

CS907/13 Dissertation Project

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| ▶ Finding a supervisor and project | October until December |
| ▶ Registration | January 18, noon |
| ▶ Presentation | April 29 to May 10 |
| ▶ Interim Report | July 11, noon |
| ▶ Dissertation Report | September 3, noon |

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The website is still the old website, and it will be updated with material and the exact deadlines next week.

All submissions via tabula. No \LaTeX or other template, but sample dissertations are available:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/dcs/teaching/material/cs907/sample-library>

- ▶ You received the list of all potential supervisors by email. It will also be on the website.
- ▶ The supervisors will have topic suggestions.
- ▶ Topics from previous years:

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Approaches to finding a topic:

- ▶ Choose a project topic that a supervisor suggests from the list. The list might change over time.
- ▶ Choose your own project topic and search for a supervisor: Look at which supervisor offers a similar project.
- ▶ A mix of both: Come with your own idea and work out a project topic together with a supervisor.

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In January you need:

1. a project
2. and a supervisor who considers the level of this project appropriate for your degree
3. and who is willing to supervise you.

Some inspiration

- ▶ Is there something in one of your modules that you are sceptical about? Or which you think needs further study?
- ▶ Maybe explore an under-researched area.
- ▶ Search for ideas in the library.
- ▶ Maybe replicate an existing study in a different setting.
- ▶ Maybe develop or test out a methodology or method.
- ▶ Maybe apply a theoretical idea to a real world problem.
- ▶ Maybe work out the theoretical properties of a real-world problem.
- ▶ Discuss your ideas with your colleagues, friends, and with staff members.
- ▶ What topics are other students considering?

Work out and refine your research question. Your supervisor can guide you in the refinement process.

Contacting a supervisor

- ▶ By email
- ▶ Going to the office during office hours
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Role of your supervisor

- ▶ Help you shape and refine your ideas
- ▶ Can give advice on how to conduct research
- ▶ Can give advice on how to present results, i.e., how to structure a dissertation
- ▶ Are **NOT** involved in the writing process of the dissertation
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Joint supervision

- ▶ Every project has a second marker, who usually does not supervise
- ▶ It is possible to have a second supervisor, who is then also the second marker
- ▶ If one of the supervisors is from outside Computer Science (industry, other department), that supervisor must be the second supervisor

The Registration Process

Simpler process than last year:

You upload to tabula a screenshot of an email that your supervisor sent you, in which your supervisor agrees to supervise you. It should contain all of the following:

- ▶ The text:

I, \langle supervisor's full name \rangle , agree to supervise the following CS907/13 MSc project:
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- ▶ The student's name
- ▶ The student's 7-digit ID number
- ▶ The project title
- ▶ Optional: A second supervisor's name

You can formulate and send the email to your supervisor in this way, and let the supervisor just agree by email, and upload the screenshot of the email conversation.

Working with your supervisor

- ▶ Agree on a timetable of meetings at the start of your project. Stick to it.
- ▶ Be on time to each meeting
- ▶ Make sure each meeting has a focus, e.g., “setting a research problem”
- ▶ Be prepared with your questions during the meetings: Do not take up time thinking up your questions during a meeting
- ▶ Send documents that can form the basis of a discussion about your progress to your supervisor before meetings, e.g., research plan, early results
- ▶ Record discussion and action points right after each meeting
- ▶ Recognise that using systems and learning about tools is your responsibility: Linux, Bash, make, git, etc