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`https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/dcs/teaching/material/cs907`

CS907/13 Dissertation Project

- ▶ Registration (0%)
- ▶ Presentation (5%)
- ▶ Interim Report (15%)
- ▶ **Dissertation Report (80%)**

September 3, noon

Two files via tabula:

1. The report as a single pdf file, and
2. one zip file: all source code, installation instructions, all large appendices, all other supplementary files.

The exact tabula details will be provided soon.



If you miss the submission deadline, marks will be deducted according to University procedures, i.e., starting from the **first minute** after the deadline.



- ▶ This is particularly important, because this submission counts as 80% of the total module mark, and this module is worth a lot of credits.
- ▶ Therefore, it is clear: even a 1 minute delay can change your degree classification.

Your zip file might be very large and uploading might be slow.

Therefore, submit early, for example **the day before the deadline!**

General requirements for a Master's-level dissertation

It shall be clearly and concisely written, show evidence of originality in knowledge and in interpretation, and shall also be judged on its scholarly presentation. In addition it shall contain a full bibliography.

Assessment Criteria

- ▶ **Technical content (75%):** Well read and knowledgeable in the project's subject area; good insight into the project's specific topic; effective analysis of the problems and issues relating to the project's aims; quality of design work and appropriate choice of methods and tools; effective testing/validation regime; quality of results and analysis; critical evaluation of the project; quality of practical/technical work and overall level of technical achievement.
- ▶ **Project management and organisation (10%):** Consistent progress; initially unforeseen problems well detected and overcome; necessary research, analysis and design work completed; overall progress.
- ▶ **Communication skills (15%):** Clear exposition of the aims, achievements and limitations of the project; coherence, structure and composition of report; software and hardware appropriately documented; readability and appropriate length.
- ▶ The supervisor and second assessor will be responsible for marking.

- ▶ Word limit 18,000 words, excluding bibliography and appendices.
- ▶ 18,000 is an upper bound, after which marks can be deducted!
9,000 words is a good number.
- ▶ Discuss length and content with your supervisor!
- ▶ Quality is much more important than quantity!
- ▶ Important to communicate clear and concisely:
 - ▶ Do **not** elaborate on unnecessary details, but
 - ▶ **Focus** on the parts that make your project unique and elaborate these parts in **high detail**.

- ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ Self-contained: a brief but clear introduction to the problem or area, focused on the project. Motivation/importance/timeliness of the work. Clear, measurable objectives.
- ▶ Background and research
 - ▶ Show a good understanding of the background area and how your project fits into the existing landscape. Mention key citations and sources.
- ▶ Results
 - ▶ Technical content. This should be the **main section**. There should be no doubt that you did the work. Explain all key interesting details. Explain why you made specific choices and how you weighed alternatives. Explain what you did and how. Do **not** explain details of standard software/standard procedures, but **focus** on the interesting parts that make your project unique, and elaborate on those parts in **high detail**. Your supervisor can help you find this focus.
- ▶ Project Management
 - ▶ Your project management methodology, code management, regular supervisor meetings
- ▶ Appraisal and reflection
 - ▶ Short section: Which of the original project goals have you reached, which haven't you reached? How did the goals change during the project? How did the original timetable change? How did you deal with unexpected problems? What did you learn about the subject? What did you learn about the technologies that you used, and what did you learn about managing a project of this size? What would you do differently if you had to do this project again (or a similar project)?
- ▶ Ethics
 - ▶ Ethical consent guidelines: (<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/dcs/teaching/ethics/>)

Questions?