

The Department of Computer Science

# CIS4517

# Research and Development Project

Level 7

Coursework 1 – Interim Project Report

2023/2024

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| Coursework 1 |

**Weighting**: The Project Document– (20%) Coursework

**Hand in date**: 21st June 2024 (11:59am)

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**:

**LO1** Identify, specify and critically analyse a system, issue, or problem of current interest within a relevant context.

**LO2** Critically and systematically review relevant literature and alternative approaches and solutions.

**LO3** Demonstrate and critically self-reflect on the significance of the outcomes of the project in a professional manner including aspects related to legal, social, and ethical implications.

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| Introduction |

This assignment should demonstrate what problem the project is addressing and how it will be solved and evaluated. The emphasis of this report should be on what work has been done so far. This report should contain a critical analysis of a system, issue, or a problem, with aim and objectives. It is also expected that the progress against a plan is reported and analysed.

The reported progress should be evidenced by interim deliverable that will contribute towards the final project. For example, this could be an analysis of alternative methods of solution; a feasibility study; a prototype, a literature review, etc. which will be included as appendices.

A typical Interim Report will be approximately 3000 words, excluding tables, figures, project plan, references, and appendices.

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| General Guidance |

The aim of the interim report layout should be to make it as easy as possible for somebody to read and understand your work - it is obviously in your own interests to ensure that this is the case.

**Format**

**Margins**: Standard margins are typically 1 inch on all sides. This helps ensure the text is well-framed on the page and looks tidy.

**Spacing**: Use 1.5 or double line spacing for the main text. This makes the report easier to read.

**Alignment**: Text should be left-aligned.

**Font**

**Type**: Choose a clear, professional font. Common choices include Times New Roman, Arial, and Calibri because of their readability.

**Size**: Typically, 12-point font is used for the main text, with larger sizes for headings and subheadings to distinguish them clearly from the main body.

**Consistency**: Keep the font consistent throughout the document, except in figures and tables if necessary for clarity.

**Recommended Contents of the Report**

Interim Report must be written in 3rd person and should contain:

* **Title Page**
* **Table of Contents Page** (List of Tables and List of Figures may be included if necessary)
* **Chapter 1 Introduction**
* **Chapter 2 Background Research / Literature Review**
* **Chapter 3 Legal Social and Ethical implications**
* **Chapter 4 Project Management & Progress Review**
* **References**

# Title page

This should provide sufficient information to indicate the contents of the Report. It must contain the following information:

*Title of the project*

*Student's name.*

*Supervisor’s name.*

*Date of Submission.*

*The statement:* ***‘This Report is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the MSc (Title of your degree programme) Degree at Edge Hill University.’***

# Chapter 1. Introduction

Assume that your readers have little knowledge of the subject and introduce the subject to them. This is where you provide the rationale for your project idea and introduce your readers to the topic and to clarify the context of your project. For example, what problem are you trying to solve through the use of technology? If your project is about the creation of a piece of software for a particular issue, then write a short introduction to software quality and the area being targeted - sufficient so that your readers will understand the general area of your project. *(approx. 250 words)*

This chapter should also identify the aim of the project and what objectives you will have to achieve to successfully complete the project. You should have one aim (singular) and a number of objectives (plural). Your aim should clarify what the overall achievement is intended to be and should reflect the title of your work. You should then have a list of measurable objectives (SMART). *(approx. 150 words)*

# Chapter 2. Project Background and Literature review

The project background expands on what was said in the introduction about the topic and clarifies the area of your project. Key to this section is a literature / organisation / product review of other people's work and an understanding of how technology already addresses (or fails to address) what you are proposing. *(approx. 1000-1500 words)*

# Chapter 3. Ethical consideration

Consider ethical implications this project might have. Identify who you are going to affect with regards to personal information, additional circumstances related to the users i.e. additional needs / users at risk / vulnerable people and how you are going to protect their interests when the artefact is evaluated and up and running. *(approx. 250-300 words)*

# Chapter 4. Project Management & Progress Review

Project management involves dissecting the project's workload into phases, tasks, and various activities, along with time estimations for completing each aspect, encapsulated within a project plan. This plan sets out task interdependencies, critical work components, and the overall schedule. Additionally, it outlines the methodological approach adopted for project implementation and completion. It is essential to detail the progress achieved so far and identify outstanding tasks yet to be completed. (*consider using a Gantt chart or similar*)

You should also provide a critical reflective analysis of your performance in relation to the plan, the project objectives and overall aim. *(approx. 250 - 300 words)*

**References**

Much of what you present will have been touched on, discussed, written about, or covered by other people in the past (Chapter 2 and 3 in particular). Therefore, your discussions must be adequately referenced using EHU Harvard format:

(see [https://eshare.edgehill.ac.uk/id/document/17240](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feshare.edgehill.ac.uk%2Fid%2Fdocument%2F17240&data=05%7C02%7CGavanc%40edgehill.ac.uk%7C032d8ced9192445e5ce908dc6a834193%7C093586914d8e491caa760a5cbd5ba734%7C0%7C0%7C638502359185241503%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=i5RMzPjlDZeqvf44zl%2BRmxUm3v%2BEyPyFRSjKnMRbIRU%3D&reserved=0) ).

Material is referenced within reports primarily to:

* **Avoid plagiarism** - you do not present other people’s work, ideas, thoughts, words, figures, diagrams, results and so on to make their work look as if it is your own.

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| Tutor Details |

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| **Module Leader**: Prof Yonghuai Liu | |
| **Location:** Tech Hub **Office:** TH F-15  **Direct line:** 01695 65 7230 | **e-mail:** liuyo@edgehill.ac.uk |

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| Initial Planning |

You will be working individually, and all work handed in for assessment must represent this.

If you have any questions or need further clarification on this assignment, please email or make an appointment to see me ([liuyo@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:liuyo@edgehill.ac.uk)).

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| What you should submit |

You must submit the interim report, including appendices in PDF via the VLE drop box.

| **Assessment Criteria** | | | | | | | |
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| **Assessment Criteria** | **Mark  (0 – 29)** | **Mark  (30 – 39)** | **Mark  (40 – 49)** | **Mark  (50 – 59)** | **Mark  (60 – 69)** | **Mark  (70 -84)** | **Mark  (85 – 100)** |
| **Grade:**  **Fail** | **Grade:**  **Narrow fail** | **Grade:**  **Pass** | **Grade:**  **Good** | **Grade:  Very Good** | **Grade:  Excellent** | **Grade:  Outstanding** |
| LO1: Identify, specify and critically analyse a system, issue, or problem of current interest within a relevant context. | Nothing submitted or an inadequate level of engagement with the coursework requirements to demonstrate appropriate knowledge or skills.  No or unclear aim and objectives. | Limited attempt to establish and define the rationale of a chosen system, issue, or problem of current interest. Demonstrates limited awareness of current trends, challenges, or developments related to the subject area.  Either a weak aim or weak objectives evident. | Establishes the rationale of the chosen system, issue, or problem of current interest. Shows some awareness of current trends, challenges, or developments related to the subject area.  Both the aim and objectives are indicated but are weakly defined. | Establishes the rationale of the chosen system, issue or problem of current interest to a satisfactory extent. Provides context that illustrates/describes the significance of the identified subject area.  A clear aim but weak objectives defined. | Clearly identifies and defines the chosen system, issue, or problem of current interest. Provides sufficient context to understand the significance of the identified subject area.  Clear aim and clear objectives but not SMART. | Demonstrates a deep understanding of the complexities and nuances of the chosen system, issue, or problem of current interest. Provides a thorough rationale grounded in the literature.  Clear and concise aim underpinned by SMART objectives. | Synthesises findings from research to provide a coherent and holistic rationale of the chosen system, issue, or problem of current interest. Evaluates the implications of actions in terms of outcomes or recommendations in the subject area. |
| LO2 Critically and systematically review relevant literature and alternative approaches and solutions. | Nothing submitted or fails to conduct a meaningful review of relevant literature. Does not summarise key concepts, theories, or findings from existing literature. Shows no understanding of different perspectives within the chosen subject area. Provides no evidence of engagement with alternative viewpoints or approaches. | Attempts to review relevant literature is evident but lacks depth or coherence. Summarises key concepts, theories, and findings from existing literature superficially. Shows minimal understanding of different perspectives within the chosen subject area, with limited engagement with alternative viewpoints. | Conducts a review of relevant literature, but the scope may be limited or lacks depth. Summarises key concepts, theories, and findings from existing literature, but may lack clarity or thoroughness. Demonstrates some understanding of different perspectives within the chosen subject area, but may overlook important sources or alternative viewpoints. | A thorough review of relevant literature related to the chosen topic is evident. Identifies and summarises key concepts, theories, and findings from existing literature with some depth. Demonstrates an understanding of different perspectives and approaches within the subject area. | Critically evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the literature reviewed, demonstrating discernment and analytical thinking. Synthesises information from various sources to provide a coherent and nuanced understanding of the subject area. | Engages in critical analysis of the literature, demonstrating a high level of critical thinking and analytical skills. Provides clear and insightful critiques of the literature, highlighting strengths and weaknesses. | Identifies and evaluates the strengths, limitations, and implications of different approaches and solutions presented in the literature. Offers insightful interpretations and perspectives on the existing literature and demonstrates a nuanced understanding of alternative approaches and solutions, evaluating their relevance, feasibility, and potential impact on the subject area. |
| LO3 Demonstrate and critically self-reflect on the significance of the outcomes of the project in a professional manner including aspects related to legal, social, and ethical implications. | Nothing submitted or minimal evidence of self-reflection on the significance of the project outcomes, lacking depth or insight. Demonstrates minimal understanding of legal, social, or ethical implications related to the project outcomes. Shows little awareness of the professional implications of the project outcomes. | Limited evidence of self-reflection. Fails to identify or analyse legal, social, or ethical implications related to the project outcomes adequately. Demonstrates a lack of critical evaluation of the professional implications of the project outcomes. Communication may lack clarity or coherence, hindering the effectiveness of self-reflection and analysis. | Provides some self-reflection on the significance of the project outcomes, but the depth of reflection may be limited. Identifies some legal, social, or ethical implications related to the project outcomes. Demonstrates a basic understanding of the professional implications of the project outcomes. | Provides thoughtful analysis of legal, social, or ethical implications related to the project outcomes. Critically evaluates the professional implications of the project outcomes, considering potential impacts and consequences. Communicates insights in a clear, coherent, and organised manner, demonstrating a professional approach to self-reflection and analysis. | Provides comprehensive self-reflection on the significance of the project outcomes, demonstrating depth and insight. Identifies and analyses legal, social, or ethical implications related to the project outcomes with clarity and coherence. Shows a strong understanding of the professional implications of the project outcomes, considering potential impacts and consequences. | Demonstrates professionalism in presenting self-reflections on the project outcomes, with clear organisation and coherence. Provides a through and insightful analysis of legal, social, or ethical implications related to the project outcomes, offering nuanced perspectives. Critically evaluates the professional implications of the project outcomes, demonstrating a thorough understanding of relevant issues. | Provides exceptional and profound self-reflection on the significance of the project outcomes, showcasing exceptional depth and insight. Identifies and analyses legal, social, or ethical implications related to the project outcomes with exceptional clarity, depth, and sophistication. Demonstrates an exceptional understanding of the professional implications of the project outcomes, considering a wide range of potential impacts and consequences with exceptional insight. |
| **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar** | Frequent significant errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar severely affecting the meaning / comprehension of scientific arguments and reasoning.  Little, no or very repetitive use of relevant technical terminology.  Very poor sentence and paragraph structure which seriously affects the clarity of the discussion. | Some significant errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar affecting the meaning / comprehension of scientific arguments and reasoning.  Limited or repetitive use of relevant technical terminology.  Poor sentence and paragraph structure which affects the clarity of the discussion. | Reoccurring errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar that may affect the meaning / comprehension of scientific arguments and reasoning.  Some appropriate vocabulary incorporating some technical terminology is present.  Sentence and paragraph structures are partially correct and contain appropriate syntax aiding the clarity of the discussion. | Errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar that do not affect meaning / comprehension of scientific arguments and reasoning and are not recurring.  A variety of appropriate vocabulary incorporating some relevant technical terminology is present and generally effective.  Sentence and paragraph structures are partially correct and contain appropriate syntax and relevant vocabulary, aiding the understanding of the discussion. | Only very minor and not recurring errors in spelling, punctuation that do not affect meaning / comprehension of scientific arguments and reasoning and are not recurring.  Effective and accurate use of a variety of appropriate vocabulary, incorporating adequate and accurately used technical terminology.  Correct sentence and paragraph structures that contain appropriate syntax and relevant vocabulary, aiding the understanding of the discussion. | No or negligible errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.  Effective and accurate use of a variety of appropriate vocabulary, incorporating adequate and accurately used technical terminology.  Correct sentence and paragraph structures that contain appropriate syntax and relevant vocabulary, aiding the understanding of the discussion.  Adopts a professional and academic writing style and conventions, with each paragraph following the [SEED](http://eshare.edgehill.ac.uk/7165/1/Paragraph%20Structure%20%28SEED%29.pdf) structure. | No errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.  Highly effective and accurate use of a variety of appropriate vocabulary, incorporating adequate and accurately used technical terminology.  Consistent use of correct sentence and paragraph structures that contain appropriate syntax and relevant vocabulary, aiding the understanding of the discussion.  Adopts a professional and academic writing style and conventions, with each paragraph following the [SEED](http://eshare.edgehill.ac.uk/7165/1/Paragraph%20Structure%20%28SEED%29.pdf) structure. |