University of Lincoln Assessment Framework

Assessment Briefing 2024-2025

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| 1. **Module code & title** | **CMP9140M Research Project** |
| 1. **Assessed learning outcomes** | * [LO2] Evaluate any contemporary legal, ethical, social, and professional issues relevant to the project. * [LO3] Prepare an academic report that summarises, justifies, evaluates and contextualizes work undertaken in a significant research project. * [LO4] Critically review relevant academic literature to support the development of a research project. * [LO5] Demonstrate an awareness of appropriate methodologies in a relevant research area in computer science. * [LO6] Critically interpret research findings and evaluate their significance. |
| 1. **Assessment title** | Assessment 2 |
| 1. **Contribution to final module mark (%)** | **60%** |
| 1. **Description of assessment task** | This is Assessment 2 of 3 for the module and is an individual assignment. The assessment task is the creation of a **research focused dissertation**.  **Dissertation**  The dissertation is a long-form piece of academic writing that should document your project’s lifecycle in its entirety. The work you produce should be aligned with your programme of study and be informed by discussions with your supervisor. However, as you are leading the work, you are expected to undertake research yourself and make informed decisions independently that support your project’s research aims and objectives.  The top-level structure of the dissertation should be as follows with guidance provided by your supervisor:   * Introduction * Literature Review * Methodology * Implementation * Results & Discussion * Conclusion * References   Further details on the recommended structure above for the dissertation report can be found under the “Additional Information” section of this briefing document. Your submission should conform to one of the suppled templates and be submitted as a PDF as per school policy. The templates can be downloaded from Blackboard under **Assessments>Assessment Documents>Assessment Item 2**.  **Ethical approval (where applicable)**  As a reminder, if your work requires ethical approval, you must have previously submitted a LEAS application as part of your **project proposal**. Please refer to the notes below.   * If your work requires ethical approval and your LEAS application is not yet approved, then you cannot undertake the work until it is approved. * If the ethical scope of your project has changed in some way, then you must amend your ethics form via LEAS (<https://ethicsapply.lincoln.ac.uk>). You cannot submit a new ethics form at this point – all projects requiring human ethics must have been identified at the proposal stage. You should discuss this with your supervisor before completing an amendment as you may be limited in time to do this. |
| 1. **Assessment submission instructions** | An electronic submission is required for this assignment:   * The project dissertation document (PDF file) should be submitted via Blackboard through the **Turnitin** **Assessment Item 2 Upload area**. * Supporting documentation, such as source code, should be submitted through the **Assessment Item 2 Supporting Documentation Upload area**. |
| 1. **Date for return of mark and feedback** | Please see the School **assessment dates** spreadsheet.  Note:  *all marks awarded are provisional until confirmed by the Board of Examiners.* |
| 1. **Feedback format** | Blackboard feedback, supervisor meeting. |
| 1. **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this assessment** | You **may not** use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this assignment.  *This means that you may not use any AI technologies including Grammarly, CoPilot, QuillBot and others. If you are not sure whether you should be using a particular tool, then ask the Module Team.* |
| 1. **Marking criteria for assessment** | A Criterion Reference Gid (CRG) is used to evaluate your learning against a set of pre-defined criteria. |
| 1. **Additional information (support, advice, tips etc)** | The project dissertation report should be between 12000-15000 words, and include the following sections: .   * Title page   This should be laid out as follows: Title Of Your Dissertation  [ UoL Crest Logo ]  A.N.Other  ABD12345678 [another@email.ac.uk](mailto:another@email.ac.uk)  School of Computer Science College of Science University of Lincoln  Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the  Degree of YOUR DEGREE PROGRAMME  Supervisor: YOUR SUPERVISOR Month Year   * **Acknowledgements:** An opportunity to thank anyone you wish. * **Abstract:** A short summary of the project, designed to entice the reader and give them a broad overview of the project motivation, its aims, and outcomes. It should be readable in isolation from the rest of the dissertation. * **Table of Contents:** This should include titles and page numbers of all sections and subsections. It is advisable to also have separate lists of figures and tables. * **Introduction:** This should introduce the motivation behind the research undertaken for the project, providing background material that is relevant to the problem(s) being addressed. It is important you also indicate the area/discipline where the research sits and how it aligns with the degree programme you are enrolled on. * **Literature Review:** This should be a coherent, critical evaluation of relevant academic literature with clear linkage to your project. You may use and build upon the brief literature survey from your project proposal (which you must reference). You should be aiming to produce a literature review that clearly identifies the area of interest your project sits in, and how it aligns with/builds upon the published work. The project aims and objectives should also be revisited here in its own sub-section. * **Methodology:** This section will vary greatly depending on your project, and may include sections on topics including (but not limited to) project management, software development methodology, algorithm/model choices, study design, research methods, statistical analysis, performance evaluation, etc. As such, you should discuss the most appropriate approach for developing this section with your supervisor. As this is a Masters-level research project, you must also include a critical discussion on the selected quantitative or qualitative research methods adopted for the project work. * **Implementation:** This is dependent on your project’s aims/objectives and an area you must discuss with your supervisor. For example, Masters projects can encompass a range of outputs such as a significant software artefact, analysis of a dataset, development of an ML model, or development of a set of design guidelines based on a user study. It may also include a combination of different types of outputs such as a user study with app development. It is important you identify the main outputs of your project with the guidance of your supervisor and document it under this section. Any source code developed must be uploaded to the supporting documentation upload area on Blackboard. * **Results & Discussion:** This chapter should present the results of your work, be they in the form of a software product, experimental research findings, or both. You should also link these results to your original objectives. * **Conclusion:** This chapter should summarise the work you have undertaken by revisiting your project aims and objectives and what you have achieved to meet them. You should include a summarised response to any additional research questions you addressed. It is also important to discuss the limitations of the work and implications for future research in the space based on what you have done. * **References:** A list of references, in accordance with the University of Lincoln Harvard Referencing Guide: <https://lncn.ac/ref>. * **Appendices:** This section is for any supplementary content that does not fit easily within the main dissertation. Examples include software documentation, user guides, large figures, logs of supervisor meetings, etc. This will not be marked directly but may be used to contextualise the main body of work.   **NOTE:** Chapters should be enumerated, starting with the Introduction. You may include subsections as you deem appropriate, e.g., 1.1. Dissertation structure. |
| 1. **Format for Assessment** | Written project proposal document in LNCS-based format, submitted as PDF. Templates (Word and LaTeX) are provided. |
| 1. **Assessment Support Information** | * More information on writing literature reviews: <https://guides.library.lincoln.ac.uk/c.php?g=133466&p=4658202> * Link to referencing guides: <https://lncn.ac/ref> * Introduction to Harvard Referencing: <https://lncn.ac/harvard> |
| 1. **Important Information on Dishonesty, Plagiarism and AI Tools** | University of Lincoln Regulations define plagiarism as *'the passing off of another person's thoughts, ideas, writings or images as one's own...*’. Examples of plagiarism include the unacknowledged use of another person's material whether in original or summary form. Plagiarism also includes the copying of another student's work'. Plagiarism is a serious offence and is treated by the University as a form of academic dishonesty. For more information on examples of Academic Offences, please see the **Academic Offence Guidance**.  Please note, if you use AI tools in the production of assessment work **where it is not permitted**, then it will be classed as an academic offence and treated by the University as a form of academic dishonesty.  Students are directed to the University Regulations for details of the procedures and penalties involved.  For further information, see www.plagiarism.org |