

## Lab 2 – UConnect Product Specification

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

This Software Requirements Specification (SRS) lab's purpose is to be an outline of requirements, features, hardware, software, and constraints for UConnect. UConnect is a web application that is dedicated to making it easier for students to connect with college peers to work on projects together to gain experience.

### 1.2 Scope

The goal of UConnect is to help college and university students bridge the experience gap that often prevents them from securing entry-level jobs in their field. As college and university attendance rates increase, students face growing competition, with many employers expecting practical experience beyond a degree. The trend of "experience inflation" highlights how even entry-level roles now demand prior experience, which may not be accessible to all students.

UConnect is a centralized web platform where students can collaborate on projects that build practical skills and relevant experience. Without UConnect, students looking to connect for projects often rely on multiple social platforms, which increases the effort and uncertainty of finding suitable collaborators. For students seeking to gain hands-on experience but unable to secure internships or traditional employment, UConnect provides a way for students to connect with peers and collaborate on projects. By simplifying this process, UConnect aims to reduce complications and support students in building experience within their field.

### 1.3 Definitions, Acronyms, Abbreviations

Project Launcher: User who has a project they are interested in recruiting students to work on

Project Seeker: User who is interested in using their skills to contribute to a project

Experience Inflation: A trend since the 1960's where employers have required increasing amounts of prior experience for entry-level jobs, making it challenging for recent graduates to secure positions without already having relevant experience.

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### 1.5 Overview

The SRS Lab continues in Section 2, which is a general overview of the system. The section includes the product's perspective, features, defines user characteristics, constraints, and assumptions and dependencies. Section 3 covers functional requirements for each feature, including profiles, posts, messaging, and searching. Each feature states its purpose and expected user interactions (stimulus/response). Section 3 also covers performance targets, reliability, security, and maintainability.

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## 2 Overall Description

### 2.1 Product Perspective

UConnect is a collaborative platform for college and university students to gain experience by working on student-led projects relevant to their academic studies for future career experience. UConnect enables students to create project posts tagged by specific skills, making it easier for others to find relevant projects based on their interests and skills. UConnect has user profiles where students can tag their skills and connect with peers. UConnect's core features include a tagging system for categorizing projects and skills, a search function to filter projects and users by specific tags, and an integrated messaging system.

### 2.2 Product Functions

UConnect's main features are as follows:

#### Profiles:

- Users can create, view, edit, and update profiles with a biography and tags.
- Skills are tagged by the user to make profiles searchable by other users.
- Profile details are accessible and searchable via tags.

#### Posts:

- Project Launchers can create posts with information like project title, description, required number of collaborators, timeline, and relevant tags.
- Posts are searchable and viewable by all users once published.
- Users can view all posts they've created and delete posts as needed.

#### Messaging:

- Project Seekers can message Project Launchers.
- Messages are exchanged in an integrated inbox between Project Seekers and Project Launchers.
- The subject of messages is linked to the project from which the message originated.

#### Search and Tagging:

- Users can search for projects and profiles using curated tags.
- Tags are used for both posts and profiles, making it easier to filter and find relevant matches.

## 2.3 User Characteristics

### All Users

- Create and update their profiles.
- Browse available projects and profiles.

### Project Launchers

- Create and manage projects, including posting details, required skills, and the number of collaborators needed.
- Interact with Project Seekers and manage project updates or deletions.

### Project Seekers

- Search for and join projects by messaging Project Launchers.
- Collaborate on projects based on their skills.

## 2.4 Constraints

N/A

## 2.5 Assumptions and Dependencies

N/A