decided to use an initial brainstorming session to decide upon which techniques are best suited to gather the information needed. Brainstorming sessions will take place as the requirements analysis further develops in the form of scrums. The scrums will take place either in class or over our What’s App group. Notes of these scrums will be kept and saved on our GitHub project site.

During our first brainstorming session we have decide to further select the following techniques:

1. Survey/Questionnaires
2. Prototype
3. Observations

The three elicitation techniques listed above, and the brainstorming technique make up the four elicitation techniques required in the brief.

It should also be noted during our first brainstorming session, it was decided upon, that Mark Gaskin shall be Team lead on this requirements analysis.

**2.2 Survey/Questionnaires**

A questionnaire is a series of questions used for gathering information that is used to benefit a single individual. While more than one individual might complete the questionnaire, the responses are not aggregated for analysis.

A survey, on the other hand, is the process of gathering information for statistical analysis to benefit a group of individuals. The responses are aggregated to draw a conclusion.[[2]](#endnote-2)

As outlined in the above citation a survey or questionnaire is used to gather information. In our analysis we shall be taking advantage of a survey tool (A list of which given below).

A survey tool allows us to address a wider audience in a relatively short space of time. The information gathered from such surveys allow Stakeholders to readily view the state of affairs at a given time, the mood of a society at a given time and how a workplace is performing e.g. a HR Survey.

During our initial brainstorming session, the following guidelines for a survey were agreed upon:

1. Questions should be clear and concise.
2. Questions should follow a certain sequence.
3. Questions should be in the form of Multiple Choice or a Scale.

Lists of possible hosts for our survey are listed here:

* Survey Monkey
* Type form
* Google Forms
* Client Heartbeat
* Zoho Survey
* Survey Gizmo
* Survey Plane

**2.3 Observation**

Observation or job shadowing involves looking at the actual work environment that the end user experiences every day. This technique is used when attempting to document an existing process or when a project’s goal is to improve a process. Observation is a great way to understand what the end user goes through in their job and can provide some instant requirements for how a process can be improved.[[3]](#endnote-3)

As the project is on the update of a website and student portal, we shall be using this technique in two ways.

1. We shall shadow a number of non-user of the website i.e. A person who has not visited the site previously. Our thoughts on this are:

* As this a college website, every year a new set of potential students will visit the website to view possible courses.
* We would be able to monitor behaviour closely and note how easy or difficult a task is to perform i.e. Where can I get Fees information? Where I can get course information? Where I can get course start date information? What requirements are needed to apply for the course?

1. We shall shadow a current student. Non -Students do not have access to the student portal. Multiple tasks will be set (to be decided upon) for the user to perform, it will be noted how easy or difficult these tasks are to perform.

**2.4** **Prototype**

A prototype in accordance to the brief of this requirements analysis i.e. A Web re-design, could consist of a wireframe, a non-functioning webpage or a rudimentary sketch.

The idea behind a prototype is to give the stakeholders a visual representation of a concept. The prototype in our case will help visualise a possible new layout. The layout change or possible layout change will be generated upon the results of the above-mentioned elicitation techniques.

3 Requirements Analysis

3.1 Brainstorming

**Scrum 1:**

**19th October 18:00 - 18:24**

**In class discussion**

**Mark, Patrick and Keith discussed the elicitation techniques that will be used.**

**Based on the discussion and on the weight of work to be done the below techniques were selected:**

* **Brainstorming**
* **Prototyping**
* **Observation**
* **Survey**

**Tasks:**

**For Saturday 21st October each person was tasked with briefly outlining what each technique would require, how it should be structured and what the outcome should provide.**

**Scrum 2:**

**22nd October 18:57 – 20:45**

**What’s App group discussion**

**The group discussed the outcome of the elicitation techniques outline completed on the 21st October. Each member set out what they believe to be the pressure points for each elicitation technique.**

**This outline is now open to be incorporated into the main process. The team also designed the structure of the main requirements document. All documents and outlines have been saved to the GitHub repository.**

**Task:**

**For the week coming each member was set a task of starting an observation outline and if time allowed complete one observation.**

**Scrum 3:**

**30th October 18:14 – 19:45**

**What’s App Group Discussion**

**Discussion held around starting of the observation technique. Patrick confirmed that he has completed the first non-student website observation. Keith and Mark to organise further observations.**

**Task:**

**Each member was request to come up with 5 questions each for the survey and to select a survey tool that best suited our needs.**

**Scrum 4:**

**6th November 14:40 – 21:30**

**What’s App Group Discussion**

**The team discussed all questions to be included on the survey monkey survey site. Several questions were mentioned with 10 of the best selected. Once the questions were confirmed the survey was formatted and the sent to class mates to complete.**

**An email was sent to NCI management requesting access to all students email’s so that a mass email can be sent with our survey. Awaiting reply.**

**Task:**

**Once the survey output is completed the team needs to analyse the data. Next step is to complete the observations and start reviewing possible prototype ideas.**

3.2 Survey

3.3 Observation

*Website*

A set number of tasks were asked to be performed by the user and observed. The goal being to determine the usability of the website for new users.

The tasks that are to be performed are:

1. Navigate to the course selector to find a pre-chosen course.
2. Find the course descriptor
3. Find the course co-ordinator
4. Find how to apply for the course
5. Find the fees for the course

The course pre-chosen was a Part-time course, a Post Graduate Diploma in Arts in Human Resource Management.

* **User 1 – Non Student**

1. To find the course the user simply navigated to Courses, from there the user used the side navigator to navigate to Part-time courses. The user noted that it would have been preferable to have courses structured in their different discipline rather than in one page as it was relatively easy to bypass the course.
2. The course descriptor/content on the pre-chosen course leads you to another page. The user noted that it would be more helpful if each module was at the least listed and then the descriptor for the module followed through a link. To access the module descriptor, you must go through two-page loads and click two links.
3. The user was unable to find the course co-ordinator, but noted that she would more than likely contact admissions on any questions she may have about the course. The user noted that there is no direct route on the course page. It should be also noted that the user by-passed the brochure at the top of the page also. When asked the user said it was not well highlighted.
4. The user still on the course content page found it unusual that she did not have direct access to apply for the course on the page itself. The user had to navigate using the side navigator to How to apply, scroll down to part-time courses and then download an application form. The second unusual aspect was that this could not be done on-line. The user also noted that when she eventually stumbled upon the brochure and clicked the link on How to Apply, this link brought her straight back to the NCI homepage, where she needed to navigate further to the How to Apply page. This should be a direct link.
5. Although the fees are stated on the course page the Direct Debit plan could easily have been printed alongside this. The user bypassed the course a few times before the direct debit plan related to the pre-chosen course was found. The user had expected the plans to be in alphabetical order i.e. All Postgraduate courses together, all Certificates together.

In conclusion the user felt that overall the site was good but that there were too many clicks to get to the needed information. Where possible the information should be on one page and links should be direct. Several links to get one piece of information was confusing and frustrating.

* **User 2 – Non Student**

1. To find the course the user searched for Courses and selected the required course. The user presumed this was the only way to access the course.
2. To access the module descriptor, you must go through two-page loads and click two links which the user saw as an unnecessary step when the information could be easily amalgamated into the original page.
3. The user was unable to find the course co-ordinator so gave up on the task. The observer found the source information which the user felt should be front and centre if this person needs to be contacted.
4. The user presumed that to apply for the course this section would be at the bottom of the main page, but it wasn’t which they noted as a strange concept. They commented that “Isn’t this the main point of the college to make the application process simple?”
5. The user found the course fees with ease.

In conclusion the user felt that the site was too complicated for its own good but that the style, look and feel could be great with only some slight tweaks.

*Student Portal*

A set number of tasks were asked to be performed by the user and observed. The goal being to determine the usability of the student portal for new or current users.

The tasks that are to be performed are:

1. Navigate to Moodle from the Application and select a course.
2. Find the course grades
3. Give an overview of the module course information
4. Find and review the calendar
5. Find the course timetable

The user was given access to the observer’s student account for this exercise but nothing other than user name and password was pre-entered.

3.4 Prototype

4 User Stories

5 Conclusions

6 Bibliography and References

1. Guide to the business analysis body of knowledge. (2015). Toronto: Ontario: International Institute of Business Analysis. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. SurveyGizmo. (2017). *Are You Using a Questionnaire or Survey to Collect Data?* [online] Available at: https://www.surveygizmo.com/survey-blog/taking-the-question-out-of-questionnaires/ [Accessed 20 Oct. 2017]. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Pious, K. (2017). *Techniques for Eliciting Quality Requirements – Observation*. [online] Captech Consulting, Inc. Available at: https://www.captechconsulting.com/blogs/techniques-for-eliciting-quality-requirements--observation [Accessed 20 Oct. 2017]. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)