# Overview

The aim of the 3rd year group project is to design a tool which would allow school leavers to fully examine their career options, taking into account employment prospects, current and required skills, and available training courses. There are 9 members in the team: 5 Computer Science students, 3 Interactive Systems students and 1 Computer and Electronical Engineering student. During the period of my supervision the team had to prepare a bid document, which consists of requirement specification, project plan, risk analysis and project costing. After the bid was submitted, I provided guidance in regards to tools for the website implementation, source control and other technical issues.

# Reflection

I took a reactive approach to the first meeting. I answered any questions the group had, overviewed there current progress, and helped to prioritize the remaining tasks. However, I spent majority of the meeting time observing how the students interact as a group, how they deal with issues, and how what approach the group used to various issues. It became apparent, that the group is well organized, motivated, and had a clear vision of what tasks have to be done and how to do them, to achieve high marks for the group project. At the end of the first meeting, the group has identified the missing parts of the first deliverable, and distributed the tasks among themselves.

The main topic of the 2nd meeting was usability testing protocol, the created protocol did not accurately describe the process of the mockup evaluation, and therefore the collected usability data may not be accurate. The designed protocol did not require the users to perform some sort of task, rather it was a set of questions to get the users opinion on the designed mockup. Because, the aim of the usability study is to gauge how intuitive the mockup design is, I advised the group to devise a protocol which would engage the user with the mockup. This means that the users ought to perform a set of tasks with the mockups and then their experience should be reflected in a questionnaire. I provided a number of examples from the previous year group projects. Unfortunately, because the meeting was a week before the deliverable submission I could not review the final version of the protocol, however because the group received 73% for the 1st stage deliverable and 25.7% out of 28.5% for the usability evaluation I assume that the given advice had a positive impact.

The team got in touch with the mentors quite late into the semester, thus we were only able to have two meetings before the deadline; given a similar task I’d make sure a contact with the team is made earlier, thus giving more time to study the strengths and weaknesses of the team. In addition, I would like to hold a meeting with each group member individually, to ensure there are no internal issues in the group. Finally, if given the choice, I would prefer to supervise the technical stages of a project where I can provide help based on my work experience.