

Organisation of the BSc. Software Design Thesis

Preliminary Pages:

- Title
- Declaration
- Abstract
- Acknowledgements
- Table of Contents
- List of Tables and Figures
- Main Chapters
- Glossary
- List of Abbreviations
- List of Appendices

Main Chapters:

The main body of your thesis should include the following sections:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction
 - Provide a brief context and rationale for the project. References are very important.
 - Present your research question(s).
 - ~500 Words
- Chapter 2 – Background research/Literature review
 - Introduce the seminal work in the subject area of the project.
 - Discuss current work in the domain of your project.
 - Identify the problem/gap in the subject area that your project is going to address.
 - Reference are extremely important in this section.
 - ~1400 Words
- Chapter 3 – System Design
 - Requirements
 - Architecture
 - Design
 - Implementation
- Chapter 4 - Testing and Evaluation / Discussion of Results

(The total word count between Chapters 3 & 4 should be around 3500. How this is distributed between the chapters depends on your type of project. For example, if your project has quantitative results to discuss Chapter 4 will be longer than if your project is solely implementation based. You should discuss this with your supervisor.)

- Chapter 5 – Conclusions / Recommendations

- The chapter is key in demonstrating your understanding of what you've done.
- Provide a summary of the thesis.
- What are the implications of your project.
- Provide a set of recommendations.
- ~1500 Words

In general:

- Every chapter should have an introduction and conclusion. Tell the reader what they are going to read and what they just have read. It may seem like repetition to you, the writer, but it's not to the reader.
- Provide sign-posting for the reader throughout the thesis. Don't finish chapters abruptly without providing a sign-post for the next chapter.

Recommended Style for Thesis

The required house style for the presentation of the thesis includes the following specifications:

- The thesis should not exceed 7,000 words (+ or – 10%). This word count excludes preliminary pages, references and appendices. If there are reasons for exceeding the word limit, you should discuss this with your supervisor.
- Text should be on the right hand page.
- On the thesis due date one soft bound copy and one hard bound copy should be submitted to your supervisor.
- The referencing system of the IEEE should be used consistently throughout all documents.

Technical Specifications:

- Font style:
 - Arial
- Font size:
 - Title 14 bold (centered)
 - Headings 12 **bold** (left aligned)
 - Body text: 12 plain
- Page numbering:
 - Centred on footer
- Line Spacing 1.5
- Text should be justified
- Emphasis:
 - Use sparingly, and if so, use **bold** or *italics*.
 - Do not underline.

Please note that a template document which adheres to these specifications is available from moodle. It is highly recommend that you use it.

Thesis Final Hard Bound Presentation

In preparing the manuscript to have it hard bound, please take note of the following points:

- Printing Text on right-hand page only
- Paper Good quality white paper, 100g. for theses
- Theses Cover Garda Siochana/Trinity blue (or nearest shade) with gold lettering

Spine:

- Name (as registered) - top
- Year of submission - centre
- BSc. Software Design -bottom

Front:

- Title - top
- Registered Name - middle
- BSc. Software Design - bottom left
- Year of submission - bottom right

Back: blank