

# Dissertation Project

BSc Computer Science

BSc Computer Systems

BSc Information Systems

MEng Software Engineering

# Timetable: Semester 1

- Weeks 1 & 2
  - Decide on topic & agree with supervisor
- Week 7
  - Submit ethics and health & safety forms
- 23 November 2015 10:00 (GMT)
  - Deliverable 1 deadline
- Weeks 11-12
  - Arrange interview with supervisor & second reader
  - Feedback available after interview

# Timetable: Semester 2

## ■ Week 10

- Draft dissertation to supervisor for comment

## ■ 25 April 2016 10:00 (BST)

- Dissertation deadline

## ■ 6 May 2016

- Edinburgh Poster Session
- Submit poster through Vision

# Selecting a project

## 1. Choose a topic from staff proposals

- See list on honours project system pages
- Check with member of staff concerned
- Complete online allocation form with supervisor

## 2. Student proposal

- Find a member of staff who will supervise it
- Agree scope is suitable for honours project
- Add project proposal to project system

# Types of Project

## Technical

Implement and evaluate some software or formal framework

- ▣ Identify requirements
- ▣ Develop system
- ▣ Perform evaluation
- ▣ Analyse data

## Research

Investigate research hypothesis through

- ▣ Surveys
- ▣ Reviewing policy
- ▣ Observing human behaviour
- ▣ Analysis of datasets

# Project Supervision

- Varies between staff members
- Regular meetings
  - Up to an hour each week
  - Fix regular slot
  - Inform if unable to attend
- Meetings are opportunity to
  - Check progress
  - Get feedback
  - Discuss future directions

# Semester 1: Health & Safety Form

- Required by all projects
  - Software project or research project
    - *probably* means standard office risks
  - Project with robots, vision, lasers, sound systems, robots, etc.
    - need more consideration
- Discuss with supervisor
- Form available on Vision F20PA
- Submit to office by end of week 7

# Semester 1: Ethical Approval

## ▣ Required by all projects

1. No human subjects → Short form
2. Interface evaluation only → Short form
3. Full ethical consideration → Long form

- ▣ Questionnaires

- ▣ Vulnerable participants

- ▣ Consent forms for all participants

- ▣ Forms available on Vision F20PA

- ▣ Approval required prior to research!

- ▣ Submit to office by end of week 7



# Deliverable 1: Research Report

- **Deadline: 23 November 2015 10:00(GMT)**

- TurnItIn on F20PA Vision course

- 20–30 pages double spaced: Be concise!

- Font size 11, 1-inch margins on A4 sheets

- Forms basis of interview with supervisor and second reader

- Feedback by week 14

# Deliverable 1: Research Report

- Detailed requirements document
  - Statement of aims and objectives
  - Problems to be solved to reach objectives
  - Discussion of technical literature
  - Identify: System Requirements or Research Questions
- Evaluation strategy
- Project management plan
  - Timetable
  - Risk analysis

# Deliverable 1: Research Report

## ■ References

- Documents cited
- Complete details

## ■ May also include details of initial

- experimentation,
- prototyping
- thoughts about design
- pilot questionnaire
- etc.

# Semester 2: Do the work!

- Project work
  - Build what you said and do your experiments
  - Gather data and perform analysis
- Write it up
- Have regular meetings with supervisor
- Submit a draft by end of week 10
- Written feedback in week 12
- Incorporate feedback over Easter vacation

# Semester 2: Dissertation

## ■ **Deadline: 25 April 2016 10:00 (BST)**

- TurnItIn on F20PA Vision course

- Project system

  - Submit PDF of dissertation,

  - ZIP file containing all associated files

    - machine readable version of dissertation,

    - all code written for project

    - all experimental data

- 50–70 pages double spaced: Be concise!

- Font size 11, 1-inch margins on A4 sheets

# Semester 2: Dissertation

- Title page
  - Full name
  - Title
  - Supervisor's name
  - Degree programme
- Declaration
- Abstract: one page summary (200-300 words)
- Table of Contents
- Numbered pages and sections
- References: complete details of cited works

# Semester 2: Dissertation

## ■ Introduction

- Project scope and context
- Problems solved and methodology
- Aim and objectives

## ■ Background

- Literature review
- Relevance to project

## ■ Main content

- Describe work carried out
- Focus on critical decisions
- Methodological details

# Semester 2: Dissertation

- Evaluation and Results
  - Experimental details
  - Analysis of data
- Conclusions
  - Main achievements
  - Main limitations
  - Future work



# Semester 2: Poster Session Edinburgh

## ■ Friday 6 May

- A1 size poster (portrait)
- **TurnItIn on F20PA Vision course**
- Demonstrates ability to explain technical work & major contributions succinctly
- Student stands by poster to answer questions from members of staff and visitors
- Industrial board attend poster session
- Followed by **drinks & nibbles** – it's all over

# Semester 2: Poster Printing

- Marked on content/design; not printing
- Single A1 sheet
  - HWU Media services (~£20/30)
  - Online print service  
Granthams Poster Printers (~£12+p&p)
  - Various local print shops
- Multiple sheets mounted on A1 card
  - 4xA3 sheets
  - 8xA4 sheets

# Assessment

## Deliverable weightings

- 15% Requirements
- 75% Dissertation
- 10% Poster

## Degree weightings

- CS, CSYS, & IS
  - Dissertation: 30%
  - Taught modules: 50%
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> yr average: 20%
- MEng
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> yr average: 10%
  - 4<sup>th</sup> yr taught average: 25%
  - Dissertation: 25%
  - 5<sup>th</sup> year average: 40%

# Degree classification

- 70% First
- 60% Upper Second
- 50% Lower Second
- 40% Third
- Ordinary